

Banyule Bug Newsletter December 2014



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Bugs in Training

above Arthur and John at Betley

We have all heard of model railways in people's back yards but it is something new to experience a full size railway. On a recent ride to Maryborough the group was invited to experience just this. Arthur a well-known member of the bug invited us to see his, at his home in Betley which was riding distance from Maryborough..

Arthur was not always interested in trains though it was in his genes as both his grandparents were involved in trains and trams.

He began his working life in textiles being apprenticed to Andersons Hosiery Mills Coburg It wasn't until he volunteered at a museum restoring old railways that his interest in trains as a hobby began plus in 1982 he had met his friend John Whithers at a tram museum in Bylands. another fellow enthusiast.

What started out as collecting a few bits and pieces then evolved into over a mile of track and two bogies ie railway trucks. And the track is still growing.

Many parts were sourced from the Smythsdale railway yards as well as Spotswood where the reclaimed line from Mansfield ended up. Also sometimes the museum would ring him if they had anything of interest.

Due to insurance costs and safety reasons Arthur has chosen for his venture to remain private rather than opening to the public so our group was very fortunate to have the experience we did.

Arthur is also a bike enthusiast When asked how many bikes he owned his reply " Well I stopped counting at fifteen".

Christmas Celebrations



Both our Christmas celebrations for 2014 were well attended. The Studley Park Boathouse saw a very jolly lot returning to Warringal and the following week a much improved cuisine was enjoyed by all at the Godfather Restaurant Briar Hill. Once again thanks to Alan we were treated to slides from past rides which reminded us of how good it is to be part of the Banyule Bug. Most people went home with door prizes and Arnold Wheeler who was gallivanting in Queensland and not able to receive it took out the most coveted "puncture award."

New Ride Programs Available

The new ride programs for 2015 are now available For the latte group a new short ride has been introduced once a month to give newcomers the opportunity to test us out and hopefully enjoy this experience. A big thank you to Alan and Leigh for taking on this mind boggling try to please everyone job.



**Thankyou
to
Walkers
Wheels**



**118 Para Rd
Montmorency
Vic
(03) 9432 2113
For once again
supporting
the Banyule Bug
Christmas
function**

**A HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO
ALL**

Reminder

Latte group rides for January commence at 8am

Maryborough Ride

Following a suggestion by Allan G, a goodly number of BUG riders and friends rolled into the Maryborough Lake Caravan Park around midday on Friday 15th November. After much milling about setting up tents, making coffee in the brand new camp kitchen, organising cabins and for the really hardy settling into the B&B they set off for a ride to the township of Majorca. After a nice picturesque ride through bush and rolling country side they arrived a little late for coffee at the general store (about 60 years too late it seems). A stiff tail wind back into Colbinabbin for proper latte and pies, and then home completed the first 36km ride of the weekend.



The Latte stop at Majorca

A great pub tea, scouted out by Gordon (whose basis for choosing it was that it was walking distance from the park) meant we walked past many historic sights in Maryborough on the way, including the wonderful old grandstand. A great meal was provided after which we all went back to camp and early to bed!!

Saturday saw the main group set off for Talbot via the historic town of Amhurst. Where a quick look at the historic Church and an amazing culvert was on the agenda. As Ann was unable to ride, due to some poor judgement on the Yarra trail the week before, she was

able to shuffle people around and some riders left the ride at Talbot and some joined. Lunch at Talbot and Lattes were available much to the delight of many. A slow ride back through the forest was highlighted by a visit to the Maternity Tree and the Rock wells. : Monuments to the first inhabitants of the area and their lifestyle. The day included a visit to the Railway station, as no visit to Maryborough could be complete without such a side trip. All up about 50km for those who rode the whole way.

A group BBQ in the NEW camp kitchen followed with everyone helping to cook, make salads and organise nibbles. John S joined us for dinner, after an eventful afternoon comprising a train ride, a bike ride and a car trip. A quick trip by Maureen to town resulted in a nice cask of red for us to enjoy. A really



rested.

Riders at the Maternity Tree near Talbot

yummy cheese platter appeared on the table after the meal courtesy of Gordon and Fran! Bed was a bit later that night but all enjoyed the socialising and food.

Overnight Maryborough had lots and lots and lots of heavy rain. No one however seemed worse for wear in the morning and the breeze was enough to dry out our tents, even Alan B in his very small precarious looking tent even arose dry and



Bug Members (without John S)

The Sunday ride to Dunolly and back tested our commitment and after a visit to Arthurs train farm just off the Bet Bet Betley crossroads Rob and Jill left us for lunch in Avoca, Allan G had headed off for Bendigo earlier. At the farm everyone was treated to a ride around the line and were able to use their weight to help settle down the new track Arthur and John were working on. A fun and interesting experience for us all.



Our transport, with drivers, around the paddocks

Lunch in Dunolly, some shopping and then a slow drag back into a head wind ended the weekend.

The survivors arrive in Maryborough tired but satisfied with their 48km trip. Here the final few waited for some stragglers who had been side tracked by the old mine at Bowenvale.

All agreed it had been a great weekend riding and the weather had been very accommodating.

Next May it has been suggested that we do a "Country Camp" in Wangaratta. This will mean that people really will be able to get there by train.

A big thanks to Ann and Kevin for organizing, planning and leading this ride including the yummy BBQ Sat night even though Ann was unable to ride due to a riding injury



Netherlands Launch Intelligent Bike to cut accident rate

A report released from the Netherlands has found that last year 184 cyclists died. It also found that 124 or 67% were older than 65. This has prompted the release according to their web site of the first ever "intelligent bicycle". Which is expected to hit the market within two years? This cycle runs on electricity and includes a radar

mounted below the handlebars plus a camera in the rear mudguard. It also has a forward and rearward detecting system linked to an on board computer with a vibrating warning system installed in the bicycles saddle and handlebars to alert cyclists to impending danger. Apparently the saddle vibrates when other cyclists approach from behind, while the handlebars do the same when confronted by obstacles appearing ahead. It also has a cradle into which a computer tablet can be inserted to wirelessly connect and "talk" to the bicycle through a dedicated application. The mounted tablet also flashes a bright signal if there is an approaching obstacle in the bicycles path, like a lamppost, or if another cyclist comes up from behind intending to pass. Also according to this article in the Netherlands bicycles outnumber the population of 17million by at least one million and there are some 25,000kilometres of bicycle path. According to Wikipedia Melbourne boasts 1900 kilometers. But also an Age report of a study done in Melbourne and

published in the *Journal of the Australasian College of Road Safety*, "Quote" found that serious cycling injuries reported by police had increased by 109 per cent from 2000 to 2008.

Did you know?

A tour de France cyclist eats the equivalent of 42 Whoppers (hamburgers) per day when competing



Thank Goodness

Bike stands have become more user friendly:
Latest one (picture compliments of Maurie)now has an extra bar (which the current bike has not taken advantage of) to stop the problem of your bike lock slipping down along with your bike

And we now know they are stands for bikes



Bikes at Rotterdam central Station has bike parking for 5190 bicycles
Perhaps we could keep this in mind when redesigning Flinders Street.

Will they ever become this friendly???



Attention All Members To Improve Club Email Reliability

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If you do not currently receive any emails from the club and would like to, please send a request to the above email