



PRESS RELEASE

31 August 2008

King of the Mountain cycling event – Steaming up Broadway Festival

The *Steaming Up Broadway Festival* – Wycheproof on 11-12 October 2008 is a festival of steam trains, cycling, and music to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the arrival of railway to the town.

The Wycheproof Wanderers Bicycle Club has organised two major cycling events to be held over the festival weekend. – the Charlton to Wycheproof *Huff'nPuff* race between the steam train and cyclists, and the *King of the Mountain* duathlon dash.

One of the most recent sports clubs to be established in Wycheproof and district, the Wycheproof Wanderers began in 2007 due to the enthusiasm of local cyclists training for, and competing in, the annual Murray-to-Moyne charity event.

To establish the club funding was provided through the Salvation Army 'Living Waters' program. This money covered incorporation and insurance costs and also funded a supply of bicycles. There are now 38 members hailing from Wycheproof, Donald, Birchip and Buckrabanyule. In the past year membership has swelled to 38. With support of the Salvation Army through Cycling events are hosted by the Wycheproof Wanderers Inc. cycle club.

Wycheproof is an oasis on the Calder Highway midway between Melbourne and Mildura and just 90 minutes from major regional centres such as Bendigo and Horsham. It is located at the gateway to the *Murray Mallee Sunset Country* tourist route, just 60 minutes south of Swan Hill.

The *Steaming Up Broadway Festival* an initiative of Wycheproof Chamber of Commerce and the town forum Wycheproof 2010 Inc, is held with the support of Buloke Shire Council and Steamrail Victoria. The Festival starts from Southern Cross Station, Melbourne, at 10pm Friday 10 October, when a chartered steam train powered by the R761 locomotive will begin its journey north.

First stop on the trip will be breakfast, Saturday 11 October, at Charlton. At 9.30am it will be either on your bike or on the train as competitors wait at the Vale of Avoca for the fall of the flag to start the Charlton to Wycheproof *Huff'nPuff*. Cyclists will travel west to Wooroonook and then north to Wycheproof to finish in Broadway. The steam train and riders will travel different distances and so average speeds will be calculated at the end of the event and a winning time posted at the finish.



PRESS RELEASE

The gruelling *King of the Mountain* duathlon dash starts at 9am at Wycheproof's Centenary Park (Fairview St entrance). The first leg of the race is a 4km run taking in the top of Mt Wycheproof following the original King of the Mountain route. A cycling leg of 13km will take an out and back route east of the town along the Boort Rd to Millers Lane. This route takes in the southern and northern ends of the town block. The final leg is a 2km run along High St following a route around the Recreation Reserve to the north of town and then back to the finish line in O'Connor Street.

For each cycling event marshals will be posted along the routes and at major intersections. A support vehicle will follow the last rider out. Roads will not be closed for these events so riders must obey road rules.

Entry fee for each of the cycling events is \$10. For train travellers this is included in the fare and provision has been made to transport bicycles on the steam train.

There are many events planned during the festival including a spectacular Music on the Mount concert, from 4pm Saturday 11 October when the ancient rocks of the smallest registered mountain will reverberate to sounds as diverse as the St. Arnaud Pipe Band, and *Falling from Grace*. Headline artists Mick Thomas and *The Sure Thing*, and Laura Jean will also perform on the natural amphitheatre stage.

Steaming up Broadway Festival is off-setting carbon emissions thanks to Landcare and the North Central Catchment Management Authority which are providing 1000 tree seedlings, free to festival goers.

For further information including cycle event route maps and to enter these events contact Wycheproof Wanderers Bicycle Club president, Andrew Cheyne on 0418335455 or the Wycheproof Community Resource Centre on 03 5493 7455. For information, maps and a full program of events, or to book your berth on the *Steaming Up Broadway* steam train, see the Wycheproof community website www.wycheproof.vic.au. Steam train information is also available on the Steam Rail Victoria website www.steamrail.com.au.

Media contact: W2010 publicity officers – Jacinta Miller tel: 5493 7755, e-mail: jacmil@bigpond.com or Megan Lord, e-mail: info@wycheproof.vic.au