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Banyule BUG Newsletter

June
2021

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I don't make a habit of correcting other writer's grammar or spelling, wether it be on a wall, screen or paper.

While I agree completely with the sentiments being expressed, surely it should read -

“Education is important. But riding your bike is MORE importanter”.

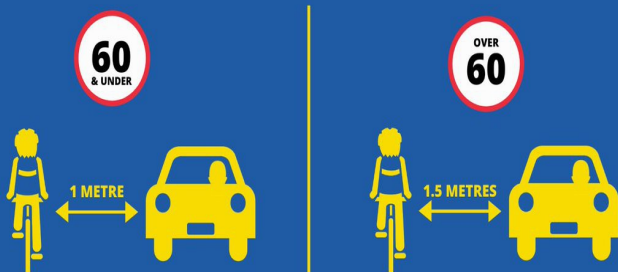
Our thanks to the Office of Anthony Carbines MP, state member for Ivanhoe, for their support in providing the photocopying facilities for this newsletter.



For everone that owns and E-Bike. You must watch this clip from FB. The moral is – don't use water. It looks like modifications were being made with a rack battery being added into the circuit.

Click ontheimage.

THE MINIMUM PASSING DISTANCE RULE



A new road rule means drivers must allow a minimum distance when overtaking bikes.

Victorian motorists will be required to allow a minimum one-metre distance when passing a cyclist from Monday 26 April as the mandatory passing distance law comes into force.

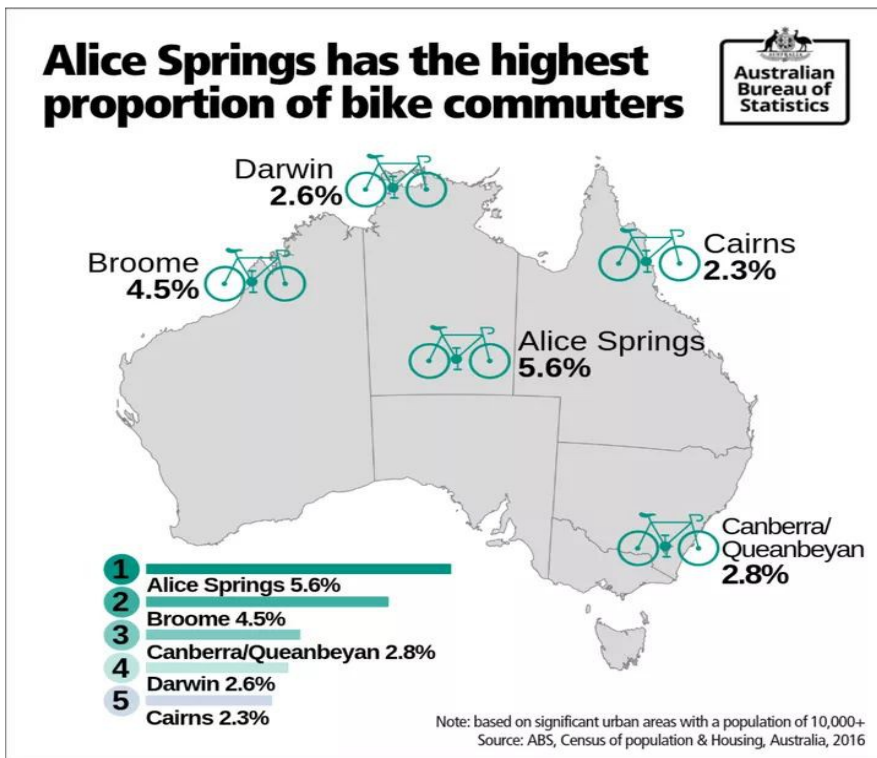
The new law, which requires drivers to leave at least one metre when passing a cyclist in speed zones 60kmh or lower, and 1.5 metres when passing at speed limits over 60kmh, comes after [campaigning by RACV](#), the Amy Gillett Foundation and other cycling safety bodies for Victoria to follow every other Australian state and territory and introduce mandatory passing distance rules.

The new passing rules are indeed welcome. Congratulations to all who campaigned for them.

All we need now is compliance and enforcement.



Can you guess where this railway crossing is? We have all ridden through it many times on our way to the Elwood Canal. It is now a sky-rail. That should be enough clues.



I came across this interesting chart recently. It displays the percentage of bike commuter per head of that locations total population recorded in the census.

It is illuminating, but I am not sure how much can be read into it in terms of the popularity of bike commuting.

I think it perhaps says more about geography than anything else. Locations like Alice Springs and Broome have a more compact population density that is attractive to people cycling around there city. That is my interpretation, but I am sure there are other views.

Lockdown Musing

What have you been doing over our latest lockdowns? If, like me, you have been finding new ways to navigate your 5, 10 and 25km radii or should that be radiusses, I wish you well. One benefit (apart from not catching Covid 19), is that the roads are quieter. That is not to say the maniacs driving cars have disappeared – they haven't.

Me? I have been cycling, walking and writing. If you will forgive me the indulgence, I offer the following short story to perhaps help you through our troubling times. Nothing to do with cycling, but it might interest you. Perhaps you might send some of your work/musings for inclusion in our next issue?

The Gathering
(A lockdown short story in lieu of riding my bike)

The first rays of sun were breaking the morning sky. Already, the dew that had accumulated over the cold night, was lifting. The air was crisp and clear. The world was beginning to stir. This would be a good day.

She had waited here this morning for as long as she could remember. She was always the first to arrive. But soon others of her group would soon join her. Shedding the cold of the night she sat to wait.

Soon the group was assembled and the business of the day could begin. Looking around themselves, they were satisfied that all was as it should be. There appeared to be no threat on the horizon. The group could move safely out of the nights hiding place and onto the open grassland.

The grassland was a dangerous place. Here, there was no cover and their enemies, and there were many, could catch them in the open. So it was necessary to keep a keen lookout.

They ordinarily would not cross this stretch of open land, but it was important that they reach the security of the thin forest on the other side. The survival of the group depended upon their safe arrival.

The small group had been travelling now for some two hours and was nearing their destination. The broad swathe of trees was now in sight. They could also see a number of paths leading into the forest depths. This was an area they had travelled before and were, for the first time since the sun had risen, feeling comfortable in themselves.

They had lived with danger all of their lives. This was their cross to bear. Because of this the group was well attuned to the world around them and well equipped to deal with most situations. Still despite all of their precautions, a number of their group had, over the past year fallen to their enemies. A price for survival had to be paid and they were prepared to accept this.

The sun had arched high in the sky and it was nearing midday. The safety of the forest was within reach. All was going well.

It was then the group became aware of a subtle change in the sky. A change such as they had not experienced before. They had no way to measure this change. It was utterly beyond their understanding.

A quiet and distant rumble could be heard. It didn't come from one direction; it seemed to be everywhere. The light had become darker, not from any cloud, but darkness, like the sound, that seemed to come from every point of the sky. For the last time in her long life, the group's leader lifted her face to the sky.

At a place that would one day be called the Yucatan Peninsula, the asteroid hit.

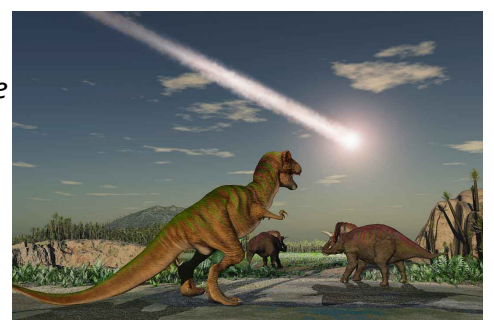
Angled in at 30 degrees and travelling at 10 kilometres per second, this huge piece of space rock, 200 kilometres across, vaporised trillions of tonnes of earth in a split second.

The dinosaurs that had been so close to the safety of the forest were destroyed in a flash. Within 6 months nearly every species living on the earth's surface would become extinct.

A dark and cold age descended upon the earth. A world left in ruins by the asteroid's impact. Yet life will find a way.

Scampering around amid the devastation was a small furry mammal whose distant descendant would one day walk on the moon.

Allan Garbutt



From Banyule Council
From Lauren Brooker
Good morning!

Council Committees – be a voice to help us understand the needs of your community and what matters most. Being on the Banyule Advisory Committee is your opportunity to contribute and advise us on long-term policies and strategies and beyond.

All Banyule Advisory and Consultative Committees are currently seeking new members and expressions of interest.

This year, you can apply for multiple committees of potential interest at the one time – but you will only be eligible to serve on one.

- [Disability and Inclusion Committee](#)
- [Environment and Climate Action Advisory Committee](#)
- [Arts and Culture Advisory Committee](#)
- [Age-friendly Committee](#)
- [Reconciliation Action Plan Advisory Committee](#)
- [Multicultural Committee](#)
- [LGBTIQ+ Committee](#)
- [Child, Youth and Family Committee](#)

If you are interested in any of the above committees, please click any of the text above to read more and submit your expression of interest.

Please do circulate this to anyone in your personal or professional network who may have an interest in serving on a committee. Committees guide council to deliver inclusive services and to develop, implement and monitor our plans and strategies.

Kindly,

Lauren

Links

I came across a most unusual bike on a recent Diamond Creek Trail ride. It was in the design of a scooter, but had a sliding linkage to a rear wheel mechanism to deliver the power to the rear wheel. There was no seat, the rider stood all the way. As the pedal ramps slid along a guide, it made a dreadful noise. It seemed to go well and the rider/stander made good progress. Here is a link to a video. Apologies for the poor quality of the inset. My Fly 12 is about to die.)

[Standing Bike/Scooter](#)



Club News

A well run cycle club not only runs on two, three or, as I saw Jim once, on one wheel; it also requires money to fund our various enterprises. John has politely reminded us, that it is that time of the year again.

Folks,

*Happy for whom, do I hear you ask? For **me**, of course!*

*As Treasurer of the Banyule BUG it's **THAT** time of year again — **subscriptions!** Throw open the door of the vault to hear the clattering thunder of cascading coins, the heavy thuds as rolls of \$50s and \$100s drop into the void.*

Remember Scrooge McDuck? The cult icon of all Australian club treasurers! It's his spirit that keeps us resolutely ploughing forward across shoals of silver and gold, slashing paths through tricky forests of flapping polymer and stunning inks. All while balancing the books, "One for me, one for the club. Two for me, two for the club.." Happy days indeed!

*But what does this mean for you? Simply, the 2020/21 membership year is fast drawing to a close - 30th June, to be precise - and the 2021/22 season looms. Time to pay your annual subscription and keep the club's bank account in the black. Not at all complicated - click on **this link** and be transported to the online Membership Renewal Form.*



You only have to answer a couple of quick questions, then make an electronic transfer directly into the B-BUG account. If you're not happy with all that internet stuff, just give the cash to a friend and they'll do it for you.

Annual membership fees for riders remain unchanged at \$30/person; social membership \$10/person. Great value for everything you get in return, including third-party insurance cover.

Always welcome to contact me if you have any questions or problems.

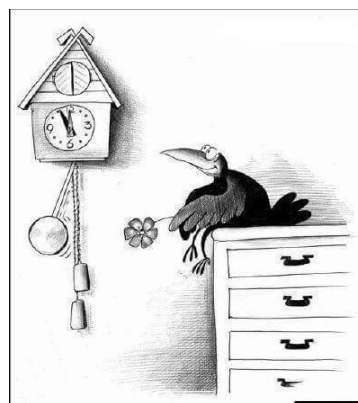
Cheers,

John Pe



This wonderful image reported to be from a French fashion parade, is of a man who appears to be wearing a bicycle/military helmet, amongst other things, and may have cycled to or about to cycle from the parade.

It is perhaps something our club's uniform committee might like to consider adopting as part of our club attire.



I liked this cartoon from Arnold. It seems to sum up the Victorian experience of late – a raven looking anxiously for the stroke of 12 for his luck to change.

Wheely interesting

An occasional series introducing you to a
Banyule BUG member

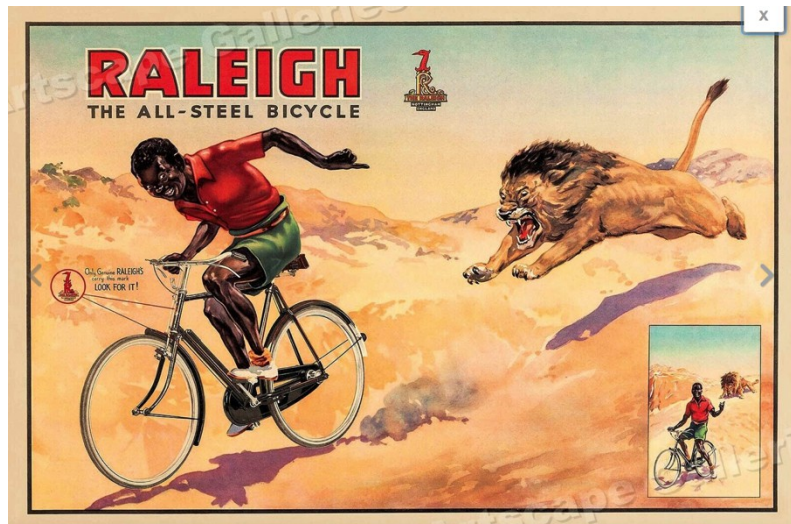
Meet - John Perkins



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

First bike? Very easy to remember — a brand new Raleigh, birthday gift from Uncle Jack. A bachelor, he was working in the Iranian oilfields and had promised first bikes to all nephews and nieces. Must have been earning good money too, because this bike was Raleigh's finest offering in our small town — tough steel Reynolds frame, full chain cover, lever-and-rod rim brakes, 3-speed Sturmey Archer hub gears, Brooks leather saddle and saddle bag, full mudguards, kickstand and a proper long pump. Painted British Racing Green embellished with a touch of gold pinstriping. It was elegant and I was in bike heaven!

We lived in Zambia then and Raleigh posters were everywhere. This is a 1955 example, highlighting the amazing speeds achieved on steel bikes probably weighing 15+ kg. Later posters pitted bike and rider against leopards or cheetahs but, frankly, I consider that a preposterous proposition. Give me a lion any day!



As for early bike riding, we lived on them. To and from school daily, with friends at all times and for any reasons whatsoever. Bikes were #1 transport — assistance from parental vehicles might be offered if you'd lost an arm or leg but, otherwise, into the saddle and off. We were lucky — few cars and we'd ride in swarms, with scant regard for road rules. I mean, how else do you keep a conversation going?

Some memories do stand out. Despite being strong enough to dink three plus plus rider (handlebar, crossbar and shared pedals) the Raleigh seemed to be fitted with tyres made

from heavily inflated sheep intestines. Punctures were omnipresent. No newfangled integrated resistant strips — riding featured frequent wrestling with tubes, buckets, soap and non-adhesive glue. Substitute punctured tube for a new one? Not a chance - tubes were forever; patches patched patches. The family's collection of spoons was used for tyre levers; there was much shouting when another scratched and bent offering was smuggled back into the cutlery drawer. And the back wheel was never taken off to repair punctures. Would have meant disconnecting the three-speed hub gears! Do that and they'd never tune properly again, leading to an inevitable result. Gear slippage when standing on the pedals climbing a steep hill, followed by agonising collapse onto crossbar. Very painful!

2. Current (favourite) bike?

The first bike remains firmly fixed in my memory. Could well be an all-time favourite except it was so heavy. Or seems so now. Then — a different story. Waft along with your friends, race down hills, aim for puddles and creeks, go fishing, learn Mechanics 101.

A late high school road bike was another gem. Stripped down to one fixed gear on the back. The craze was to have the smallest rear cog (something to do with pubescence, I guess). A 14-tooth was my choice. Never stopped pedalling (you couldn't) and hills required you to stand on the pedals. Leap on them, in fact. Then one day I slid on a wet road, broke my collarbone and its lustre dimmed.

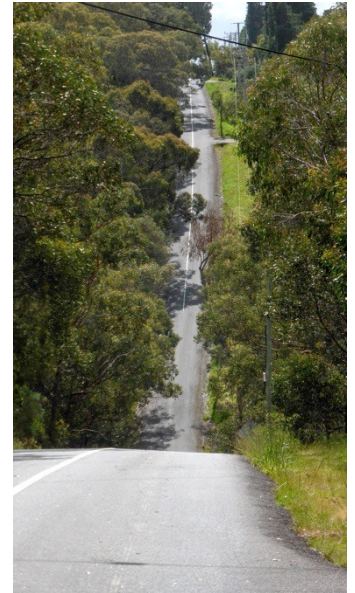
To be fair though, the bike I've enjoyed most is my current road bike. An indulgent dream! Thought to myself I'd never had a cracking top rung road bike and there's a limited number of years left for that kind of fun. Giant were having a demo sale so I helped myself to a TCR Advanced Pro SLR 0. Which boils down to a superlight bike (c.7 kg), carbon wheels and Shimano Di2 electronic gears. Fantastic! I don't go any faster but just revel in the sensation. Reckon I could almost take on a cheetah. Almost.



3. Favourite ride?

No single favourite. Great rides come from a blend of circumstances — weather, roads, company, views, refreshments, traffic, exploring.... I love the hilly country north of Eltham (hills are the only option!) which I crawl over at my very placid pace. But if it's cold, raining and slippery.....noooooo! Sometimes the sea, winding along Thirteenth Beach Road from Barwon Heads. Or joining friends on a big event ride — always maintain I'm the scratch rider, which is why they're all way ahead. One day I'll catch them!

One ride that sticks out was Ballarat-Clunes, years ago. Been on the BAD (Day) with a friend



ride (Ballarat Autumn then plugged on to

Clunes for a peep at their Annual Book Festival. Only 34 km but it was a gloriously sunny day, warm but not hot, a mild and following breeze, hardly any traffic. Seventh heaven....absolutely cruised along at a good clip. Even better, I had a lift home and didn't have to battle the breeze.

4. Favourite café on a ride?

Any café that serves good coffee is in the running. On the food side, it depends whether you're into an egg and bacon roll on Turkish or something sweet and wicked. But having enjoyed many repeat visits, Pettys Orchard goes top of the list. So many different tastes and types — cakes, pies, frittata, quiche, slices, things savoury and sweetmakes me salivate just to think about them. And nearly everything cooked by one Nonna, who will remain anonymous to safeguard our treats.



A group of us had “food porn” sessions running for a while – nothing could be eaten until everything was served and photos taken. Fresh and fabulous!

5. Finish this sentence 'Banyule BUG

Banyule BUG

Chug chug chug.

Up the hills

My legs I lug.

At the top

A steaming mug

Of coffee,

With a tasty pie.

Along the road

My feet now fly,

“Thank God it’s downhill”

A happy sigh.

Friendly folk

Hug hug hug

That’s why I like

Banyule BUG.

6. What are some of your other interests?

That would be telling, would it not? Reading, music with rhythm, people, fiddling around, trying to master a musical instrument (many tried, no success), travel. Family and friends.

Tips and Resources - Bikes Lights

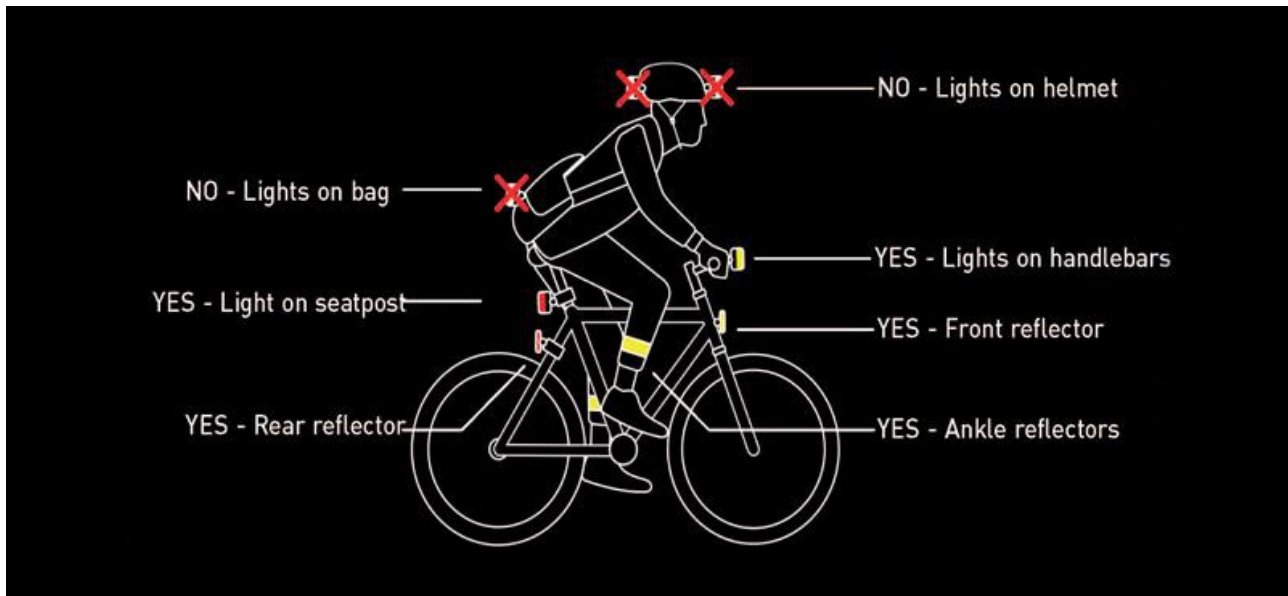
Light up and be seen

All bike riders must be legally carrying and using front and rear lights at night or in low light conditions. Effective bike lights are essential to help other road users see you while you are riding in dark conditions. It's also law – Australian road rules require you to have a front white and rear red light visible from at least 200 metres.

Our recommendation (Bicycle Network) ...

To maximise your visibility while riding, studies show that a flashing light when mounted at handlebar and seat post height is the most visible to other road users.

It's important to fix your front and rear lights to your bike—those attached to clothing and bags often end up facing the wrong direction. Lights on helmets are less visible to drivers, and can also be a menace to other bike riders.



What makes a good light?



When it comes to bike lights, we score them on seven different categories:

1. **High visible output (head-on and angled)**
2. **Excellent water resistance**
3. **Durability**
4. **Ease of use**
5. **Easy to fit to a bike**
6. **Easy to charge or change batteries**
7. **Secure attach/detach**

Which lights are best?

We've ranked, rated and tested the best bike lights for value, durability, ease of use, and of course, visibility.

While riders only need to be seen at 200m to comply with the road rules, some choose a light that can light up the way ahead. So we've divided our test into lights to 'be seen' and those that are 'to see'.

All lights on this list have been recommended and tested by staff at Bicycle Network with varied use from long days on the bike to commuting to work.

To see – front lights



To be seen



Rear lights



Remember when using lights to see, overly bright lights are a challenge for other path or road users. Be considerate and keep your lights pointed down when other riders or path users are coming your way. 15 MARCH 2018

Visibility: it's all in the legs

A new report has again confirmed the powerful visibility impact of fluorescent and/or reflective ankle bands fitted to bike riders.

The study is one of a number to report that drivers recognise bike riders with the leggings much earlier and at further distances than other visibility aids.

This new study examined whether fluorescent clothing, popular with many riders, improved visibility to drivers in open road conditions in daylight.

(Fluorescent fabric is of no benefit at night as it requires UV light for activation).

Drivers were sent along streets and asked to report when they observed a bike rider, who may have been wearing black jacket and leggings, or fluorescent jacket and leggings, or a combination.

The riders were pedalling on randomly positioned stationary bicycles in order to enable accurate measuring of distance and time.

The surprising finding was that drivers recognised cyclists in black jackets just as readily as those in fluorescent jackets, that is, riders in fluorescent jackets were not more visible.

But if riders were wearing fluorescent leggings, they were recognised 3.3 times further away. "The finding that fluorescent yellow leggings can provide a dramatic enhancement to bicyclist conspicuity is, we believe, a consequence of highlighting the bicyclist's pedalling motion", the researchers said.

"The rhythmic up-down movements of a cyclist's lower legs uniquely specify a pedalling motion that is visually distinct from, for example, a pedestrian walking or jogging.

"Further, considerable research has identified that highlighting a cyclist's biological motion can provide powerful conspicuity enhancements.

"Thus fluorescent leggings can offer a powerful and low-tech tool for enhancing bicyclists' daytime conspicuity."

The findings were published in the Proceedings of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society.

Bicycle Network has long recommended reflective ankle bands as a powerful visibility enhancement at

night, and now there is convincing evidence that they are also effective during daylight.

Riders should be making use of the human eye's perceptual sensitivity to biological motion.

The reason why fluoro vests, jackets, backpacks and helmets don't make you more visible is that they are on the upper body and there is no biological motion for the eye to detect.

B-BUG Committee Members,

Recent cancellation of the proposed General Meeting (7 June 2021) at Warrandyte Library has meant a long lapse since the Committee has had the opportunity to "chew the fat" (technical term) about Banyule BUG and the running thereof.

It is proposed an on-line Zoom Committee meeting be held at 7.30 pm Tuesday 29 June 2021, an opportunity for us to discuss any issues that have lain dormant because of the pandemic and associated lockdowns/openings over the last 18 months.

The Zoom AGM in February went very well, so this is a chance to build on your on-line skills. Most important is a list of items for discussion - please send me anything you'd like to put on the agenda.

The meeting is already booked on Zoom. Key details:

Meeting ID 747 8189 5327

Passcode 83bvQa

These will be sent out again with a reminder, next week. Contact me with any questions or comments. In the meantime - send in your ideas!

Cheers

John Pe

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John Perkins
50 Park Rd
Eltham
Vic 3095
Australia

Thanks for all the people who contributed to this edition, it is really appreciated by our members. So if you have a story, comment etc. Or just want to show off your latest feather-weight carbon-titanium world beater, or the massive hill you just conquered, then let us all know about it for the next edition.

Send you contributions to Allan Garbutt allang@bigpond.net.au for inclusion.