

# 2011 Grovel de Alpe

Good evening wrestling fans and welcome to yet another edition of the infamous Grovel. This Australian version promises to introduce levels of pain and suffering never before experienced by any rider anywhere anytime anyhow. And this only applies to the evening activities. The riding will be even more tortuous!

We plan to “disembark” at Metung on Saturday afternoon 29<sup>th</sup> October and spend the evening carrying out final preparation to bikes, bodies and babes. Metung is a scenic little lakeside village oozing with tranquillity and charm. Pity all that will be shattered when the Grovel entourage hits the town. The main reason for commencing the Grovel in Metung is its close proximity to Bruthen and therefore access to the route to Omeo, destination on our first day in the saddle. (Bruthen chamber of commerce was approached with a view to holding our overnight stay in their bustling locale, however, they declined our offer on dubious grounds. We later discovered they objected to being “overrun by old farts in lycra”.)

## Preliminary Route

**Day 1 Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October: Metung – Omeo 121 km.**

A reasonable amount of climbing is encountered on this route which includes many picturesque sections adjacent to the Tambo river. Simply a day not to be missed.

**Day 2 Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October: Omeo – Bright 110 km.**

This ride climbs from Omeo all the way up to Mt. Hotham. The high plains are a beauty to behold. The descent down to Harrietville is well earned and a massive adrenaline rush. Like Coldplay said, you’ll get a massive rush of blood to the head if you overcook any of the many tight corners. The “meg” is a particularly nasty bit of tarmac which needs to be treated with respect. You have been warned! Harrietville to Bright is a dream run through very pretty scenery with no uphill.

**Day 3 Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November: Bright – Tallangatta 123 Km.**

We have chosen the route which passes through Beechworth a lovely town with a famous bakery. No other reason to go there, just the bakery. This ride will be gently undulating with no major climbs.

**Day 4 Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November: Tallangatta – Khancoban (NSW) 109 km.**

Today we escape the confines of our home turf and hopefully evade the border patrols. Welcome to NSW, home of the gay Mardi gras. What any participant gets up to in the confines of their hotel room is their own business. Who are we to judge?

Once again, no major climbs but fantastic scenery and lots of parrots.

**Day 5 Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November: Khancoban to Jindabyne. 108km.**

Today, an iconic ride through Tom Groggin on the upper Murray River. We then climb up to Deadhorse gap and Thredbo. It is then an easy, meandering ride down to Jindabyne where we finish our epic journey. Hopefully we will have enough energy to celebrate our adventure with a glass or 3 of something extremely alcoholic.

### **Serious Footnotes:**

- 1. This ride is intended to provide an opportunity for riders and families to experience some of the most amazing scenery our fabulous country has to offer. It is all out there we simply need to go and “grab it by the throat”. The club has a history of weekend rides which seemed to fade out of favour. Racing is all well and good, but there is more to life and most races cover the same old ground . This proposed event will give people a chance to get together and, at the same time, get in some decent riding in some outstanding country. This is to be considered a group ride , certainly not a race . A perfect opportunity to get some decent miles ( sorry,1.6 kms) in the legs with the company of others.**
- 2. Why Sunday to Thursday? Firstly,Sunday will avoid the log trucks that travel down to Bairnsdale.Secondly, by avoiding weekends we should experience less tourist traffic on the remainder of the proposed route. This is relevant as the areas we are travelling through are relatively popular locations.**
- 3. Why the route as proposed? I have tried to balance distance per day with worthwhile scenery and adequate facilities at the overnight stops. All of the towns we will visit have 2 great assets. Firstly they have Hotel/motel and Caravan parks. Therefore accommodation to suit all tastes/budgets. Secondly, they are all located**

**in areas that contain great sightseeing possibilities. This means that once the ride is over for the day, say around noon, the afternoon can be spent either reclined on a banana lounge ,exploring the varied nearby sights or feeding the parrots.**

- 4. A lot of thought has gone into the dates for this ride. The Melbourne Cup week has a lot of people taking the Monday/Tuesday off. Thus,2 or 3 more days are likely to be less an issue. Any input on this issue is most welcome. Indeed any feedback on any facet of this ride is encouraged.**

**So, please let me know if any of this sounds promising. There are 9 riders already committed. More to the point , they probably should be committed!!**

**Regards**

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