

Hello All

Normally a quieter time of year for us, our new offerings of MTB skills clinics, winery tours and demo bike programme have been keeping us busy, not to mention planning for our new August event; all alongside starring as cover boy on the current Mountain Biking Australia magazine (still working on the café owner's paunch!!). But it's certainly not all work and no play – there's been plenty of riding and the Wild Horizons crew are looking forward to a 'staff conference' experiencing the delights of the Fat Tyre Festival in Melrose SA, over the June long weekend. More on this and lots more below!

Cheers..... Huw, Fi, Wendy, Wayne, Kaz and all the Wild Horizons team

THE 2009 HIGHLAND FLING – THE AUSTRALIAN MTB MARATHON CHAMPIONSHIPS



Entries for this year's event on 7-8 November will open on **Wednesday 1 July**. Make a note in your diary! Entries are limited to 1500 riders and we look forward to introducing

some new sponsors and new features of the event in the coming weeks.



BMC MOUNTAINS TO BEACH



Thanks to all those BMC Mountains To Beach competitors and supporters who completed the online survey after the event – we appreciate your feedback and look forward to using it to shape future events. Dave and Fiona Cottee were the lucky winners of the survey draw prize, a 5-day accommodation package at Island View Resort in Narooma!

The current issues of Mountain Biking Australia, Enduro and Freewheel all contain articles on the inaugural BMC Mountains To Beach. Check them out for a great read and to see if you're there in glorious colour!

Coming along for the ride in 2010? 28 February to 5 March are the dates.

THREE RING CIRCUS – SUNDAY 23 AUGUST

We're excited to announce that the Three Ring Circus, our new event, will take place in Wingello State Forest on Sunday 23 August. Solo riders or a relay team of three will ride a 50km circuit taking in the three loops of waymarked MTB trails in Wingello Forest – red (approx. 25km), yellow (approx. 19km), and blue (approx. 6km).

Put the date in your diary and start planning your circus fancy dress for this inaugural event! Full details will be available soon at www.wildhorizons.com.au

DEMO BIKE LAUNCH & ADDITIONS TO HIRE FLEET

On Sunday 10 May we officially launched our demo bike programme, kicking off at Ye Olde Bicycle Shoppe with brekky and a presentation on the bikes from Dirt Works. With such a fine array of performance steeds to test from Ibis, BMC, Ellsworth and Salsa, participants were not to be put off by the cold and drizzly weather, so we headed off to Wingello State Forest to put them (and the bikes!) through their paces. Bikes were returned accompanied by mud-splattered grins proving the testers liked what they rode.

Current demo bikes – both mountain and road – available for hire are listed on the website. We'll be expanding this fleet considerably towards the end of June to include Ibis Mojo, BMC Trailfox, and much much more!

We're excited to note that a number of bike dealers have signed on as partners to the demo bike programme, ensuring return of your hire fee should you decide to buy a bike you test!

We're also pleased to announce that in the coming days we'll be receiving some new hire bikes – 2009 BMC Team Elite O4 bikes will be part of our regular hire fleet and we're sure that these bikes will be a hit with those wanting to hire a quality hardtail to ride on local MTB trails or on the tours we offer. For all the latest info visit www.wildhorizons.com.au/shoppe/Ye_Olde_Bicycle_Shoppe/Hire.html

MTB TOURS & SKILLS DAYS

The last weekend in April was a busy one with our Wingello MTB Skills Clinic on the Saturday and a Fling in the Vines winery cycle tour on the Sunday. Both events filled up, and with excellent feedback from participants we look forward to offering many more!

We've put a few new dates into the calendar including an Advanced MTB Skills course with experienced instructors John Hardwick and Paul Traynor. We've experienced such demand for Women's Skills days that we'll be holding a Women's MTB Skills Camp in October. The two day format will ensure there is plenty of time for both skills sessions and social riding. See below for dates!

On the winery tours side of things, 25 participants braved the strong wind to enjoy wine tasting, lunch, and delicious cheese platters from the vineyards we visited on the recent Fling in the Vines tour. Our support vehicle was groaning under the weight of all the purchases made along the way, proving our guests were very happy with the wines on offer to taste! Please see below for details of upcoming winery tours.

WINGELLO MTB TRAILS – WORKING BEES & PUBLIC MEETING



Come and help the Highlands Trail Fairies maintain the network of singletrack in Wingello State Forest! While there is always work to be done on the existing singletrack, some new track is in the pipeline and they need more hands to help make this happen!

Working bees are held on the first Saturday of each month, with the next one on **Saturday 6 June**. Come and help shape the tracks you love to ride! See www.wildhorizons.com.au/trails/ for all the info.

Highlands Trails are holding a public meeting on **Wednesday 17 June**, 6.30pm, at Ye Olde Bicycle Shoppe in Bundanoon. The last meeting was held some 10 months ago so it's time to give an update on existing trails and discuss future possibilities in the area. All welcome.

ENDURANCE HORSE RACE –

WINGELLO STATE FOREST, 30-31 MAY

On the weekend of 30 - 31 May an endurance horse race is taking place in Wingello State Forest. Horses will be arriving at the ride base, the Landing Strip, from Friday 29 May onwards and most riders will take their horses for a short ride on the Saturday.

The endurance ride proposes to use trails which are also commonly used by mountain bikers – but note that there will be no horses on the singletrack. Horses are likely to be riding on Wingello forest roads between 8am and 3pm on Sunday 31 May and could be travelling at a speed of around 20km/hr. The endurance race route will be marked with temporary arrows on trees and plastic hazard tape.

We'd really like to encourage anyone thinking of mountain biking in Wingello on the weekend to consider rescheduling their ride to another weekend or location; however if you are using the forest then please be mindful of the event and look out for galloping horses around blind corners! It is recommended to slow to a stop when approaching horses to ensure they are not spooked.

UPCOMING WILD HORIZONS EVENTS – JUNE TO OCTOBER

Womens MTB Skills Clinic, Wingello State Forest – Saturday 20 June

Full day MTB skills clinic for beginner and intermediate female riders - www.wildhorizons.com.au/tours/skillsclinic.html#2 Please note that this clinic is already full, with a few on the waiting list. Our next women-only skills offering is a weekend camp on 3-4 October, more details to be announced soon!

Southern Highlands Singletrack Heaven – Sunday 21 June

A full day MTB tour of the best singletrack in the Southern Highlands - www.wildhorizons.com.au/tours/shsh.html

Fling in the Vines – Best of Berrima – Saturday 27 June

A full day 25km mountain bike wine tour with more time off than on the bike! - www.wildhorizons.com.au/tours/flingvine.html#a

Wingello MTB Skills Clinic, Wingello State Forest – Saturday 11 July

Full day MTB skills clinic for beginner and intermediate riders - www.wildhorizons.com.au/tours/skillsclinic.html#1 There are only a few spots remaining for this clinic.

Fling in the Vines – Winterfest Wine and Wheels – Sunday 12 July

A half day 18km mountain bike winery & lookouts tour from Bundanoon - www.wildhorizons.com.au/tours/flingvine.html#b

Advanced MTB Skills Clinic, Fitzroy Falls – Saturday 22 August

Full day advanced MTB skills clinic with instructors John Hardwick and Paul Traynor - www.wildhorizons.com.au/tours/skillsclinic.html#3

Three Ring Circus, Wingello State Forest – Sunday 23 August

We hope to see you at the inaugural Three Ring Circus event to be held at Wingello on Sunday 23 August. Full details will soon be available at www.wildhorizons.com.au

Women's MTB Skills Camp, Wingello State Forest – 3-4 October

For the girls; a weekend of MTB skills combined with some great social riding. Full details to be announced soon at www.wildhorizons.com.au

XC SKIING THIS WINTER

It's certainly not all 'about the bike'. As always Huw will be offering guided ski tours in the Snowy Mountains over winter. So if you're keen for a backcountry tour, love the idea of snowcamping or want to explore some new areas then get in touch and we'll try and tailor a trip to your/your group's wishes.

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

Fat Tyre Festival, Melrose, South Australia, 5-8 June

As mentioned above, we're looking forward to heading to Melrose, South Australia, for the annual Fat Tyre Festival. It's not too late to book a flight or plan a road trip to join us! See www.otesports.com.au for all the info.

Southern Highlands Cycle Club, Sunday 7 June

SHCC are holding a handicap club race at Wingello State Forest - www.southernhighlandsccl.com.au

NRMA CareFlight Woodford to Glenbrook Classic, Sunday 28 June

Ride or run from the Blue Mountains town of Woodford to Glenbrook via the Oaks Fire Trail! A great fundraiser for the life-saving work of NRMA CareFlight and the Blue Mountains Rural Fire Service - www.careflight.org/help/events/woodford_to_glenbrook_2009/

Ye Olde Bicycle Shoppe

TOURS & TRAINING

Want to improve your MTB skills, explore the local area (or further afield) or join us on a relaxing cycle tour to some of our local wineries? We have a range of skills days and tours available and are also happy to tailor an itinerary for a group large or small.



EVENTS

Bundanoon is home to The Highland Fling Mountain Bike Marathon. This, one of Australia's largest cycle races, attracts some 2000 people to Bundanoon each November. Check out our website for details on this and some of our other events.



GEAR

We sell a range of bike gear and clothing, maps etc.



HIRE PRICES

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Ye Olde Bicycle Shoppe

OPEN 7 days



Check out www.wildhorizons.com.au for details on everything we do

For over 50 years Ye Olde Bicycle Shoppe (YOBS for short) has been located in one of Bundanoon's oldest buildings. Bikes have come a long way in that time and so has coffee! We welcome you to visit us in the beautiful Southern Highlands of NSW, to relax in our café, hire one of our bikes, book on one of our tours or ask us for advice on places to ride and visit. Bundanoon, 1.5hrs from Sydney/Canberra, is the perfect spot for some great MTB, road riding and walking. Penrose & Wingello State Forests are close by and Bundanoon sits on the edge of the vast Morton National Park.

CAFÉ

Coffee and cycling are perfect bedfellows but equally important alone! Enjoy hot and cold drinks and select from our full breakfast, lunch and sweet stuff menu.

Bike Hire/DEMO CENTRE

We don't just hire out standard mountain bikes, kids bikes, tandems etc. At YOBS we also act as a demo centre for some of the leading cycle brands. You can hire a top end MTB or road bike (think BMC, Ibis, Scott, Ellsworth....) that you might be thinking of purchasing (or just want to take a great bike for a ride). Through us you can give it a good trial in the local forests or roads. We'll give you a Certificate of Hire that can be presented to participating dealers who will refund the price of the hire if you purchase the bike. We also hire out Ay Up lights for those after dark rides.



'HOME OF THE HIGHLAND FLING'