

Llewellyn Family Newsletter #3

Note 7 pages.

Giddy Gladdies, this is number 3 newsletter being typed out on the eve of Christmas. I hope you all have had a prosperous and fun year on your bikes. Every one has their little cycling stories from this year and I am no different, so here is mine, skip on if you cannot tolerate my yarn. {good toilet reading perhaps}

For a few years I have been reluctant to get on my own bike. True! Funny sort of thing for me to explain, I don't really understand why I got off my bike after riding since I started on my little Cyclops trike. I just started to struggle for any desire to ride. I cannot explain it but maybe it is just one of those things. But after my return from the USA {Cirque 2005 visit} I purchased a new set of lights {one of those 30 watt sets that stun possums out of trees and singe cane toads at 100 metres!} and I started heading out in the early morning dark. Why so early? Well I really struggle with the hassle and noise and stench of traffic and I like an early start to my workshop day. Especially here in the last five years. with all the growth of population in north Brisbane and the resultant traffic increase {compounded by the delivery of children to school by four wheels which never happened in past years} over places and routes I frequented on my bike. I found it no longer pleasurable for my riding desires. I found I was really resenting this intrusion on what I have known for more than 25 years. I resented the invasion! So instead I was regularly walking in the nearby state forest, the smell of the forest as the sun rose and dried off the dew was a treat to the senses. The bird calls and peace of traffic free tracks. After many months my thoughts turned to my own lack of riding. How to ride for the sheer pleasure of it but avoid the unpleasant environment of this ever growing city. Early mornings are my answer. Now where to ride? I just had to head west into the Samford valley. Hilly riding but hills are fine by me. Low gear and some huffing and puffing to give the engine a good run. Blowing out the cobwebs on hills is more fun to me now than mashing the big chainring, pretending a race number is pinned on while making your way to a coffee shop. So on my regular two hour rides I have some routes that takes me sometimes only through one set of traffic lights. Quite amazing really. I come home over Bunya Mountain road through the ever increasing number of acreages and their obligatory four wheel drive school/work commuters to my back door. However I beat the school runners as I am home by 6.30 to 7.00am. Yesterday's ride really summed up my refreshed enjoyment on the bike. I departed my back door just at first light {4.30am} headed out to Strathpine {a few sets of lights} then down Winn rd into the hills {no traffic, no lights} and over my old club racing course. I ride slowly and easily. I do not train anymore {my number is unpinned these days}, now I consider myself just a cyclist. So the pace I set is at my leisure. Towards the end my rides I lean on the pedals if I feel motivated. Anyhow, I was absorbing the surrounds, the smells, the sounds of the morning bird calls, the fresh scents of flowering trees, the return of green to the land after regular recent rains. I saw a couple of roos, a few Sacred King fishers, a Coucal, a few whip birds, a tortoise that did not make it across the road. I have seen two of these in the last few months, how do you not notice a tortoise while driving on a quiet road and avoid hitting it, it is not like the poor animal moves at a great speed is it!? As I approached Closeburn {a few houses and a community hall} I noticed Hill rd off to my right. "Oh well why not", check it out, now that it is a sealed road to some summit located acreage. Turned right and huffed and puffed my way to the summit.

On the very short flatter bits I rolled slowly, looked around to take in the views. The cool air, the morning stillness, the quiet absence of industrial noise and traffic. Yummy! I had the whole way being absorbed in the surrounds, rather than just absorbing myself in the riding, I was combining it all together and it was bliss.

My thoughts went back to a close friend who recently was attempting to gee me up to ride with his regular group. Winding their way along some city roads, the hammer session on the way home, getting home while doing battle with the rising peak hour traffic flow. YUK,

I reflected on this while I was riding. For me, right now, I cannot compare favourably this ride I am doing at this moment with urban bashing in a bunch with a pretend number pinned on.

What I am trying to say here is this ride I am describing, or rather riding style and thought behind it, it is for me and perhaps only for me at this time and where I am, I am happy to be on my bike again! Take cycling how you want to. When I get fitter and leaner again, I will ride my fixie again {even over the hills}.

This ride is not finished so it is a quick drop down to Closeburn, and over the hills towards Bunya mtn rd. The drop to Draper's crossing over a bush piano and onto the final 10kms with some solid hills. Bunya mtn road is my regular route to take me home. It takes me to my back door step {before the traffic lights start again}.

At the bottom of one of the drops on Bunya mtn rd without fail you go through the local residence of a flock of Bell birds. Every time I pass I conscientiously give deliberate thanks to nature for this treat. It will be a sad day when one can no longer hear the intense "Ping, ping" of the wee little Bell birds here. I am sure the day will come. I reflect on this and wonder if I will resent this being removed from my riding pleasure. I think so. The last drop down Collins rd, finish off the last of my water and I turn off onto the small wooden foot bridge that crosses Cabbage Tree creek that flows past our back yard.

Dismount, collect the fresh eggs from our two girls {Harriet and Isabelle} while I am in the back yard.

50kms, two hours. Just lovely.

A wise man said to me don't miss saying to yourself "This is nice" when something is nice. Give a few minutes thought to a time, a moment happening. "This is nice"

As we all head off into 2006, have a good time, stay safe, reflect on how fortunate we are to be free to ride our bikes and give to those who really need help.

The Llewellyn cycle clothing is really on its way. It will arrive early February. If any one is interested in seeing where this is going, email me and I will send you a PDF file of the design.

Regarding training Ergos. There are none left. The next batch will be available around April.

If you're keen, reserve your Ergo with a \$100.00 deposit.

We expect the price for this 100% Aussie made product to be \$1650.00 inc gst.

Another special export frame is USA bound soon. Ignacio's frame is similar to Keith's but a few new details. Note the hand cut stainless frog. 14 hours work on that frog! Also, I made special seat stay plugs to fit the double taper seat stays and cut some stainless detail for them. This detail is also a rubbing pad for the rear brake cable outer.

I am very pleased with the results. Total metal working hours before painting was 140 hours!





The above pics is Iggy's roadie before Joe does his magic.

Over the course of 2005 I have been learning the fundamentals of 3D CAD drafting. My head has been absorbed in CAD text books. After much time and effort I have gotten together designs for my new standard tube size Compact angle lugs. At this time we have nick named them "Tiny Slant 6" which is Tania's nick name at work {Tania is the love of my life for those who have not met Tania yet}. The lugs are for use in small to medium size frames. The current "Slant 6" lugs are for use with large over size tubes thus for medium to large riders. The new set of lugs will be the ticket for small riders. No longer can you miss out on the merits of lugged construction and with compact geometry. Of course they will be available in stainless for polishing if so desired. First proving frames will be expected around March. Stay tuned Gladdies!

On the subject of lugs, I would like to point out that the "Stem lugs", "Slant 6", "Down tube gear bosses" are my own proprietary lug castings. I designed, produced and use these lugs and castings. They are now exported to the USA and Europe. It all helps to even up our trade deficit in a small way. I am the first Australian builder or manufacturer to make their own lugs. I must thank Tania for her support as the time,

energy and resources spent on these projects is considerable. Many weekends are spent working on these projects. This whole week I have been in front of the computer on the CAD to get the sample casting done in the new year.

I am most passionately driven to pursue lugged frame construction. Bringing the merits of time honoured construction techniques coupled with contemporary knowledge and metallurgy into the next decade.



The 3D drawing of the "Tiny Slant 6" down tube lug with integral cast gear cable bosses. Sexy curves eh! I have to frankly admit, I am quite proud of the results.

They will make the coolest "Fixie" bike with stainless polished lugs and fork crown {gear bosses removed of course}.

Before I go, the usual suspects are available, bottles, handle bar tape with Llewellyn frog bar plugs and other goodies.

All at www.llewellynbikes.com

A call on 07 3353 3368 and I will have them in the post the next day.

All goes to finance the lug projects for your next lugged bike.

Also, if you're looking for good summer reading have a peek at

www.rivbike.com



**PS. Harriot's Christmas message is,
"Free our sisters from slavery, buy free range organic eggs. They taste
better too and make better cycling legs"!**

**That's all for now, thanks for reading.
Keep the fluids up this summer.
Cheers and happy summer riding from Dazza and
Tania**

