



Banyule BUG Newsletter

August
2023

Contents
Tout de France
Cycle accident
Stolen bike
Southern railtrail

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

Andrew Hollis and Jacques Chaperon, as part of a team, took part in this years Tour de France. They kept us updated with their regular posts on Strava. To describe their rides as being hard would be an understatement. Some of them were brutal. Some of the hills they climbed in a day's riding were astounding. We can only watch in admiration and applaud their level of fitness and determination.

Andrew and Jacques have not only inspired us, they have built for themselves memories that will last a lifetime.

The following images supplied by Andre are very much part of those memories.

**1. Standing on the podium
at Courchevel with
Jacques;**



**2. Andrew with Cadel Evans
and Stuey O'Grady at summit
of Col de la Loze;**

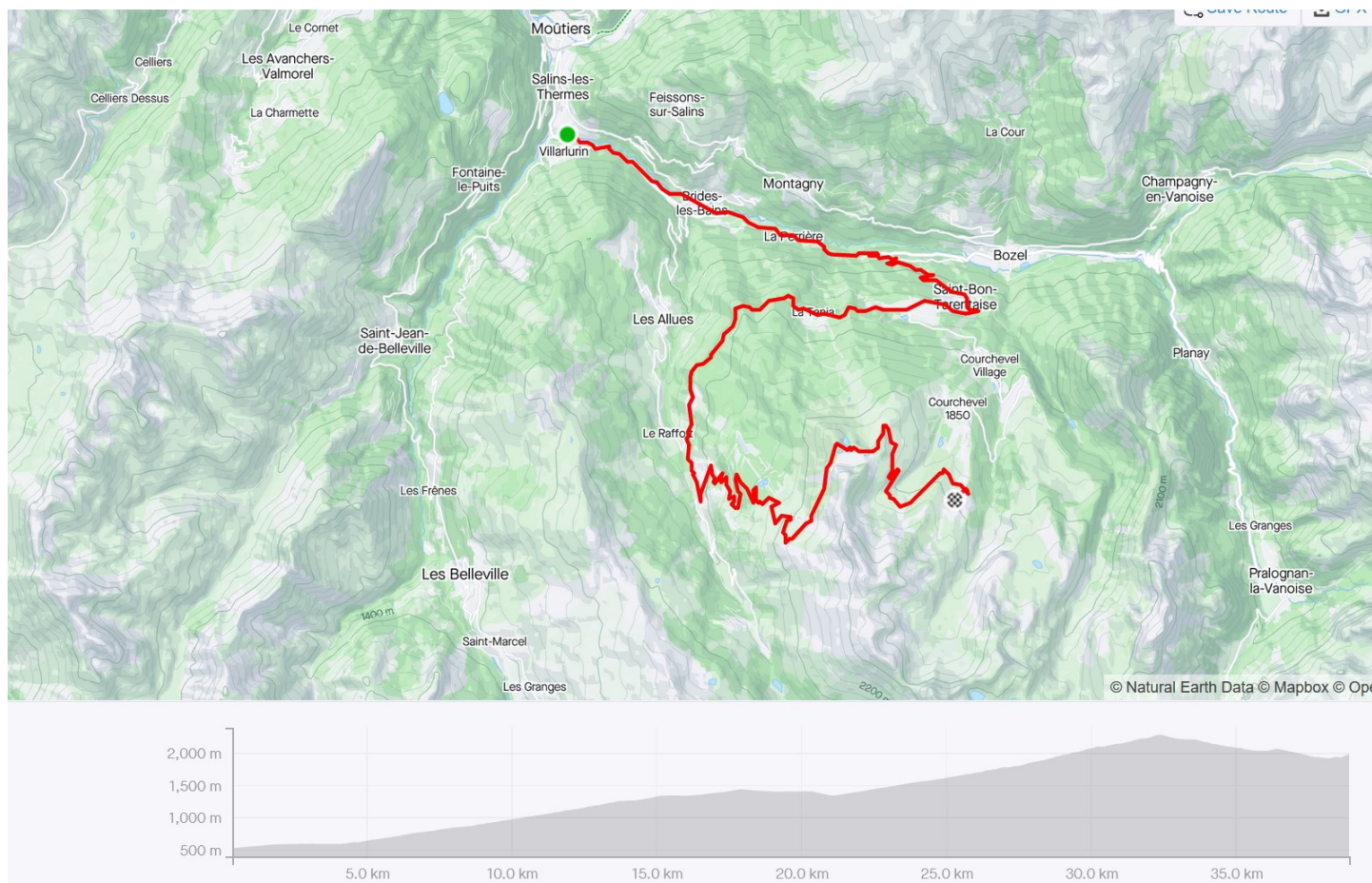


3. Our small group approaching Mont Blanc



Congratulations Andrew and Jacques

And to give you some idea of the difficult rides encountered. Here is a Strava post of the Colde la Loze. This ride rose 2 000 metres in 40k. Now that is tough cycling. Check out their other rides on Strava.



However! Having returned to Australia following their triumph in the Tour de France., tragedy struck..

“Fortune brings in some boats that are not steered.” (William Shakespeare)

While on a regular ride that Jacques and Andrew have done many times, they were T-boned by a car. The accident occurred on Main Rd just north of the Fitzsimon roundabout at the intersection of Main and Fawkner St. A car came out of Fawkner St and hit them.

Their bikes were destroyed, but more significantly, both were badly injured..

Jacques received significant bruising and muscle damage and Andre was hospitalized with serious fractures to his spine and sternum.

“The crash happened when an elderly male motorist, drove from Falkiner onto Main Rd, intending to turn right toward Fitzsimons. We were in the left lane of Main heading toward Eltham. He claimed he didn't see us, and simply t-boned us. “

What happened to Andrew and Jacques is just terrible. Coming as it did on the heels of their successful Tour de France ride.

Both Andrew and Jacques are sensible and responsible riders who take their cycling seriously and are risk aware and risk averse. What happened to them stands as a reminder to us all who take to our bikes on a daily basis.

Great care and eternal vigilance is required.

All the very best to Jacques and Andrew as they face their recovery..

Stolen Bike

One of our members, Trevor Morgan, has asked for help following the theft of his much-loved ebike from the family apartment. It's a **Trek Allant+**, dark blue in colour with a Bosch mid-drive motor, disk brakes, integrated front and rear lights and Schwalbe GR-1 gravel tyres. A couple of promotional photos below:

Please email Trevor if you have any leads on this bike twmorgs@gmail.com



Update to stolen bike:

Just to let you know the police have identified and arrested the thief however he had already moved my bike on. So if our members can continue to keep an eye out that would be great.

Kind regards
Trevor W Morgan
Mob: 0403 354 166
E: twmorgs@gmail.com

Coroner highlights “dog” danger

A Victorian Coroners Court finding into the death of a rider in Melbourne last year has highlighted the problem posed by the use of truck and "dog trailer" combinations in the Australian construction industry.

Evidence presented at the court indicated that Yukako Fukuhara, 47, of North Melbourne, had moved into the gap between the truck and trailer when merging from the adjacent lane.

The Deputy State Coroner Jacqui Hawkins concluded that Fukuhara may not have been aware that the truck and trailer were one vehicle.

Fukuhara was travelling along King Street towards La Trobe Street in the left lane when she encountered backed up traffic in her lane. She and other vehicles moved over to the next lane.

A slowly moving 17-metre-long truck towing a 5.6-metre trailer was in the adjacent lane. The gap separating the truck and the trailer was approximately 4.2 metres.

As Fukuhara moved into the gap, the trailer clipped her bike and she fell and was run over by the rear wheels of the trailer.

The court heard that Fukuhara, who was in Australia studying English, would not have experienced such truck-trailer combinations on Japanese roads.

Bicycle Network is aware that truck-dog combinations are a risk to riders. Most people who ride bikes will have experienced the disorientating sensation of being passed by a tipper truck, seeing a gap in traffic in their peripheral vision, then being spooked by the sudden appearance of a dog trailer.

The truck-dog combination is not only foreign to Japan, but is shunned in many counties and banned in cities around the world.

However, they have a strong foothold in Australia and won't be eliminated overnight.

In Victoria, the contracts for state government's projects such as the Metro and Westgate tunnels stipulate special modifications for all construction trucks to make them safer around construction vehicles.

However, these measures do not address the problem of the gap between the truck and the trailer.

Separately Bicycle Network continues to work with governments to advance truck safety. This includes a project examining and seeking solutions to this particular problem.

The Coroner has requested that the Department of Transport and Planning, and the Transport Accident Commission consider developing a public awareness campaign to highlight the dangers of cycling around trucks (trailer trucks in an urban setting).

BN 31 JULY 2023

Steps and bridges be gone.

At last. Work on the dreaded and despised Gipp St Steps is underway. I first heard about their removal some 15 years ago, so it is satisfying to see the work begin. [See Map Here](#)

As well, Wolmer St Bridge is closed as work begins, at last, on a replacement. With these two developments in place, we will be back to riding the full length of the Yarra Main Tra. [\(Link\)](#)

It is worth noting that two new sections of the YMT from Beasleys Nursery are now open and it is possible to cycle to Pound Bend in safety.



Dangerous Bridge Surface

I place this notice here as a warning to all users of the Darebin Creek Trail. In particular, the Livingstone St Bridges (just north of Darebin Parklands) Are very slippery when wet/damp. There are posted signs at each end of the bridges warning people of the danger. However, even cycling at walking pace runs a risk of slipping.

Two members of our club came to grief at the same time on this bridge after some light rain. See the video from my camera here. [\(Video\)](#) Take great care when using this bridge.

Feedback needed on slippery surface treatment

The City of Darebin wants bike riders on the Darebin Creek Trail to get a grip.

Riders have reported loss of grip on sections of boardwalk on the trail during recent cold, damp mornings.

City officials are investigating options for improved grip surfacing and are seeking feedback from riders on one potential solution.

Riders who use the pipe bridge over the Yarra River near the Fairfield Boathouse would be familiar with the steel treadplate surface, which was given a non-slip treatment with carborundum strips.

Council officials are asking: What has been your experience with this material? Do you find it safe and secure? Could it be utilised in other locations with slippery surfaces?

Bike riders can submit feedback here. <https://bicyclenetwork.com.au/contact-us/>

Bicycle Network will pass the results onto Darebin City Council.

16 AUGUST 2023

Main Yarra Trail Extension [\(Link\)](#)

It is now possible to cycle from Beasley's Nursery to Alexander Rd then on to Pound Bend in relative safety. The trail to Alexander Rd is excellent and a pleasure to ride. However, be prepared to do some hill climbing. Eventually, the trail will connect the Mullum Trail to Warrandyte.

Here is a video of the trail as I cycled down from Alexander Rd to Beasley's Nursery and Mullum Trail. The newest section of the trail is evident by the clean concrete. [\(Video\)](#)

When TT-Line hire a local from East Devonport to paint the new road markings



Put this in your diary. One of our great rides.

Korumburra/Leongatha to Toora Club RideRide details...

Wednesday **October 11th 2023**

There are 2 possible start times available..

1. For the serious riders. From orumburra railway station leaving at 9.00am. (Gordon will not be riding from Korumburra)Plenty of parking opposite the old Korumburra freight shed at the station.
2. From Leongatha railway station leaving10.00am. The station now has a bus stop on the south side of the station

Park and meet in this area behind the station, its a new carpark. Entry to this park is directly opposite the road entry into Leongatha from Korumburra.

The rail trail now is made properly and goes behind the station.

If you are late you should be able to catch us up at the Bread and Pickles bakery at Meeniyan, our first stop for a coffee and refreshments. Its in the main street, you'll need to turn right off the bike path . Go through to the main street. As you leave Meeniyan watch for the swooping magpie about 100yds on the path out of Meeniyan towards Fish Creek!

Lunch is at Fish Creek. Turn left off the bike track just before you get to the public toilets.

As the opening days of the food outlets seem to vary from week to week we can discuss this on the day. To return and pick-up your cars at Leongatha from Toora there are 2 options;

1. A bus leaves in front of the Toora supermarket at 3.39pm to return to Leongatha and Korumburra.
2. See if you can find a spare seat in a car with other riders.

We plan to eat together at the Toora hotel for thre evening meal.

Most will be staying at the caravan park in Toora, with a few staying at the Toora Lodge motel in town. nvite friends if you wish to ride with the Banyule BUG however, bear in mind there is no sag wagon and we'll not necessarily be riding together.

THURSDAYS ride is to Port Welshpool and return, weather depending.

Any further queries can be addressed to Gordon 0449260704 or gkbettenay@gmail.com

Great Southern Rail Trail & Tarra Trail

<https://www.railtrails.org.au/trails/great-southern-rail-trail-tarra-trail/>

This is the link for the area and ride. The ride was 58kms and took me approx 3.5hours through beautiful bush and open grasslands.

Swooping time has come early.

It's that time of the year again when your pleasurable ride is fraught with danger. Not from the usual sources on four wheels or that bridge that seems like an ice rink, but the attack from the sky.

Here is what Google has to say on the matter.

How to avoid getting swooped

- Travel in groups, as swooping birds usually only target individuals.
- Carry an open umbrella above your head.
- Wear sunglasses and a broad-brimmed hat.
- If you ride a bike, walk it through magpie territory or have a flag on the back of the bike that is higher than your head.

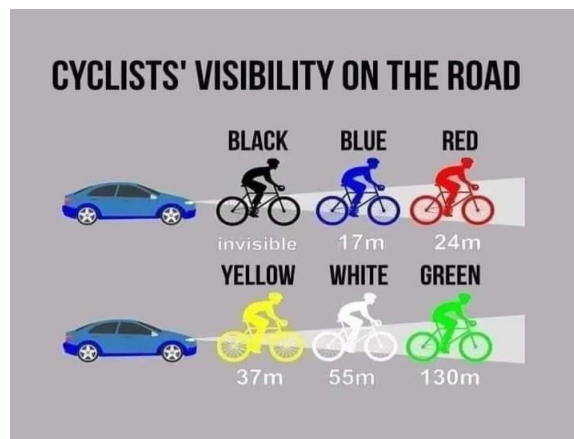


Magpies apparently have excellent memories and will remember your face from previous year's attacks. So, if you have been swooped before, it is more than likely your old "friend" back again.

Bicycle Network has this advice. <https://bicyclenetwork.com.au/tips-resources/know-how/magpie-madness/>

Be seen

I am not sure how factual this is, but it is worth considering. Being seen when riding a bike on our roads is important.



As the weather fines up, more people will be out on bikes and more people will be driving cars. Take care and enjoy your cycling.

Send comments, videos, pictures of your cycling experiences for inclusion in our newsletter to Allan Garbutt allang@bigpond.net.au

Special reminder
Annual dinner and awards night Wed 18th Oct
At
Watsonia RSL
Keep a lookout for email with details.