



DUBBELJU



It's all in the timing

Paul Brealey has... a cunning plan. And he wants help with it. Hi there Bear, I've just been reading my son's copy of *Australian Road Rider*. It's the first time I've seen the mag and even today I was looking for it in a newsagent in Canberra and I couldn't find a copy. However, it is a really interesting publication, so thank you.

A mate and I are planning to do a five-week ride across the US of A next October. We are planning on hiring bikes and probably buying our apparel over there. Our intent is to land in LA, go up to San Francisco, across to Reno and then down to Las Vegas. From there head east across to Amarillo, Dallas, Memphis and Nashville, then start heading north up to St Louis, Chicago, Niagara Falls across to Boston and then back down the coast to New York and Washington.

I have done a little research online but am finding it difficult to locate anyone who can provide advice on preparations, where to stay, what to see along the way. In fact, at this stage, my biggest concern is whether they have biker-friendly accommodation over there where they offer lock-up accommodation for the bikes. We've never done a trip like this and so we aren't sure what "we don't know" so as to ask the right questions.

If you or anybody who reads your magazine can steer us in the right direction, we would be most grateful. My email address is pbrealey@internode.on.net.

After such a nice letter, what could I do? I wrote back. If you have any suggestions for John, feel free to do the same.

Glad you like the magazine, Paul. Interestingly you've tapped into a bit of an obsession with us at the moment, namely travel to America. Recent Road Rider issues 46, 49 and 50 all have fairly lengthy US stories in them and there's more to come. We see America as an ideal bike destination for a lot of reasons (although our dollar is not as healthy as it was a little while ago).

Your projected ride sounds wonderful. Can I suggest, though, that you think about taking your bikes from Australia? Your rental cost

would be quite high and you'd probably save money by shipping. See www.getrouted.com.au for some information.

Good answer? You might think so. But then, only a day after sending off that reply, I received the following press release from America.

"Big enough to provide excellent service, yet small enough to treat you like family, motorcyclist owned and operated Dubbelju has been renting BMWs, Harleys, Triumphs and Hondas since 1991," it reads.

"Unable to rent a good motorcycle in California in the late '80s himself, Wolfgang created Dubbelju so that others could experience the joys of motorcycle riding through California and the US. Wolfgang's German heritage continues in the business through positively Teutonic attention to detail in the preparation and maintenance of the motorcycles.

"You can almost always walk into the Dubbelju shop (conveniently located in the south of market area in San Francisco — a short shuttle ride from San Francisco airport) and rent a bike off the floor but if you have your heart set on a particular machine, it's best to book ahead.

"All rentals include unlimited miles, liability insurance, 24-hour emergency roadside service, lock, luggage storage and free tour planning. All those at Dubbelju ride, so they know the roads that you want to explore.

"The team at Dubbelju will get you riding in the right direction and make sure you return home only with the best of memories."

If you want to check them out for yourself, see www.dubbelju.com or drop a note to dubbelju@dubbelju.com.

Dubbelju has a good reputation, and I'm a great believer in serendipity. Maybe this was a sign? So I wrote to Dubbelju and asked them for a 'quote' for John. I also contacted Get Routed and asked for the same.

Milligan's response was characteristically thorough. "\$2950 per bike return is our advertised price for next year's

shipment. Includes marine insurance, customs clearances and quarantine inspections, all the legalities for Aussie bikes to be on the USA roads, free storage if our shipment dates don't exactly match your holiday dates, dinner and beers with Milligan (but not paid for by). We can also take riding apparel, helmets and boots in the container free of charge.

"Our 2009 shipment arrives and bikes will be available to clients in Portland, Oregon, on Tuesday July 14, 2009. The first return shipment will be loaded (at the same place) on Monday, September 21. A second shipment (if we get sufficient numbers, and I think we will due to the success of this year's shipment) will be loaded again at the same place on Monday, October 26.

"As for how to find his way around and where to stay — we've bought a copy of Insight Guides *United States — On The Road*, ISBN 981-234-952-9. We're taking our own bikes to Portland in 2010 (according to SWMBO) for two months from mid-July and we'll make good use of it then."

Wolfgang Taft from Dubbelju was equally prompt.

"I can enlighten you about the cost of renting a Harley for six weeks.

The rental rate [for an Electra Glide] is \$129/day (summer) or \$109.65 (winter) and it includes liability insurance, unlimited free miles, 24-hour emergency road side assistance, additional locks, luggage storage and personalised trip planning assistance.

"In order to give him a discount I would like to know a

few more details like how many miles he wants to go, when he wants to rent and if he wants to have one or two bikes.

Here is also link to our price list: <http://www.dubbelju.com/ratesineng.htm>."

So whichever way you decide to go, Paul, it looks as though you're going to be well looked after. Easy street, mate — have fun.

Ned's wines

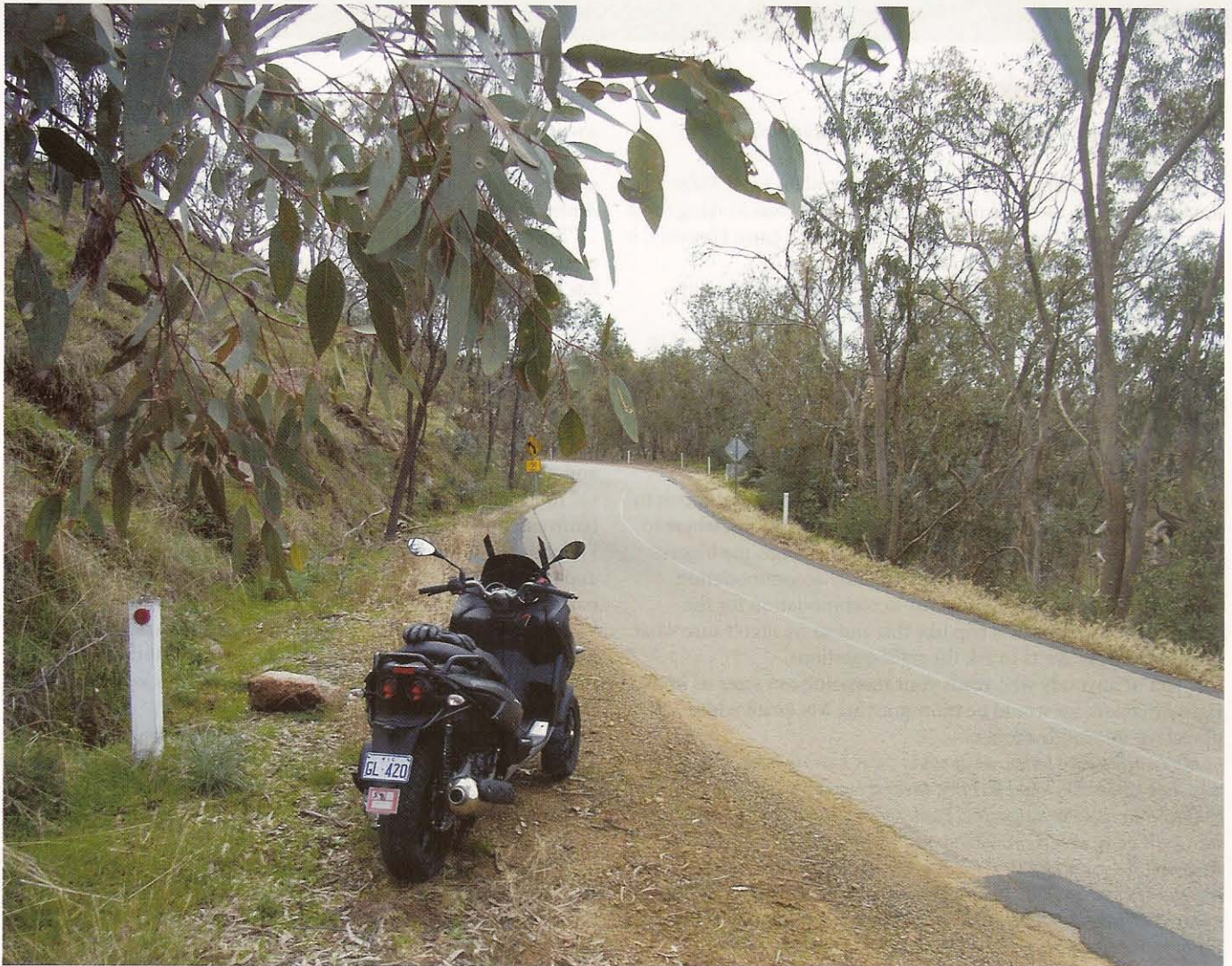
"Peter and Jenny Booth of Booth's Wines deserve a good plug," writes regular correspondent Brian, who's keen to push the whole Glenrowan region. "I guess there is enough to go round and they are not the sort to beef up the prices just because they got a mention somewhere.

"The winery can be a little off-putting because if you roll up it often looks deserted but after a few minutes someone will arrive from the house or on an ag bike from the fields.

"The website <http://www.taminickcellars.com.au> tells all you need to know to get there.

"There are wineries in the Glenrowan wine region: Baileys, Auldstone and Booth's. All worth a visit and of course Glenrowan itself.

"While you are at it, just across the highway takes you to the Milawa area — more wineries, cheese, olives. Couple of decent places to eat or drink coffee." **ARR**



Good riding, too, as here in the Warby Ranges just above Glenrowan.