



Banyule BUG Newsletter

June
2024

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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.***

Club contact points

Web Page: <http://www.banyulebug.org.au/>
Face Book Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/banyulebug>
Contributions to this newsletter: Allan Garbutt allang@bigpond.net.au

Our very own Geoff Sutter has completed an epic bike ride that has taken him the full length of both islands of New Zealand. Geoff is no stranger to long distance riding having ridden extensively in South America and he has many tales to tell about his latest accomplishment.

Geoff will tell us about his journey by bicycle from the northern tip of NZ right down to the far south at our AGM in August. NOT TO BE MISSED. (Peter G)

From: **Geoff Sutter** <geoffs59@yahoo.com.au>

Date: Fri, 3 May 2024, 7:00 pm

Subject: Have reached Stirling Point (Bluff)- the end of the Tour Aotearoa cycle route

To: Peter Gurney <petenillumbik@gmail.com>

Hi Peter,

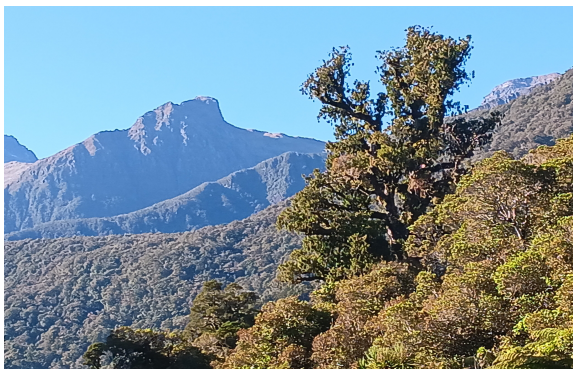
Hope you are well.

This afternoon, I reached Stirling Point (Bluff) at the southern end of South Island NZ.

This Tour Aotearoa, has been an amazing journey.

I think the Tour Aotearoa route is 2,916 km long and I covered a total distance of 3,283 km (including side trips), since leaving Cape Reinga on 27 th Feb.

A few photos:



About 20 km SE of Haast, towards the
Gates of Haast & Haast Pass.



Mavora Lakes (south) about 50 km SW of
Queenstown.



Stirling Point, near Bluff at the finish of the Tour Aotearoa journey

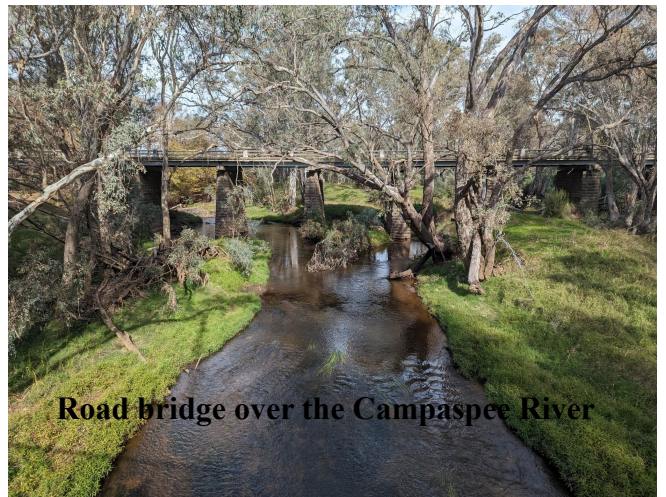
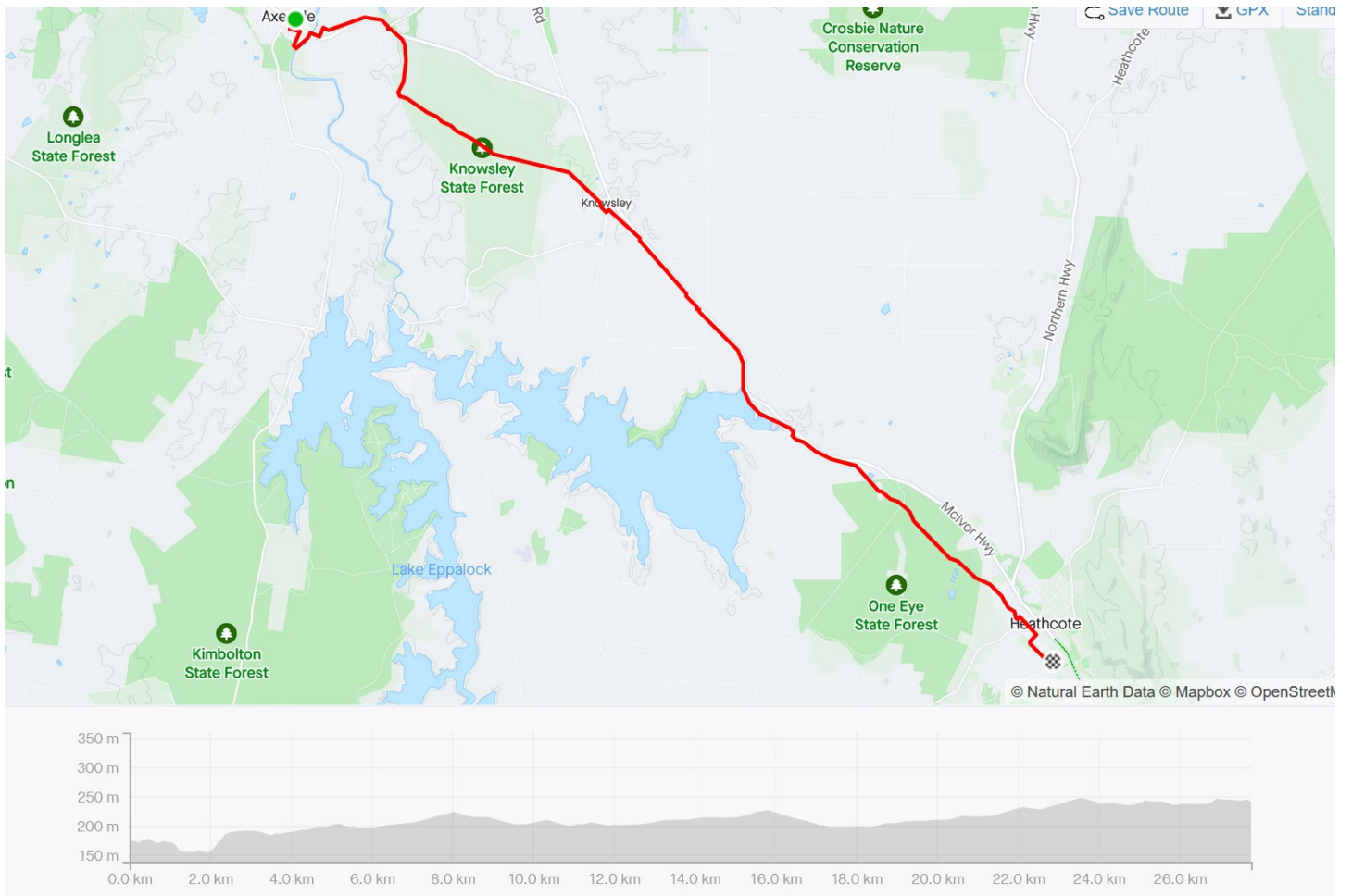
Regards
Geoff

Evolution of public transport



O'Keefe Rail Trail

Under the masterful baton of Joghna P, Banyule Bug orchestrated a wonderful ride from Heathcote to Axedal, rftun. The O'Keefe Rail Trail is one of the best rail trails in Victoria. The trail meanders through undulating terrain, past (over) the eastern arm of Lake Eppalock and over the Campaspe River (when not in Flood). A good number turned out for this ride (11?) and completed the ride in mainly sunshine and slightly chilly conditions. The following pictures give testament to the quality of the tour.



From Bicycle Network

30km/h speed limits expand across Fitzroy and Collingwood [\(Link\)](#)

Yarra City Council has expanded its trial of 30km/h speed limits to suburban streets across Fitzroy and Collingwood.

From today, the new limit applies to all streets in the area other than Johnston Street, Nicholson Street, Hoddle Street, Alexandra Parade and Victoria Parade.

The move follows successful trials of lower speed limits in a smaller area of the neighbourhood and is widely celebrated by road safety advocates and sustainable transport experts,

Council figures show that 59% of local residents support 30km/h limits in their area.

“When traffic speeds are 30km/h or less, not only does the crash rate come down for all road users, but the streets feel different, less frantic and threatening, and more friendly and welcoming, especially for people on bikes,” says Alison McCormack, CEO of Bicycle Network. “Everybody wins.”



Lower speed limits encourage safer driving by improving vision and stopping time for those behind the wheel.

Research also shows that 30km/h speed limits have negligible impacts on travel times. In built-up areas, the speed of motor traffic is more likely to be determined by the frequency of intersections than speed limits.

The safety benefits for vulnerable road users are major, while the travel impacts are minor, experts say.

“Research shows that a person walking is at least twice as likely to be killed by a driver travelling at 40km/h than at 30km/h and that safer speed limits in urban areas have minimal impact on travel time,” says Yarra City Council Mayor, Edward Crossland.



Late last year, Yarra City Council voted unanimously in favour of expanding the trial, and the move now has approval from the Department of Transport and Planning.

The Victorian Government's Speed Zoning Policy does not allow for 30km/h limits outside the scope of a trial, meaning that these settings can only be implemented on a case-by-case basis. These approvals can take many months.

In August last year, the NSW Government updated its speed zoning standards to recommend 30km/h limits on suitable streets.

This month's report on the Parliamentary Inquiry into road safety for vulnerable road users recommended that the Victorian Government reviews its speed zoning guidelines a key priority.

For more on low-speed local streets, visit our [campaign page](#).

Darebin trail bridge upgrade

The notorious bridge along the Darebin Trail just north of Darebin Parklands has had a much needed improvement to its (when damp) surface through the addition of ant-slip strips. These strips have much improved the grip for cyclists and pedestrians (I have seen a pedestrian slip) when traversing this bridge. We need to acknowledge the efforts of Peter Gurney in being a strong advocate to council for this to happen. Hopefully the second close-by bridge will receive the same treatment. ([Link](#))



Plenty River Trail takes shape

The first 400-metre granitic sand section of the Plenty River Trail project near the Red Gum picnic area is complete.

This area is in the first stage of the four-stage \$19.3 million project at Hawkestone, where works on the accessible toilet and the shelters have started. The main parts of these structures will be made off-site and will be installed in the coming months.

The Hawkestone section is due to be finished in mid-2024. Other sections of the trail will be built with crushed rock, asphalt and concrete.

Construction of the northern section is planned to begin in late 2024 and includes the trail from Mernda to the Hawkestone picnic area and two new lookouts (Lone Pine lookout and Carome Homestead lookout).

Parks Victoria is completing cultural heritage and environmental assessments for the central and southern sections.

These sections include construction of the trail from the Hawkestone picnic area to the southern end of the park, where it will join an existing path close to the Metropolitan Ring Road. These assessments will guide the scope and timing of delivery.

The trail through Plenty Gorge will travel from Doreen to University Hill. ([Link Parks Victoria](#))

Gipps St Ramp (Link)

The Gipps St steps replacement with a ramp is ongoing with completion expected sometime this year. Visible progress is evident with earthwork and foundation work well advanced. The detour past Abbotsford Convent then around to Gipps St and over the bridge seems to be working well. The walking and cycling family are looking forward to the completion of this project.



Artists impression

Fire Rescue Victoria (Link)

Fire Rescue Victoria has an excellent website dealing with the safe handling of batteries. With the significant rise in the use of e-scooters and e-bikes, the charging and use of rechargeable batteries is becoming an issue. Lithium is a highly reactive material and needs to be handled appropriately.



Receiving E-Mails

Now, who doesn't enjoy receiving an e-mail. It is a form of connection with your community. A recognition that someone has thought of you enough to put finger to keyboard and make contact. This is especially true when the e-mail comes from our hard working treasurer reminding all club members that it is now winter and the 1st of June. Wheels may keep our bikes rolling, but it is your subscriptions that keep your club rolling. With that in mind, here is (in part) our treasurer's e-mail. No. It is so good. It is here in full with one small edit.

Folks,

It looms through the thickening mist, the muffled thump of giant feet on bitumen, heavy sonorous breathing is it a plane, a bird, Superman? A sudden gust of fetid wind reveals all Scrooge McDuck has come to claim his annual payment. Have mercy!

*It is indeed that blessed time again, beloved by Treasurers of sporting and social clubs throughout Australia and beyond. EOFY and the time to tip your **annual Banyule BUG membership fee** into our giant sack of cash. But let's not exaggerate – perhaps medium sack of cash? Or even "quite modest sack of cash".*

*Current membership runs to 30 June 2024 and then we start all over again. **The good news** - we're in a stable financial situation that will be fully reported at the next AGM, Wednesday 14 August, to which everyone is invited. **The less welcome news** - membership fees will rise this year, due to likely an increase in the cost of insurance premiums.*

Public liability insurance is the club's largest individual budget, now approaching \$2300/yr. The premium falls due in July and is likely to rise for the third consecutive year. An increase in membership fees was approved at last year's AGM in expectation of higher costs plus the hope that no further rise will be required for the next 2-3 seasons.

*In summary, annual membership fees for 2024/25 will be **(Edit by Editor. Cost structure on Website)** All the information is given on our **online Renewal website**, which also includes fee details for new members.*

*The form is short and simple - a matter of moments to complete. Preferred payment method is by electronic bank transfer, directly into the club's bank account, **BSB 063 222 Acct 1018 1606**. If you're unsure about the process, ask a member to transfer on your behalf and pay them cash. Can also accept cash paid to the President, Peter Gurney; Vice-Prez, John Pietka; or Treasurer, John Perkins. Regret we can't accept credit or debit cards for payment. Requires an extra (and expensive) layer of security on the Renewal form.*

***Don't want to renew?** That's fine - please email me and I'll take you off the address list. Save you from the reminders that will definitely pop up over the next weeks. And a couple of sentences to explain why you won't be extending will be welcome - helps us to improve B-BUG.*

Look forward to the sound of crashing cash registers! Please contact me if you have any questions.

Cheers,

John Pe

Treasurer, Banyule BUG

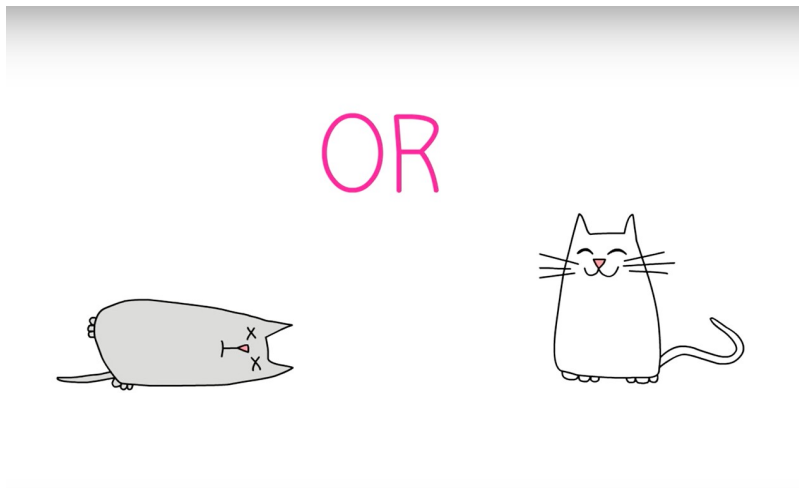
Shrodinger's Cat

Nothing to do with cycling specifically, but it may have a lot to do with the cycling computer you use to record your ride.

Schrodinger proposed a thought experiment that involved a cat in a box with a deadly substance. He argued that just before opening the box the cat could be on one of two states – dead or alive.

This web site explains this thought experiment in a very understandable and entertaining way.

[\(Link\)](#)



Fish Ladder

This photograph appeared on social media, but without a lot of information other than “Alphington, Darebin Creek”. It is a fish ladder to help native fish and eels to make their way upstream to where they were born. Has anyone seen this and knows of its exact location? On my rides along the Darebin trail, I keep a lookout for it, but without success. I think it must be in a location where the path leaves the creek.

A word of caution

Large sections of the Merri Creek Trail have been cordoned off due to asbestos contaminated mulch. This section runs north from the Broadhurst Ave bridge in Reservoir. It is a lot of mulch and will take some cleaning up.

Enjoy your winter cycling. Take extra care on the trails and roads and record your exploits, the good, the bad and the ugly, for inclusion in our next newsletter.

Send your contributions to Allan Garbutt
allang@bigpond.net.au