



Banyule BUG Newsletter

October
2022

Contents

- 1 Horn Island
- 2 Tour de Oz
- 3 Trike for sale
- 4 Wheely Interesting
- 5 Great Southern Railtrail
- 6 Kelvin's birthday

From our 'globe trotting (cycling) President.

Horn Island in the Torres Strait saw the Banyule BUG president, Peter G, spinning between the township of Horn and the airport (13 kms there and back) a few times in early August.

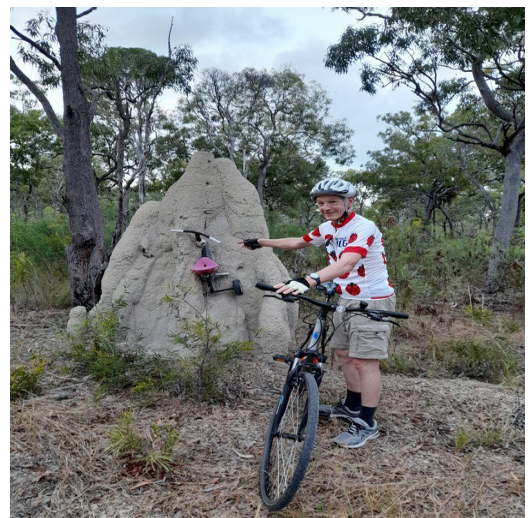
He also rode a lap of Thursday Island, another 7 kms, and to the top of TI's Green Mount to watch the sunset over Goodes Island.

All on a borrowed bike.

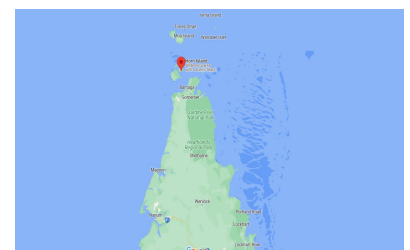
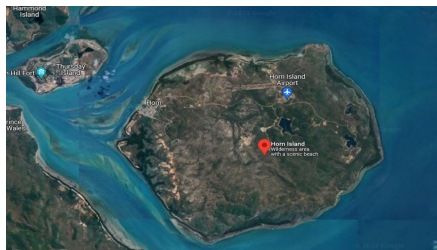
While not a true cycling destination the Torres Strait Islands are exotic, tropical, non-touristy and interesting.

The club jersey was admired by the locals.

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



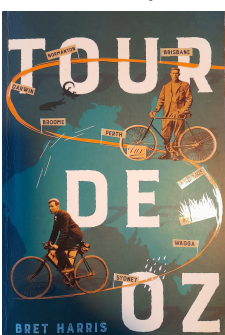
For those of you (like me) who are wondering where Horn Island is. It can be found at the very northern tip of Cape York. Not a lot of bike riding options available.



Bicycle Network [\(Link\)](#)

Have you ever thought about how a bicycle network should be planned? Well! The Dutch have and they know a few things about integrating bicycles into the transport network. This short video concentrates on just one element, **cohesion**. How to plan a network that makes the bicycle a choice of transport. The only downside of this video was it made me realise just how far we in Oz have to go. Thanks to Jean M for the link.

Tour de Oz (Book Review)



'Tour de Oz' was written by Harris and published by Harper Collins in 2017.

The tale of the first cyclists to cycle around our land of Oz, merely some 17,000 kilometres in distance.

'When?' you ask.

1899 to 1900 is when.

'Who?' you ask.

Four blokes, one riding clockwise and alone from Perth and two brothers riding anti-clockwise from Melbourne later joined by another fellow at Brisbane. They race to be first to

circle the continent on bikes.

Virtually no road infrastructure, bushfires, floods, crocodiles and snakes, deserts to cross, illness and aboriginals defending their country against any incursion by whites are just some of the challenges faced. A good yarn, well researched and well written by Harris.

For those of us who think a ride to Altona is a good day's work this factual yarn will make your legs cra in sympathy.

I have a copy which I am happy to lend but I think the YPRL service will have copies too.

Peter Gurney ([Link](#)) to SBS Sport review

You might also like to revisit Gabriel Gate's "Tour de Frankston" for a more localised tour. ([Link](#))

Darebin Loves Bikes

From our neighbours just to the south of Banyule, Darebin. Here is a list of many of the things they are doing to make cycling safer, easier and more accessible to all. ([Link](#))

Advertisement: E- Trike For Sale

I wish to advertise a ped-elec tricycle that my wife can no longer use. Basically, we bought it in 2016 for \$3300, and it hasn't been used since the start of the pandemic. Before that it was ridden no more than once a week just around Jells Park. It is called an eZeebike Carro and can be run as an E-Bike, Pedelec or people powered. It is heavy (33 kgs), but I have three rails that can be used to push it up to a platform or rear of a station wagon (the handlebars fold down and seat can be removed).

There is also a custom-made small trailer that can carry two trikes that someone may find useful. It is currently garaged in Warranwood.

Because at the moment I have limited time and energy, I have put it on consignment at the Bicycle Centre shop in Eltham, where I believe Andrew has placed a price tag of \$1650 on it.



Contact Tom on 0424 014 215

Public service announcement

Dear Victorian BUGs members

An important message from Moreland BUG.

Julia

From: Faith Hunter <postcardsfromthenorth@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, 17 September 2022 1:23 PM

To: Julia Blunden <jblunden@bigpond.com>

Subject: Moreland BUG becomes Merri-bek BUG

Hi Julia,

I was hoping you could forward this to the Victorian BUGs mail list for me?

Moreland Council are formally changing their name to Merri-bek on September 26th. There is more information about the name change here if anyone is interested: <https://www.moreland.vic.gov.au/my-council/news-and-publications/news/merri-bek-name-r-council-approved/>

Moreland BUG will also be changing our name. In the past we have been Brunswick BUG, Coburg BUG, now Moreland BUG, and shortly we will be Merri-bek BUG.

Our Moreland BUG website and email addresses will continue to function for a year from now and will have redirects in place once our new website and email address are operational. I will also send an email with details of the new site and email once they are up.

In the meantime, if anyone is looking for us on social media our handles have changed. If you already follow us you will automatically be seeing our new handles. If you are looking for us you will find us at;

Twitter:@MerribekBUG

Instagram:@merribek.bug

Facebook; /MerribekBUG

Great Souther Railtrail

To clear up some queries.....

Tuesday October 17th there are 2 possible start times available..

1. From korrumburra railway station at 9.30.

Plenty of parking opposite the old freight shed at the station.

2. From Leongatha railway station, now a bus stop.

Park in the area opposite the station bus stop at 1030

If you are late you should be able to catch us up at the 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 .

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

As the opening days seem to vary from week to week we can discuss this on the day.

To return and pick-up your cars at Foster there are 2 options.

1. A bus leaves in front of the supermarket at 3.50 to return to Leongatha and Korumburra.

2. See if you can find a spare seat in a car with other riders.

The third alternative is a taxi , expensive at \$130 , she can carry 4..

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

Most will be staying at the caravan park in Foster called the Prom caravan park ,with a few staying at the motel in town.

It's fine to invite friends to this ride but bear in mind there is no sag wagon and we'll not necessarily be riding together.

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

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

Alltrails map – Korrumburra to Foster ([Link](#))

I imagine that there are many of us can identify with this.

There is not much better than a "New Bike Day!"



Wheely interesting

Meet Rob

Who rides with the Latte Group

An occasional series introducing you to Banyule BUG members



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

My first bike at the age of 12, was a Malvern Star Road bike that I rode to Technical School and also on the weekends.

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

My current bike is a FELT Mountain Bike, that I acquired from my son, as my previous bike died of old age.

- **Favourite ride?**

I do not have a favourite ride, as all rides that I participate with the Banyule BUGS that I have not been on, become my new favourite.

- **Favourite café on a ride?**

Any ride that includes coffee and toasted sandwiches, becomes my favourite.

- **Finish this sentence** Banyule BUG ‘has a great cross-section of interesting people from many walks of life.’

- **What are some of your other interests?**

I do volunteering at the Big Group Hug, where we check and repurpose prams, high chairs and cots for people less fortunate. I am also involved at the Diamond Creek Men’s Shed. I also like to take my pushbike and ride the many Rail Trails in Victoria.

+++++

Darebin Loves Bikes ([Link](#))

This link will take you to the Darebin Council E-News site that contains all manner of interesting bike related material – from new trails to community bike activities. Well worth a visit and, perhaps, signing up for the regular e-newsletter.

An Important Message From Pete The Prez

As you may be aware, our most experienced rider Kelvin Chalmier turns **95** in early November. To help celebrate, Banyule Council is **generously** hosting a morning tea with nice nibbles and a birthday cake at the Ivanhoe Hub, **10.30 am on Friday 4th November**.

? Everyone in Banyule BUG is invited - check the invitation! ?

The Latte Group ride on that day will be short and sweet and will arrive at Ivanhoe in time for the nosh-up. Join the ride; enjoy the treats; sing Happy Birthday to Kelvin. Let's share this memorable anniversary.

There'll be space for about forty members— if you'd like to come along, please RSVP Peter G in person, by text (0417 116 236) or email (petenillumbik@gmail.com) before Wed 2nd November? **First in, best dressed**. Important - please wear the club jersey.

There has been publicity of Kelvin's life and the B-BUG in the Banyule 'Age in Focus' magazine, October edition. There will be a further article in the next *Banyule Banner* magazine, and I am currently working on an article for The Senior newspaper.

? Let's party - the more the merrier! ?

Cheers,
Pete the Prez

Thank you to all the contributors to this newsletter. Without such support, it would not happen.

Please think about your contribution for the next issue – rides, jokes, interesting locations, community events etc. All are welcome.

A special mention to our club member, Kelvin, on his upcoming 95th birthday. I'm sure it will be well celebrated.

Contributions to:
allang@bigpond.net.au

Trains and Boats and Bikes? The 2022 edition

NB: the 2019 ride report, of the same name, can be found in the Feb 2020 BUG newsletter

In November 2019 John Pe led a ride to Portarlington. From Docklands, a ferry across the water to Portarlington, a zig and a zag onto the Bellarine Rail Trail, Geelong, lunch and a train from Lara home. Five starters experienced an absolutely memorable ride. Given the events of the last two years we've not had the opportunity to this ride again. Until **NOW**.

Dateline 20th May 2022

Where Harbour Esplanade, Docklands. Ferry Terminal, adjacent to the *Cow In The Tree*.

On What the *Bellarine Express*.

Who 13 B-BUGs. And their bikes.

Ride requirements Get to the boat on time. Remember your bike. Bring your legs!



With bikes securely stored at 9:30am we begin the adventure ride. From the water you gain a fantastic perspective of the city we call home.



The ferry cruises out from Docklands at a leisurely pace, past the docks (surprise!) and under Westgate Bridge.

Once out on the open water the skipper puts the pedal to the metal and we race along. Check on the GPS to see an average speed of 50 km/h — way to go!

The on-board cafe serves the essentials — coffee and hot cheese & ham croissants. Flat, oily and delicious after a 7.00 am start on the bike.



The sea was calm, the seats comfortable, the cabin warm. Step outside and it's roaring engines, spray and a freezing 50 km/h gale. Most of us sat inside. Too much adventure can be a bad thing.

The water was clear as we slid into Portarlington wharf. Looked almost tropical. And a surprise greeting from a fur seal napping on the basalt rocks. A large one, exactly the same colour as the basalt. Stunning camouflage.

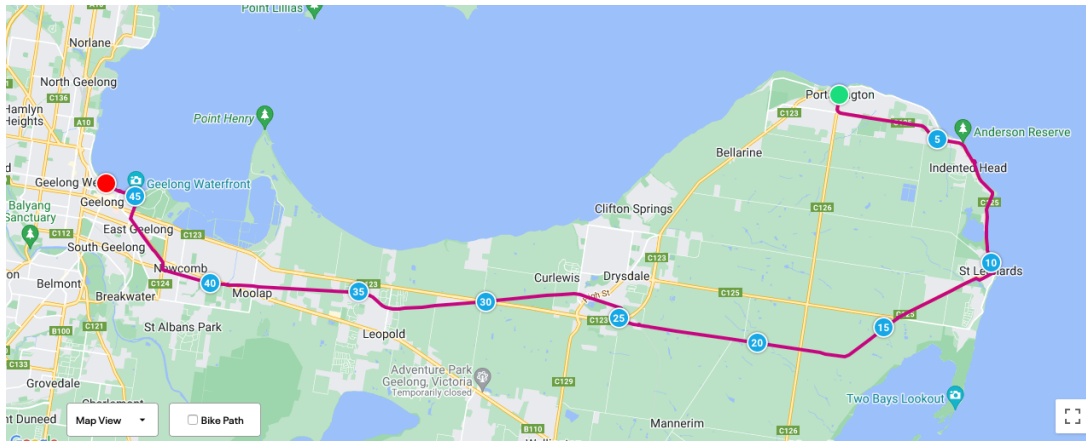


Herewith your 2022 Portarlington Riders: Geoff, Rodney, Cap'n Bob, Terry, Jacques, Jean, Matt, Coogee, Robyn, Laurie, Jack, Don and our Ride Leader, John Pe. Glenda W had booked to come along but had to pull out at the last minute, due to a developing cold. We missed you , Glenda — next time!



Eclectic is a word that springs to mind when looking at this picture. Bikes, clothing, apprehension and a Ride Leader with crossed arms and a frown. Thought of calling him "Dear Leader" but he prefers the full dynastic title, "*Kim John Pe*", so KJPe it is. Who are we to argue?

After being given the green start flag by our enthusiastic starter seal we head off.



Our route is from Portarlington around the coast to St Leonards, Bluff Road and gravel back roads until we meet the Bellarine Rail Trail just before Drysdale. From there we travelled on the Rail Trail into the Geelong suburbs then quiet roads to the waterfront. A total of 46 km for the peloton but more for the Challambra Hot Shots. (Who?...later)

In the 1830s and 1840s shipping was becoming an important transport option in Port Phillip Bay. Bay steamers were short trip cargo and passenger boats designed for operation in the calm bay waters. By the 1880s the bay steamer trade was flourishing.

Over time road and rail eclipsed sea travel; by 1950 bay steamer services ceased. Private car ownership from the 1940s onwards was a major reason for the decline but, between the 1880s and 1940s, several million passengers and countless vital cargo movements by bay steamers had a huge impact on Victoria's growth and prosperity.



Before St Leonards we stop to see the wreck of the bay steamer, *Ozone*. Built in Scotland, *Ozone's* first bay excursion was Dec 1886, Melbourne to Queenscliff. She hit the pier!

Good start. Then in 1889 *Ozone* collided with the vessel *Elfin* in Hobsons Bay, near Williamstown. Oops.

Oh no! In 1894 poor old *Ozone* had, yep, another collision: the vessel *May*, in Port Phillip Bay.

Ozone was "retired" from service in 1918 and scuttled in 1925 off Indented Head to form a breakwater. Wonders if the "Colliding Captain" was also withdrawn from service !!!

The Bellarine Rail Trail is a great part of our cycling infrastructure. It has a smooth bitumen surface from where we joined near Drysdale, all the way into Geelong — great riding! It also provides some fantastic photo opportunities. In the photo below at left is the You



Yangs from the trail. At right, the You Yangs from the *Geelong Flyer* ferry on the way back to Melbourne.

Anyone who has ridden the Bellarine Trail will have seen "The Bodies". Or, rather, the half-bodies. A fence decorated with clothes stuffed with soil and plants. Delightfully weird! Jack decided to add his tartan pants (and himself) to the collection and only retreated when the owner started fertilising the collection with well-rotted chicken poo.



On the Trail we made good headway to our lunch stop at Sailors' Rest, a lovely restaurant on the Geelong Waterfront and across the road from the Ferry Terminal. The peloton pedalled along happily enough but the **Challambra Hot Shots** were getting restive. They wanted action **and** lunch!

Like Pauline you demand, "Please explain". So, let's try. Challambra Crescent is a key feature of the Cadel Evans Great Ocean Road Race. Close to 1.5km in length the average gradient is 6.9% and with the final pinch hitting 22% it is a tough climb that attracts cyclists for, well, the challenge. And pain. To mangle the words of Julie Andrews, the hills would not be alive to the sound of music but to the squeals of pain.

The climb up Challambra was calling Coogee, Jacques, Laurie and Matt like the siren on the ill-fated *Ozone*. With KJPe's blessing the Challambra Four put the hammer down, sprinting ahead of the bunch to negotiate a route to the south side of the Barwon River.

The rest of the group (*sensible* group) continued onto the Geelong Waterfront and a well-deserved lunch break. Will the Challambra Four even have lunch with this detour or is it a packet of crisps on the Ferry? Will they even get to the Ferry on time?

Lets stick with the action.....Apprehension grows as we approach the base of Challambra and then the climb begins. For the next 1,500 m there's nowhere to hide. It just goes up and up and we know the final 50+ metres hits 22%.



Pedal Pedal! Spin Spin! Keep breathing*! Yes, we do it and after cresting Challambra a photo is essential. What a view!

(*Editor's note...Generally recommended to keep breathing when cycling.)

A great downhill follows, speed across a one-lane bridge and the left turn into Melville Ave "smacks you in the face". This wall of pain hits a 22% slope. It's short and it hurts.

With time ticking the four sprint to Sailors' Rest for a rest and lunch!!!! The Hot Shots get to the restaurant around 15 minutes after the *sensibile* group and 50 minutes before the ferry leaves. We watch enviously as the the others gorge on their lunches. We order and enjoy a lovely, quickly eaten, but well deserved lunch.



The group head to the Ferry Terminal check in and store the bikes at the rear of the Geelong Flyer. It is a fantastic set up for cyclists.



Leaving Geelong behind we begin our trip home. Whereas the trip from Docklands to Portarlington was full of nervous energy, the Geelong to Docklands trip was happily subdued. Reflections on the ride were paramount in our minds. It had most things — beautiful coastal vistas, less travelled back roads, the wonderful Bellarine Rail Trail, steep hills for some and a bloody great lunch stop for all.

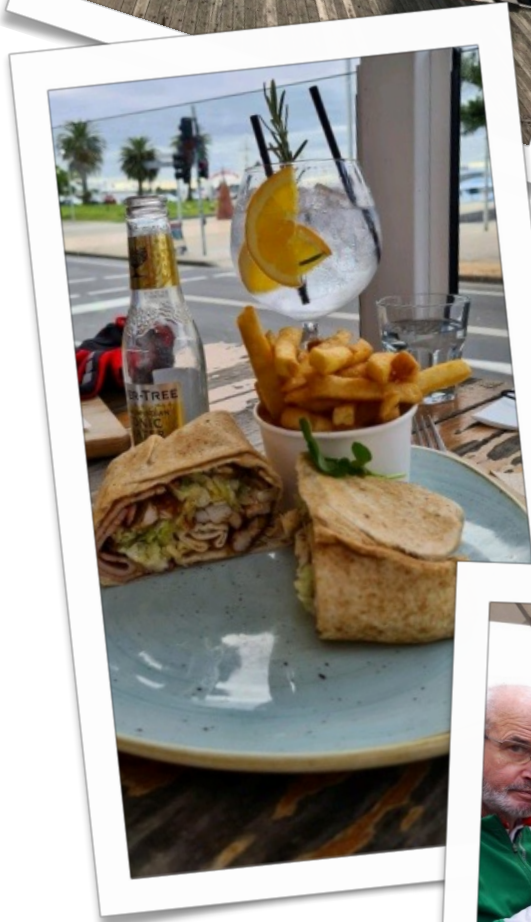
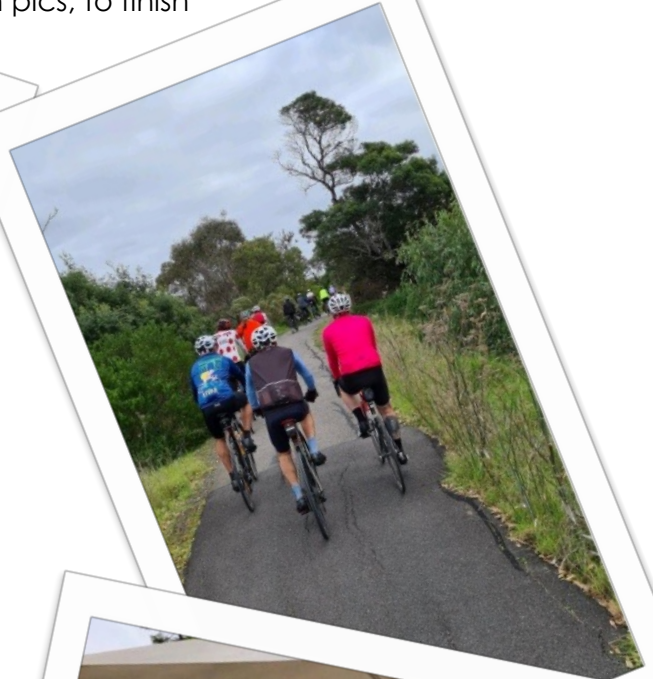
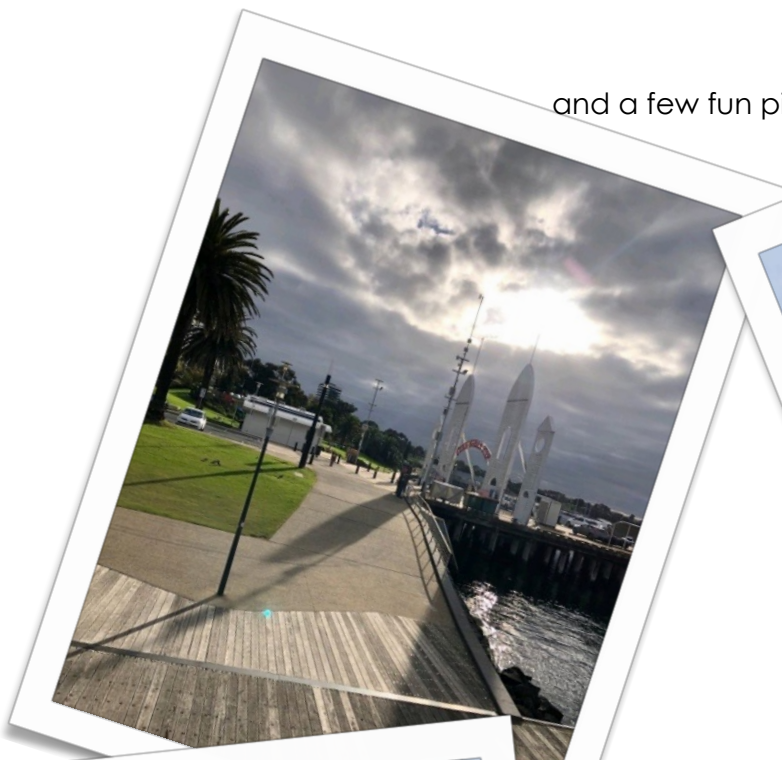
The ride had almost everything that you want from an Adventure Ride. Add your ideas:

- An adventure to get to the ride.
- An adventurous route that's interesting.
- A group of riders that are enthusiastic and want an adventure.
- An adventure to gamble on the weather.
- A nervous adventure — will we all get to a restaurant in time?
- THE NEED FOR FEED!

A ride like this doesn't just happen. It takes a lot of planning, time, communication and determination. And our Ride Leader; John Perkins planned this to the nth degree.

On behalf of the Portarlington Crew, thanks John.

and a few fun pics, to finish



Ride Report by **Randall D**, with interference from KJPe