



# Banyule BUG Newsletter

February  
2025

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

Welcome to 2025 and if you follow such things – the year of the snake.

Apologies for the lateness of this newsletter. I have had a few computer issues, but all ok now.

The first thing that appeared in my newsfeed in 2025 was that the Gipp St Steps replacement ramp is nearing completion. I first heard about the step replacement some 20 years ago. So it is pleasing that it will be completed in my lifetime.



## ***Peter Gurney (President)***

*I encourage BBUG members to seriously consider becoming a member of BN. The benefits are clear. BBUG third party insurance only covers us on club rides. BN membership/insurance covers us on every ride.*

*Cheers,  
Peter*

Good afternoon,

You are receiving this email\* because you have either expressed in - or are currently part of - Bicycle Network's Affiliate membership program, which we launched early last year.

In case you have forgotten:

## **Why Affiliate Membership?**

- ✔ **Comprehensive bike riding insurance** – so if the unthinkable happens, you're protected.
  - ✔ **Third party protection** - if a member brings down the bunch, or damages property.
  - ✔ **Free legal advice** - in the event that a member is not getting satisfaction from another party.
  - ✔ **Exclusive member discounts** – save on events like Peaks Challenge, Around The Bay, and the Great Vic Bike Ride.
  - ✔ **Partner perks** – enjoy special offers from Knog, 99 Bikes, Winners, and more.
  - ✔ **Support safer cycling** – your membership fuels advocacy efforts and programs like Ride2School.
  - ✔ **Access to *Ride On* magazine** – our quarterly members-only digital publication.
- PLUS, cycling clubs and groups receive a 25% rebate** when a member joins under this program.

We have recently begun our 2025 member drive and would love to promote the Affiliate Membership program with your club/group. If your club is currently affiliated, we would love to support a campaign with your members - either by email or an ad on your club's social media page.

If you are **not** affiliated with Bicycle Network, please email or call me and we will set things in motion.

We believe that all bike riders should be covered and would like your help to achieve this.

Best regards

\* If you do not wish to receive emails from us in the future, please let me know and we will update our records.

Gordon Oakley

Membership Consultant

Bicycle Network

Mob: 0411 882 822

*I work Mondays and Thursdays*

### **This survey may be of interest to embers.**

It feels like we have had decades of promises about “smart” riding clothes and now the researchers at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) are putting some of them to the test.

The Centre for Accident Research and Road Safety is asking riders to fill out a survey to help it assess the performance of kit that purports to prevent road rash, bruising and cuts.

Using a National Road Safety Action Grant, the researchers are testing whether the garment claims are true, and importantly, whether riders say they are comfortable to wear.

The first part of the project is an online survey asking riders what they wear, how clothing relates to the type of riding, and what their injuries have been in previous falls/crashes.

The next step will involve up to 10 focus groups of 8-10 riders to provide feedback on different clothing in the market.

Researchers will then put the garments to the test in the same way motorcycle clothing is assessed, looking at abrasion resistance, seam strength, impact absorption and “moisture vapour resistance”.

Volunteer riders will then be measured for thermal comfort and heat strain while wearing different garments at the QUT’s Exercise and Environmental Ergonomics Laboratory.

The researchers are hoping their results will help riders to choose protective clothing that’s effective as well as suited to particular types of riding and climates.

Riders who complete the survey can enter a prize draw for a \$250 electronic gift voucher and riders who participate in the focus groups (online or in-person in Brisbane) will also receive a \$50 electronic gift voucher.

If you are aged over 18, live in Australia and ride a bicycle you can fill out the 15-minute survey before 28 February: [https://qsurvey.qut.edu.au/jfe/form/SV\\_2IYeWdG3jfW6JRc](https://qsurvey.qut.edu.au/jfe/form/SV_2IYeWdG3jfW6JRc)

People who fill out the survey will receive the results once the full project is completed to help them make future clothing choices.

While thinking about “smart riding gear”, this wonderful image appeared in my “in box”. From somewhere in the US, I think.



## **Distressing news from Adelaide**

This is the stuff of nightmares. Cycling can be a hazardous sport at the best of times, but this takes it to a whole next level.

Bike path wire investigation leads to arrest of 18yo man, after cyclists injured along Adelaide track.

ABC News [Link](#)

This is a very interesting article about a Tasmanian Rail Trail from Scottsdale to Tulendeena. Follow this link for the original article. [LINK](#)



**The Uncool Cycling Club** [Read on blog or Reader](#)

## **North East Tasmanian Rail Trail**



By **Helen D** on Friday, 27 December 2024

The North East Tasmanian Rail Trail is a very scenic 26 kilometre rail trail from Scottsdale through a beautiful rainforest to Tulendeena. With the eastern end only 16 kilometres from the internationally famous [Blue Derby mountain bike tracks](#), it's a must-do if you visit Tasmania.

In November 2024, Rhonda and I loaded our eBikes onto the back of my car, crossed Bass Strait aboard the [Spirit of Tasmania](#) and began a two-week cycling holiday in Tasmania.

Our day on the North East Tasmanian Rail Trail was definitely one of the highlights of our tour.

We were staying at Bridport and drove to Scottsdale to begin our ride. Our plan was to ride from Scottsdale at the western end of the trail up to the eastern end of the rail trail at Tulendeena and then (mostly) roll back to Scottsdale for a coffee.

### **Calling all cyclists**

If you ride the Diamond Creek Trail through Eltham you will have experienced the challenges of having to ride on the shared trail section along the footpath adjacent to Main Road, between Diamond Street (where the main railway crossing is) and the smaller rail crossing further to the north. This trail section includes the risks experienced with the poor line of sight, at a blind bend near the substation installation.

There is a possible option to provide a much safer direct route, without the need to negotiate railway crossings.

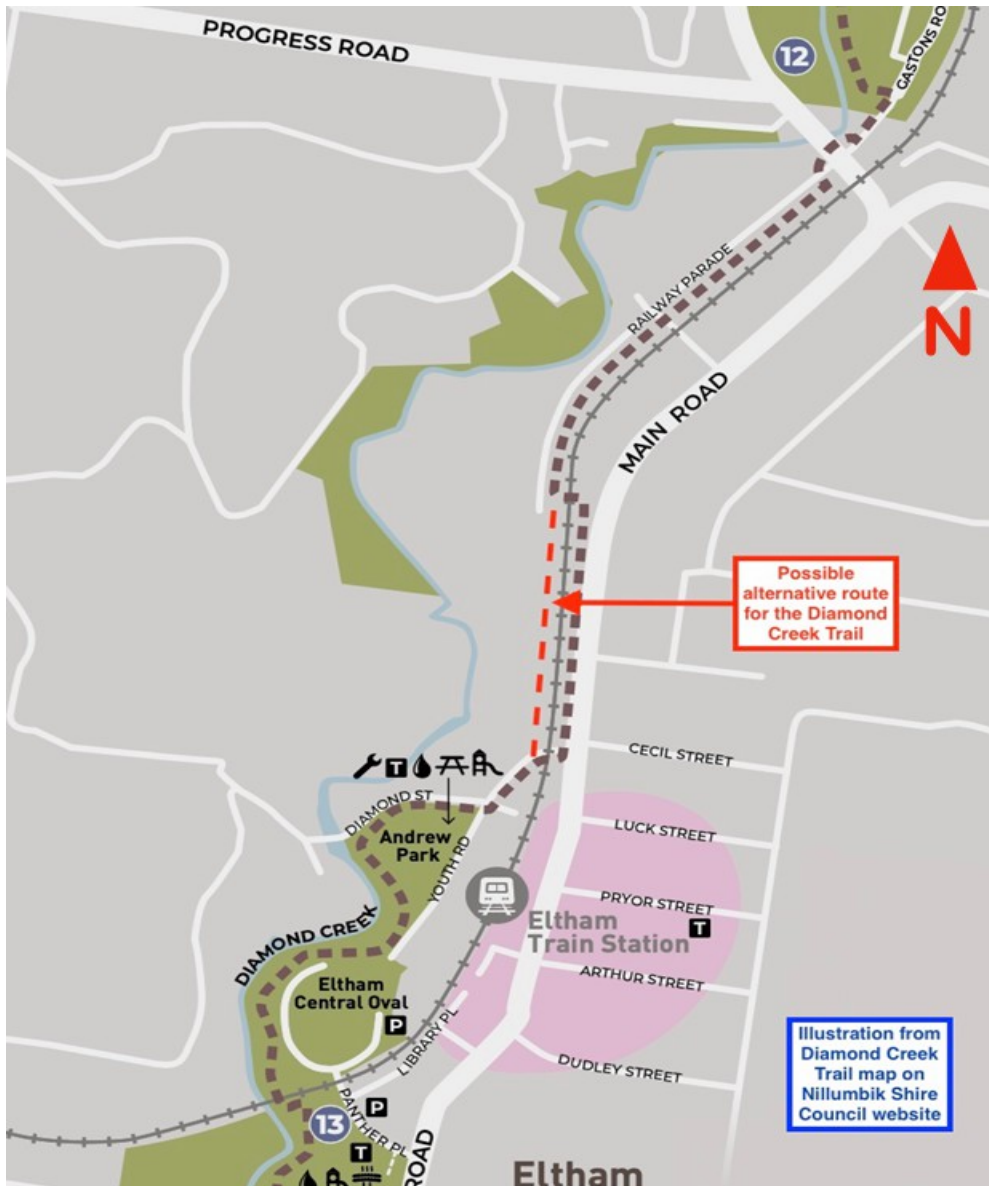
Your support is therefore requested to encourage Nillumbik Shire Council to negotiate with St Vincents Care Services to obtain access to a strip of land to provide a clear, shared trail west of the railway line. This is part of the cleared land subject to inundation where buildings have recently been demolished.

### **How can you help?**

Either as an individual or as a member of a bike group you can email Nillumbik Shire Council at [nillumbik@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:nillumbik@nillumbik.vic.gov.au) requesting urgent action be taken to obtain access to land, held by St Vincents Care Services, to enable construction of an alternative route for the Diamond Creek Trail along the western side of the railway line, to link between Diamond Street and Railway Parade in Eltham. See the attached map.

Your voice is important and will help highlight concerns about the safety and risks involved with the current section of the highly used and popular Diamond Creek Trail. Please don't hesitate as timing is critical

Jim Connor – [1jimco@gmail.com](mailto:1jimco@gmail.com)



## **Banyule BUG Ride Protocols**

As we move into our new year, it is worth reminding members of the need to follow our clubs ride protocols.

The protocols have been developed over a number of years, based on experience, and are designed to support both Banyule BUG riders and other riders we meet along the way.

You can familiarise the protocols for both “Latte” and “Lycra” groups here.

[Protocols Link](#)

## **World Naked Bike Ride**

If you are looking for something a bit different to cycling along the MYT, you might like to consider the World Naked Bike Ride day to be held on Sunday March 2.

Details of the event and registration can be found here. [LINK](#)

## **Transport (Bike) Survey**

Hello BUG's and Friends,

It is data and counts time and we are looking for volunteers to help. See details below. We're looking for volunteers to help in one of the largest transport surveys in the country for commuter cyclists! And we really need your help with the counting two weeks away!

**All you need:** To count bikes and pedestrians at your chosen survey site for 2-hours.

**When:** 7am-9am Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March.

**In return:** Receive a \$70 donation for a charity, local club, Cycling BUG, fund raiser, or 6-months free on your Bicycle Network membership.

The data gathered from Super Tuesday counts give local councils valuable insights into active transport, providing detailed, long-term information in commuter movements. Valuable insights which monitor the impacts of active transport policy and prioritise planning and infrastructure projects in need of improvement for you as a fellow commuter.

Register and find a site on our interactive here: [Bicycle Network](#)

You can find out more about the Super Tuesday event [here](#).

Once registered, we will email the volunteer with a count sheet, instructions, and reminders, so you don't need to worry about organizing anything yourselves.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at the [bikefutures@bicyclenetwork.com.au](mailto:bikefutures@bicyclenetwork.com.au) email.

Happy counting!

Warm regards,

Ali  
**Alison McCormack** (she/her)  
CEO

That gets our year underway. May you have many satisfying and safe rides. Stay hydrated and modify rides where /when needed.

Take lots of pictures and record your ride comments for inclusion in our next Newsletter.

[allang@bigpond.net.au](mailto:allang@bigpond.net.au)