



Banyule BUG Newsletter

November
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.



Still pedal pushing at 95

Kelvin Chamier lives in Eaglemont, a now sort-after north eastern suburb of Melbourne.

He and his late wife Gwen built their home in 1953 when the suburb was paddocks and their street was 'just two wheel ruts'.

Kelvin, a retired electricity transmission engineer, used to pedal over to Eaglemont from Preston on weekends to work on the house. He's enjoyed bikes since he was a boy and has owned bikes all his life. He also owns a car.

Kelvin's first bike was a dashing green Kingdom saved up for with pocket money and paper boy earnings. When he bought it home, his dad sent him straight back to the shop in Clifton Hill for a larger model that would last longer as he grew. After Kelvin outgrew it, the bike saw many more years' service as it was passed down through his siblings.

Kelvin's been through a few bikes since then, changing to an e-bike three years ago at the age of 92 to ease the daily commute through the hills of Eaglemont to visit his late wife in a nursing home. But, when he and his daughter and son-in-law tackled the Mawson Trail in South Australia in May this year, there was no such luxury as electricity; they endeavoured to complete the 900-kilometre journey on mountain bikes, camping along the trail each night.

As an elder statesman of the Banyule Bicycle Users Group, Kelvin is a regular on BUG 'Latte Group' rides around Melbourne and various country rides too. The group is planning a party for his 95th birthday in early November.

In September, when this photo was taken, Kelvin rode fifty kilometres with the group for coffee at Mernda in Melbourne's far north, almost all the ride being on shared trails.

"I love the friendship and the exercise," said Kelvin, pictured, at front, with other BUG Latte Group members.

Banyule BUG President, Peter Gurney, advises that the club welcomes new riders. Most members are retired in their 60s and 70s with a few, like Kelvin, a good bit older.

"We have almost one hundred members, women and men, and offer five group rides each week. Keeping physically active and socially connected as we age is great for our well-being. Kelvin is an inspiration to us all."



Cr Tom Melican, Mayor Peter Castaldo, Kelvin Chamier, Deputy Mayor Alida McKern and Peter Gurney at the birthday morning tea.

A related link you might like to follow is this presentation from Banyule Council

[Seniors Festival celebration: age is just a number](#)

Interesting use for an old bike.

Recently I went to Atherton Tablelands, QLD, and visited the historic village at Hiberton and saw this "Pedal Power Knife Sharpener".

An amazing bit of engineering design to meet a requirement in the region. Probably not in demand today but, who knows with elections coming up.

Text on the board:-

Pedal Power Knife Sharpener

c. 1930s

This ingenious bicycle gives new meaning to keeping one's nose to the grindstone. The owner would pedal from place to place and set up the bike as shown here. The rear carrier was swung down to create a stand and the drive chain was disconnected from the rear sprocket. Another chain was attached from the crank to the grindstone, and the traveller was in business sharpening everything from pocket knives to kitchen knives and sewing scissors.

John Pietka



South Gippsland Rail Trail

The ride from Korumburra to Foster (and beyond) organized by Gordon B was, by all reports, a great success and very well attended.

Elaine had this to say:



We had superb weather and a turnout of 9 men and 9 women. Our Latte group fielded 8 members plus 2 partners as guest riders.

Jenny Beech experienced the capture of a rabbit on the track by a Goanna and the sighting of a snake. Although it had previously been quite wet, the rail trail was generally in good condition throughout.

However, riders reported the new section from Korumburra to Leongatha required concentration due to the recently laid gravel surface.

John Pietka lead us on a deviation on the second day to the small haven of Port Franklin.

All riders seemed delighted with the two day ride and commented how enjoyable it was to meet up and ride with the other Banyule Bug group.

Regards Elaine



Sales of new bikes

The RACV is reporting that the sales of new bikes have surpassed the sales of new cars. This makes for an interesting read and the article can be found here. ([Link](#))

The big wet.

Thanks to Brendan S

Follow this link for an arial view of the flooding event around Diamond Creek as it impacts the township of Diamond Creek. ([Link](#))

... and below, are some images of Warringal Park (thanks to Arnold W) not far from where Banyule BUG rides assemble.



And here is a view of the flooding along Bulleen Rd as seen from Brendan's drone. Along the Yarra is one big lake. ([Link](#))

Wheely interesting

An occasional series introducing you to Banyule BUG members

Meet Peter

Our Club President and Co-ordinator of Latte Group rides

- **First bike and your memory of early bike riding?**

My first bike came from Robs Cycle Shop in Blackburn. I was about 12 years of age. It was a Christmas gift from my extended family. I know that my parents couldn't afford it alone, but I think they had grandparents, uncles and aunts all contribute.

The bike was a 24 inch, shiny red in colour and it was a beauty. I used to ride it to and from school in East Burwood, on weekends and on my daily paper round.

Of course, a couple of years later it was too small for me and was handed down to my brothers and I got a larger second hand bike.

Except for a small folding bike purchased while living in Germany in the early 1980s, the red bike was the only new bike that I've ever owned.

- **Current (or favourite) bike?**

My now bike is a steel-framed Diamondback hybrid with 21 gears; a heavy but indestructible lump of metal. It rolls along so well and it makes me work going uphill. I love the old thing – I bought it second hand at a garage sale for \$40 ten years ago.

... I feel a new bike coming on though.

- **Favourite ride?**

I enjoy most of the rides we do in Banyule BUG, but the trip to Williamstown and back (if the winds are kind) is a beauty.

- **Favourite café on a ride?**

The Corner Café in Strathmore: nice food and coffee coupled with a pleasant staff happy to look after the group, especially if we phone first. Also, it's a good ride there and back.



- **Finish this sentence 'Banyule BUG ... keeps me surprisingly busy, but I like how well the club is supported by the executive, committee and membership.'**
- **What are some of your other interests?**

Environmental conservation, military history, U3A, a couple of committees (ex-service, dancing for the disabled), choir, travel, and a new interest of - croquet. There are a few grandchildren and an active Kelpie dog to add to the mix, let alone my partner Elaine who always seems to have some interesting activity in her sights. Life is wonderful and full.



Whilst admiring the riding skills of Santa in this picture as he makes his way around Point Cook (thanks Sue for the picture), can I remind you all of our picnic ride.

Studley Park on Tuesday 6th December?

Cycle/Car to the park and meet at rotunda. Bring food/drinks to share.

Victorian State Election

As you contemplate your vote for the upcoming Victorian State election, you might like to read up on Bicycle Network's views and campaigns in support of cyclists. ([Link](#))

The following article from John P picks up on the promises being made that impact cyclists in our area.

PROMISES!

Shared path, Greensborough-Montmorency-Eltham

And – a must read article

Shock! Scandal! Socks!

2022 has been an eventful year in many ways for cycling. The weather has for a lot of the time been wet, windy and very cold at times. On behalf of Banyule Bicycle User Group. I wish you all a very happy Christmas and hope that 2023 will be a great year for us all.

Save your holiday riding pictures and tales to contribute them to our newsletter in the New Year via allang@bigpond.net.au

PROMISES!

Shared path, Greensborough-Montmorency-Eltham

I attended a media briefing from the Hon Ben Carroll MP, Minister for Roads and Road Safety in the current State Government. Also in attendance was the Member for Eltham, Hon Vicki Ward MP and a local cyclist, Andrew, who teaches in the local area. Two cyclists (names unknown) passing on the Research Trail were roped-in for a full audience photo.



Ben was there to pledge \$32.8 million in funding for a new shared user path from Montmorency to Eltham that will complete the planned Greensborough — Eltham trail. Following the expanded train line, the path will cater for walkers, runners and cyclists (not sure about horses) and will be a much easier and flatter traverse than current options.

There were very few questions asked of Ben, who is a keen cyclist and more interested in inspecting my gravel ebike than banging on for too long.

Good if it happens. If a Labour Government is re-elected, I'll have the original media flyer to wave around as proof positive of the parliamentary pledge. And remember — you heard it through the Banyule BUG Newsletter first!

John Pe, Nov 2022

Shock! Scandal! Socks!

Fellow Bugsters,

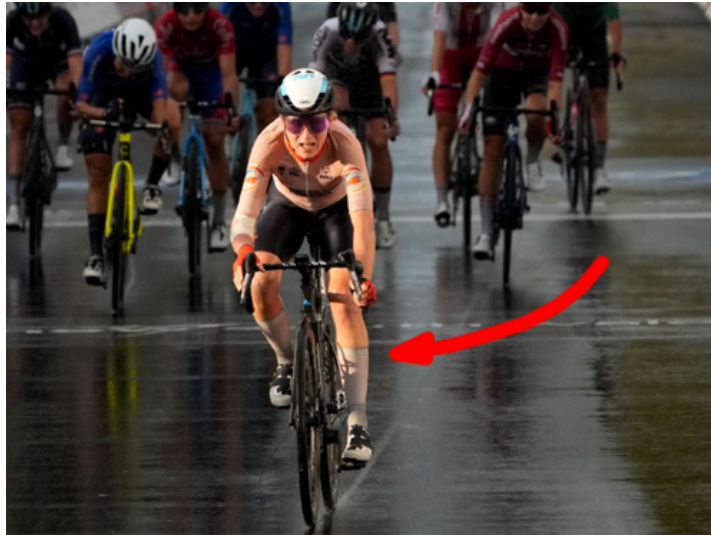
It is my unpleasant duty to reveal to you the extent of depravity and corruption in the international cycling circus. No, I'm not talking sex, drugs or rock 'n' roll. This is far more insidious. We stand at the edge of an abyss into which, at any moment, the world's whole cycling community could so easily tumble.

Let me offer some background before laying bare this sad and squalid saga. As you'd know, the 2022 World Road Race championships were recently held in Wollongong. The winner of the Women's Elite Road Race was a Dutch rider, Annemiek van Vleuten, who had also won in 2019. A tough rider who started the race with a fractured elbow, Annemiek burst to the lead one km from the finish and crossed the line just one second ahead of a closing group.



Brilliant riding! **BUT** — an announcement was made shortly after the race that sent shockwaves through the cycling world.

The *Union Cycliste Internationale* (UCI) is the world governing body for sports cycling and oversees international competitive cycling events. Wearing a top hat, frockcoat and spats, a very important UCI dignitary confronted a throng of media officials and made a solemn and sober announcement. Annemiek van Vleuten had broken Article 1.3.033 BIS of the UCI Technical Regulations. The new 2022 World Champion would not be stripped of her title but was issued a €500 fine for her appalling breach of the laws. And what, you may ask, lay at the root of this evil? See for yourselves:



Yes – her socks were too long! Article 1.3.033 BIS clearly states, “Socks and overshoes used in competition (or Banyule BUG events*) may not rise above the height defined by half the distance between the middle of the lateral malleolus and the middle of the fibula head.” UCI also provided an explanatory diagram.



To avoid being our members being exposed to the temptation of over-long socks, the Banyule BUG Committee has authorised the purchase of two pairs of heavy duty shears and sets of digital Vernier callipers.

Accredited shearing officers will be appointed among the Latte and Lycra groups, invested with the power to measure any doubtful sock lengths and lop the tops of any which exceed the permitted lengths. Riders are advised to remove their shoes and socks before lopping commences.

Banyule BUG proudly stands behind UCI’s determination to “*guarantee the proper and ethical application of regulations, and.....assert the primacy of humans over machines, and facilitate fairness and safety during B-BUG’s weekly rides*”. Fines might apply!

* author’s interpretation