



Banyule BUG Newsletter

August
2022

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Our thanks to the Office of Anthony Carbines MP, state member for Ivanhoe, for their support in providing the photocopying facilities for this newsletter.

Korumburra to Foster

Gordon Bettenay is once again organising this ride along the Great Southern Rail-Trail. All are welcome. This year, the ride will be on the newly created trail section from Korumburra to Leongatha. This has extended the distance to 64k – manageable on this well formed hard packed gravel trail. The plan is to be riding from Korumburra by 10am. This will put us in Foster around 3pm. This is a two day ride, **18th and 19th of October**. On the second day we ride to and from Port Welshpool. Accommodation is at Foster and these arrangements are up to each individual rider. Previous year's rides have been very successful. The area is conducive and welcoming to bike riders.



[Link to map](#)

Accident report from John M

We all wish him well with his recovery. (Ed)

As I was riding my eBike on the Capital City trail just before it joins the Merri trail, doing a steep sharp curve downhill to the left on concrete but cambered the wrong way, with a low gabion wall on the left hiding the moss and dampness on the trail, slow to moderate speed and no electric assistance, the bike suddenly slipped away from me and I found myself fully prone on the wet concrete. There had been some rain but the rain had stopped. When I tried to stand my left hip gave me enormous pain. A number of very concerned and caring women helped me and a young female cyclist stayed with me until a paramedic on a BMW motor cycle came to assist after 20 minutes wait for ambulance. 2 hours later the ambulance found me, brought down a stretcher and took me to the Austin ED. The Xrays of my hip and pelvis were normal with no fracture or displacement seen, but I could not stand or walk. I waited another 30 minutes in wheel-chair fairly pain free as long as I did not attempt to weight bear on my left leg. The same type of injury had occurred to my right hip almost exactly 2 years previously, and only a CT showed up the fracture acutely affecting the anterior part of the hip socket (acetabulum). Classic cyclist's hip fracture apparently. Cyclists also are known to fracture the clavicle. I had no upper bod or head injury and my helmet had no additional scratches or blemishes.

This occurred 2.30pm Saturday 14th May. I had been door knocking for Monique Ryan in the rain in North Balwyn and waited for the rain to stop and was cycling to the investigators in Fitzroy to return the TAC study equipment estimating the distance cars and trucks passed me with an U/S range-finder and video Garmin cameras aimed fore and aft. They were testing the hypothesis that since the new law on passing distance of motorised vehicles in relation to cyclists (1metre below and 1.5 metres above 60 k/hr by cars and trucks) there would be an improvement in passing distances. I had finished my part of the trial, hence returning the equipment.

The Capital City trail joins the Merri trail about 75 metres downstream from the beautiful High Street

bridge that crosses the Merri Creek and trail It has lovely Victorian frescoes which I admired after my fall. This part of the trail is very slippery even for walkers, and for a few thousand dollars could be easily rerouted and fixed, more cheaply than the fall cost me and the community with the paramedic, ambulance, ED staff and investigations. I graduated to 1 crutch 2 weeks ago after more CTs, and will be CTed again in 3-4 weeks to check on the healing.

I shall be sending this report to Yarra City Council and invoicing them for my expenses with the help of Maurice Blackburn.

Regards

John

The article doing the rounds on the internet is unattributed except to indicate "a banker". That said, it does have some interesting viewpoints to get the mind churning.

The Bicycle is the slow death of the planet

A banker made the economists think this when he said:

"A cyclist is a disaster for the country's economy: he doesn't buy cars and doesn't borrow money to buy. He doesn't pay insurance policies. Don't buy fuel, don't pay to have the car serviced, and no repairs needed. He doesn't use paid parking. Doesn't cause any major accidents. No need for multi-lane highways."

"He is not getting obese."

"Healthy people are not necessary or useful to the economy. They are not buying medicines. They don't go to hospitals or doctors."

"They add nothing to the country's GDP."

"On the contrary, each new McDonald's store creates at least 30 jobs—actually 10 cardiologists, 10 dentists, 10 dieticians and nutritionists—obviously as well as the people who work in the store itself."

Choose wisely: a bike or a McDonald's?

It's something to think about ~ Emeric Sillo

PS: walking is even worse. Pedestrians don't even buy a bicycle !



We got mail

Deb and Greg, two of Banyule BUG riders are overseas at the moment. While we luxuriate in almost sub-zero temperatures, almost constant rain, running low on gas/electricity and taking out a bank loan to fill the care with fuel – they would like to let us know of their struggles. (Ed.)

Subject: Deb and Greg's gallivanting so far...

Please pass onto members.....thanks..

Gb

Hi Gordon and Fran and fellow Latte Riders (I know you'll pass this on)

We hope you are all well and recovered ok from COVID! NT will be a great break from the cold in Vic! I'm assuming your trips to Kyneton and Qld went well.

Our first cruise ever to Alaska through the inside passage was a winner! We were treated like royalty and experienced some amazing adventures both onboard and on shore excursions.

e.g. We met a couple at the Martini bar where Greg and I were breaking our Martini virginity! After way too many different kinds of martinis we ended up in their penthouse suite with their butler pouring us champagne and arranging pizzas (unasked) for us drunks!!

Greg played the grand piano in their suite and we fell over laughing all the way back to our humble stateroom!! They live close to where we are going to the wedding in England so we hope to catch up with them again there. They were such a fun couple and had the penthouse as compensation for a travel glitch. They are not rich.



We went on a whale watching tour and had a half grown humpback whale calf put on a show for 30 mins as it played with a seal! It was awesome.

We saw the Hubbard glacier and also went on a 13km hike and rock scramble to the base of the Mendenhall glacier which was a tough day but well worth the reward of being so close to a hanging glacier.

After the cruise we went straight onto the Rocky Mountaineer which was all we expected and more. The climax was our day and night at the Fairmont at Lake Louise. Greg treated me like a princess!

Las Vegas (Lost Wages as Greg calls it) was interesting!!! We enjoyed some great shows and did everything there except gamble!! We spent 2 days on a ranch and went on a sunset horse ride and spent another day helicoptering in to the Grand Canyon for a champagne picnic!!

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We are now in San Diego with friends for 2 weeks. Then Toronto for 10 days then England for the wedding! Photos to come in the next email cause I forgot to attach them first.

Tell everyone we look at the BBUG Face book posts and look forward to reading emails and newsletters.

Stay safe, healthy and happy!

Love

Deb n Greg



Handlebars of history

Two Wheels Good. By Jody Rosen. Crown; 416 pages; \$28.99. To be published in Britain by Bodley Head in August; £25

IN 1896 ONE of Joseph Pulitzer's most influential newspapers, the *World*, reported a classic tabloid story about a broken home. "Henry Cleating and his wife once lived happily together...but now they have gone to the divorce court," the paper relayed, "and all on account of her bicycle and bright red bloomers." Cleating was upset because his wife was "taking long bicycle rides and neglecting her household duties". Eventually, after she returned from an especially long jaunt, her husband "got an axe, and smashed the bicycle into a snarl of bent spokes, gashed tyres and ruined tubing", bringing the marriage to an end. The bloomers "will serve as exhibits in the divorce suit".

This excerpt comes from a collection of clippings from the late-19th and early-20th centuries assembled by Jody Rosen, a New York-based journalist, for his new book about the bicycle. He promises to reveal "the history and mystery" of the most popular form of transport ever known to humankind except for its own two feet. For that is what the bicycle is. More are manufactured each year in China alone than automobiles are made worldwide. Globally, almost half of households own a bicycle, far more than have a car. As Mr Rosen argues, "the cities and towns we inhabit, our economies, our laws are designed for cars; we hop between continents on airplanes. Yet we live on a bicycle planet."

Nevertheless, though every business student knows how Henry Ford brought motoring to the masses, and how that development changed society, far fewer people realise quite how transformational the bicycle has been. At the end of the Victorian age, for instance, it allowed young women to get about alone, permitting an age of sexual liberation long before the pill.

As Mr Rosen recounts, bicycles also transformed warfare. During the Boer war Afrikaner scouts pioneered their use in hit-and-run attacks against the British; 70 years later, the Viet Cong relied on them to move supplies through the jungle to defeat America. In Tiananmen Square in 1989, protesters carried banners on bicycles. In response, the Chinese Communist government crushed

hundreds of wheels under tank tracks. Shortly afterwards China switched to encouraging four wheels over two.

Road-hogging, fume-spewing motorists may not realise it, but they too owe their preferred means of travel to cyclists. Air-inflated rubber tyres were first invented to be used by bicycles, not cars. Ford's first car was called a "quadricycle", and it was the League of American Wheelmen that pushed for the first nationwide network of roads in their country. Mr Rosen's book ranges across this history, as well as into more niche topics such as Nepal's cycling king, the bike-porn fetishists of Portland, Oregon, and Danny MacAskill, a genius Scottish stunt cyclist.

Readers hoping for a sustained argument as to why the bicycle deserves a more glorious reputation may be left a little unsatisfied. Love for two-wheeled transport runs through every sentence in the book, but its structure is often frustratingly scattershot, and the most exciting elements are underplayed. In particular, Mr Rosen could have said far more about the inventors and popularisers of cycling, and the impact of their innovation on the world, and somewhat less about bikes and sex.

Meanwhile the hostility of non-cyclists towards the contraption—the late P.J. O'Rourke called the very existence of the bicycle "an offence to reason and wisdom"—is laid out but left unexplored and unexplained. Still, anyone who goes about mostly on two wheels, in defiance of the ever larger, ever more numerous powered vehicles on the road, will enjoy this entertaining ride.



They wanted to ride their bicycles

Pirate lives

Shark bait

Born to be Hanged. By Keith Thomson. Little, Brown; 384 pages; \$32 and £25

TWO DECADES ago a famous sociology paper by Steven Levitt and Sudhir Venkatesh analysed the economics of drug-selling gangs in America. It argued that, despite the supposed glamour and mythical rewards of the career, most dealers were enticed more "by the prospect of future riches" than the presence of current ones. Most earned a bit above the minimum wage—a top-up more than paid back in the risks they ran.

Reading "Born to be Hanged" by Keith Thomson, it is hard to suppress the feeling that the pirates he chronicles would have benefited from a thorough perusal of that paper when choosing their vocation. Even without the gold teeth, the two groups had notable similarities. Both faced terrible perils; both were drawn on by the lure of distant jackpots. And for both, the outcomes were usually disappointing.

The pirates in this book depart for the New World towards the end of the 17th century to find treasure. Rarely do they succeed. Loitering around the coast of South America, they fail in one way then another. Boats sink; they are burned on pyres; gold is elusive; almost everyone gets scurvy. The pirate motto promises "A merry life and a short one." The second part frequently comes to pass; the first—as Mr Thomson's title implies—much less so. His book is rich in such phrases as "their blood ran down the decks in whole streams", "he took up the amputation knife" and "itt fester'd so that itt pleased god he died."

Part of the problem was that "me hearties" were often much less than hearty. For all the famed drama of the pistols and cutlasses, Mr Thomson points out that "scurvy killed more sailors than storms, shipwrecks and combat combined." These pirates spend much of their time suffering from a panoply of repulsive conditions. Poisonous plants sting them. Insects lay eggs in them. Their gums turn purple and "soften to the consistency of a sponge".

But they are pleasingly piratical. In an era of historical revisionism, in which the Dark Ages are to be considered enlightened, the Vikings seen as unfairly maligned and Nero as quite nice after all, it is reassuring to find historical characters who conform so closely to stereotype. They are almost the Platonic form of the species. They drink themselves to death, lose legs. ▶

Blue Pyrenees

Greeting cycling enthusiasts,

Maryborough Rotary would like to share some exciting news about the upcoming Pyrenees Magic ride to be held on the Grand Final Eve public holiday, Friday the 23rd of September.

2022 will see Maryborough Rotary introduce a new and improved Pyrenees Magic ride with a twist, the Pyrenees Magic Tri Circuit! The Tri Circuit ride will kick off at Summerfields Winery in Moonambel and sees the introduction of a new **30km ride for those who are just starting out or prefer to ride away from Highway traffic**. The ride full ride route will have minimum changes.

To keep up to date on make sure to follow our cycling event face book page <https://www.facebook.com/Blue-Pyrenees-Magic-Bike-Ride-Maryborough-Rotary-203818943464909>

Murrays Bridge – Eltham North

The attached photo shows the on site works happening today (26 July 2022) at the replacement project for Murray’s Bridge in Eltham North.

Current works include the installation of steel structural beams and side supports to be followed by the placement of the bridge decking panels, which are now on site.

It is anticipated steel works should be completed by Friday 29 July, to be followed by construction of the approach ramps, on both sides.

Then the shared trail surfaces on both sides of the bridge will require repairs and perhaps some realignment.



Hopefully we may be able to use this new bridge by the end of August.....or thereabouts ?

Thanks to Jim Connors for this report

..... and here are the very latest images of the progress on Murray's Bridge. The end is in sight.



Mystery Bridge

While we are discussing bridges, here is a little quiz for you. Can you name and or locate this bridge? The photograph goes back to the early 1900's. It is in our area and well known to most of you. A packet of energy giving jellybeans to take on your next ride for the first correct answer to reach me. allang@bigpond.net.au



Wheely interesting

An occasional series introducing you to Banyule BUG members



Meet Bob

Who rides with the Lycra Group

1. First bike and your memory of early bike riding?

When I was about 5, I remember riding my bike down the drive and along Green St, Ivanhoe. Also remember riding to high school and a car running into me. I dented the passenger door and continued onto school, with my model aeroplane on my back undamaged

2. Current (or favourite) bike?

Is a Specialized 2019 S WORKS Tarmac endorsed by Peter Sagan.

3. Favourite ride?

A small group of us ride out to Arthurs Creek on a Saturday morning. Anyone is welcome.

4. Favourite café on a ride?



5.

The Post Office Cafe at Hurstbridge.

6. Finish this sentence 'Banyule BUG

7.

Is a very friendly group of people interested in riding.

8. What are some of your other interests?

Committee member of the Nillumbik Reconciliation Group

Committee member of the Panton Hill Reserve

Roaming enviro volunteer for the Nillumbik Council. Had been a volunteer driver for over 12 years till covid.

From Bicycle Network. Any news about upgrades to our river trails is always great news – in particular. The much used and loved Merri Creek Trail.

11 AUGUST 2022

More for the Merri Creek trails

The state government is moving ahead with plans to upgrade the trails on the lower reaches of Merri Creek.

Currently, the Capital City Trail/Merri Creek Trail from Russell Station through Fitzroy North, Northcote, Clifton Hill, and Fairfield to the Yarra River is in places substandard, unattractive and risky.

It weaves though a wonderful environment and has great potential for riders and walkers.

With \$1.2 million from the state government, a planning study is underway to determine what needs fixing, where, when, how, and how costly.

Options set to be assessed include the construction of a raised path from the Merri Creek Trail at river level up to the Capital City Trail at road level and a new shared path bridge over the Merri Creek at High Street.

The Merri Creek facilities will come under more pressure when the North-East Link builds a new bike trail along the north side of the Eastern Freeway that will link to the Merri Creek.

Member for Northcote Kat Theophanous said the inner north was blessed with beautiful waterways and trails.

"Encouraging more people to use them reduces the number of cars on our roads, improves our collective health and connects our community."

Member for Northern Metropolitan Sheena Watt said: "We're looking at ways to make these trails safer and better connected for the people who use them to get to work, head to school or university, or simply see some of the city's most popular sights."

Professor Nicholas Williams, President, Friends of Merri Creek said: "A continuous, high quality shared path from Wallan to Dights Falls is a key goal of the Friends of Merri Creek.

"This welcome commitment will deliver a well-planned solution that allows the separate movement of both people and wildlife through this very special, but constricted part of the creek corridor," he said.

This article was made possible by the support of Bicycle Network's members who enable us to make bike riding better in Australia.

Shaping Banyule ([Link](#))

Northern trails 2022

This is well worth reading and contributing to (feedback section) as it involves the trails we all ride frequently.

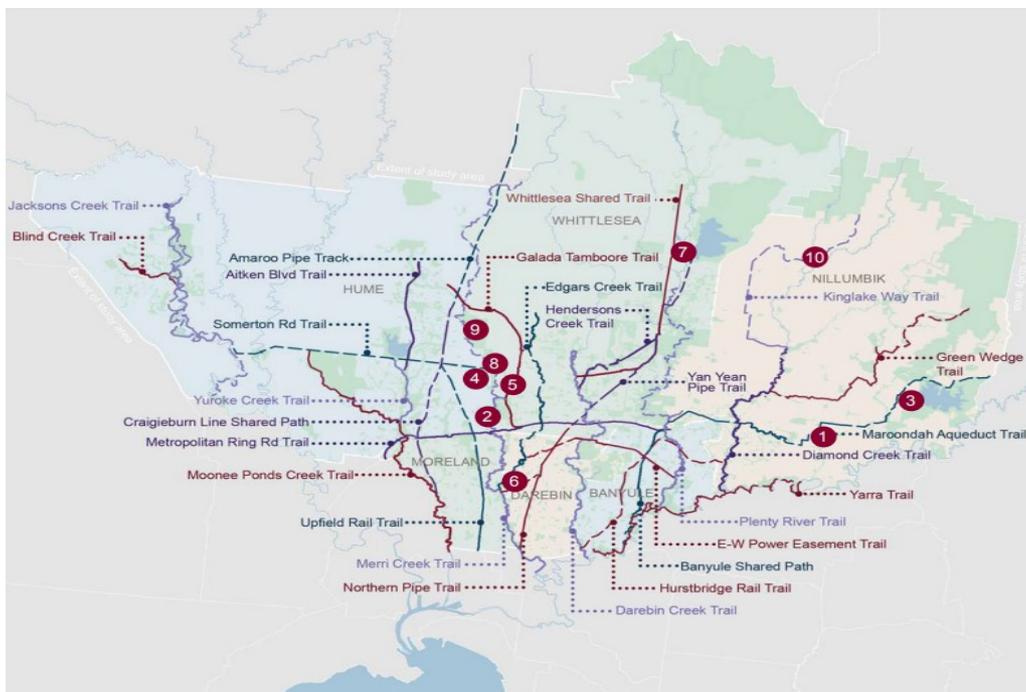
Advocating for the region

The [draft Northern Trails 2022](#) builds on the foundations of the [previous 2016 Strategy](#).

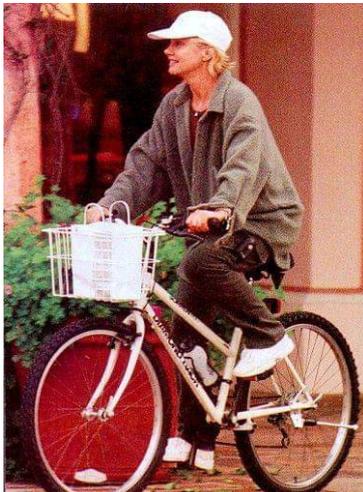
Its focus is to deliver and strengthen trails that connect significant features across municipalities and provide wide-scale benefits for the community. The draft 2022 Strategy includes an updated blueprint and strategic framework for the future development and maintenance of a recreational off-road trail network across northern metropolitan Melbourne.

As a collaborative project between Moreland, Darebin, Banyule, Hume, Whittlesea, and Nillumbik Councils, Northern Trails 2022 aims to ensure integration of planning, advocacy and development efforts, while making recommendations for trail infrastructure, management, marketing and improvement projects.

The 2022 update reflects changes in context since the 2016 Strategy was adopted including completed trail projects, revised Council priorities, modified landscape as a result of infrastructure projects and changes from growth in population, economy and urban footprint.



Well known and much loved bike riders.



That's it for the moment. As we look forward to warmer weather, enjoy your bike rides and keep safe. Send your contributions to allang@bigpond.net.au