

Banyule Bug Newsletter June 2014



Reg No A0036671P

The impossible Dream???

Barge trip down the Rhine impossible dream??? Not any more
At the general meeting held in June we were fortunate have club member Debra Haughten as our guest speaker. For a lot of us Debra dispelled many of the myths associated the much discussed but not really happening dream of the “**BargeTrip**” in France leaving us feeling that this dream was not so impossible after all.

From Metz To Amsterdam

In 2012 , I took a barge tour along the Moselle river. The cruise started in Metz in France, then travelled through Luxembourg and on to Cochem in Germany. The barge took a delightful detour from the Moselle river to the Saar river and for one night we enjoyed the ambience of the town of Saarburg with its old watermills , vineyards, bell manufacturer and castle. This is where I joined the tour and I thought it was the prettiest town I'd ever seen.

Our barge was “The Sailing Home” and true to its name it felt like home. The skipper and her staff of 4 (a chef, a housekeeper, a deck hand and a guide) were friendly, fun, relaxed and extremely good at their jobs. The barge accommodated 24 guests. Double cabins were downstairs below deck(each with own en-suite) and on deck level there was the wheelhouse and open plan dining , bar and lounge. The laundry was below deck and kitchen on the deck level. The rooms were comfortable and heated (it was late autumn). There were 3 portholes in our room so we could relax on the beds and watch the world go by. In the lounge there was a limited library and internet access.

For the summer months the barge travels back and forth between Metz and Cochem . The time we sailed was the” Sailing Home’s” last trip for the year and after Cochem she was returning to

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Amsterdam for the winter. Jossie (our skipper) offered to take some of us along, so for 80 Euro a day we got full board, transport and bonus cycling along the Rhine all the way to Amsterdam. On arrival in Amsterdam we were still able to stay on the “Sailing Home “as she accommodates guests while in harbour as a kind of floating hotel over winter months. We had no packing or unpacking for 2 weeks and had travelled about 500km!

Of course, the main attraction of the Moselle region is wine. We cycled amongst beautiful autumnal vineyards and shared punt trips across the river with tractors laden with freshly harvested grapes. We sampled wines and enjoyed an evening learning a bit about wine making in Germany (and sampling Herr Beinart’s “ Back Cat “ wines). Birthdays and special occasions (there were quite a few) were celebrated with a local wine generously provided by Jossie.

We had a history lesson in Trier (famous for its Porta Nigra and other Roman ruins and also an interesting 20th century history). A cycling trip to an ancient castle (Burg Eltz) reminded us that some people still live like kings. There were beautiful sights all along the Moselle- small villages and towns with narrow, cobblestoned streets, lovely parks where we enjoyed our pre- packed lunches and cheerful coffee shops for a warming coffee and cake and schnapps!

Our days usually went like this:

Breakfast on board. We then packed our lunches(sandwiches , cakes , fruit, health bars etc) .

Off cycling as a group with our guide Leah taking us along the river or high up through vineyards and into cheery cafes and quaint villages. Lunch in a park or in town. We often split up as a group and met again after an hour or so.

More riding through beautiful scenery and we meet the Sailing Home in a new town for the



night. Shower , relax, chat, have afternoon tea or a drink from the bar (drink now, pay later!), walk through town or take part in a special excursion organised for us eg guided tour of Trier.

3 course dinner on board (always delicious and adequate calories for hungry cyclists).

Off to discover the town’s night life or catch up with family and friends via the internet , read a book etc.

The barge didn’t travel after dark so we could be very late home(!).

I think everyone who did this tour enjoyed it immensely. For the novice cyclists it was an easy introduction to the joys of cycling and those who felt worn out from cycling could stay on board for a day and enjoy a barge trip down the river. For regular cyclists the riding was fairly easy but never boring. Ages of participants ranged from 20’s to late 70’s .Cycling experience also was wide ranging.

We booked our trip directly through Eurosail (Jossie’s company) at info@eurosailtravel.com - www.eurosailtravel.com .You could also book or look for other trips (Italy, Belgium France, Croatia etc) through outdoor travel at www.outdoortravel.com.au.

Happy cycling!

WOT CHEESES ME OFF

People wearing headphones on walking paths
Passengers on trains with their bags on the seat
beside them

Bikes on crowded trains oops !



Cruises are currently very popular and for good reason. One can travel many miles, see wonderful river country or coastlines and there is the advantage of no luggage to lug. Also one can get to know and socialise with a group of people , eat gourmet meals and relax on board.A bike and barge tour adds the advantages of daily exercise and seeing the countryside at the best rate- somewhere between 15-25km per hour- with the ability to stop , look and enjoy the countryside anywhere along the way.

When The Rain Tumbled Down in Rutherglen Once upon a weekend on 2nd 3rd and 4th of May

With the weather not looking “too good” some intrepid Banyule BUGers arrived in Rutherglen and Corowa on Friday May 2nd. A few tents, a couple of cabins and a motel in Rutherglen seemed to cope with the influx..

Some members of the group were excited to learn that there was a possibility of a fire. We just had to rent the fire barrel. Overwhelmed by such excitement the owner, a very cheerful Sandra, let us have a barrel for free. However it was not much use on Friday as the rain bucketed down.

As previously suggested we all went to the PUB for a meal. Most of us were able to walk, with the aid of large jackets and umbrellas, to the Old Empire Hotel Wahgunyah. The place was warm and friendly and the food was YUM!

Previously some of us had ridden to Rutherglen to catch up with Donna, who had ridden back along the rail trail with us. It was a pleasant ride and we saw lots of “old people” with packs and proper rain coats riding towards Corowa. We felt a little under done!!! Terry drove to Wahgunyah for dinner and took Donna back to her warm motel while the rest of us slopped and splashed back to our tents and cabins!



Saturday morning dawned threatening and dreary but a plan is a plan so we all drove our bikes to Rutherglen for the start of our ride to Chiltern and Barnawartha. There we were met by Allan who had come up from Melbourne that morning to ride with us. Raincoats, longs and warm jackets were the order of the day.

Our vision of a cheerful ride on pleasant country roads was soon shattered. We turned onto the Gooramadda road, which was remembered by many as a quiet country road alongside the river, only to discover that since the opening of Federation Bridge into Corowa, this road had become a major thoroughfare . No rain as yet and no wind, except for the traffic a bike riders heaven!

After a few miles of suffering the traffic we turned off onto the Chiltern road, Although this meant missing out on seeing the great metropolis of Barnawartha everyone breathed a sigh of relief. We could now actually ride alongside each other and chat as we peddled. Things were becoming more and more pleasant, a little chilly but looking good.

However a bike rider should never count their chickens, just as we had settled into a nice

rhythm Allan noticed a left turn onto Fishers road and then to Barnawartha. The gravel road did not look inviting but, expressing a great desire to visit the place, a number of the group turned left. The road was muddy gravelly and took some concentration and a bit of walking for some, to navigate. After about six km we were all glad to see black tar again. It was a quiet road by the way! The rest peddled on towards Chiltern. Up a few hills apparently!!!





Barnawartha was hosting the “grudge” footy and netball match of the season between the Barnawartha Swans and the Chiltern Tigers. It was humming!! People everywhere and lots of running and cheering. After cleaning the mud out of our cleats and off our shoes we continued on to Chiltern, up up up a long incline

which required some determination. Upon reaching the top we were able to roll down into Chiltern with the wind and rain in our faces.



In Chiltern we caught up with the rest of the party at the Chiltern Bakery and we all shared “hardship” stories over coffee and pies. Delicious! After a wander around the town and a look at the historic buildings we set off again to Rutherglen. A great ride ensued. The sun made a few weak attempts to come out and we all arrived safely (apart from one damaged derailer) in Rutherglen about 3.00pm. All up 63km.

The rest of Saturday involved some winery visiting, showering and organising the BBQ. The fire barrel came into its own and we ate a hearty meal and then socialised around the fire until later that night. Thanks to all the helpers and wood suppliers and wine suppliers, not to forget carrot cake!



On Sunday we all went our separate ways, some went winery visiting (apparently you can’t get enough of this), others went exploring and some went home, A small group walked to All Saints Winery for Dinner and back to the caravan park a total distance of just over 10 km in a very chilly wind in spite of the lovely sunshine.

The Ball Park caravan park was a great spot to stay, the Wahgunyah Pub a great place to eat, Chiltern a great

place to visit and there are lots of ride we didn't do! A good weekend was had by all!

The next scheduled weekend ride is November 14th 15th and 16th. There is an idea floating for a trip to Dunolly near Marybrough so put it in your calendar! If anyone has other suggestions share them around.

Thanks to Ann Ritchie

Help Needed for Latte Group theme Song

Chorus;

Ive had some good times
On very bad red wine
And its since become clear
to me

Forget about thinkin about
what your drinkin
Its all about the company

Verse?????

Bicycle Penalty Rates

<u>Offence</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Ride through an amber or red traffic light or bicycle light	\$361
Does not obey give way sign	\$289
Does not obey give way sign	\$289
Does not wear a securely fitted Australian approved bicycle helmet, including bicycle passengers	\$180
Does not have lights	\$180
Does not have at least one working brake and a bell, horn or similar warning device in working order	\$180
Pass a stopped tram at a tram stop	\$361
Overtake to the left of a vehicle that is turning left and indicating	\$144
Fail to give way to a pedestrian on a shared path or footpath	\$144
Ride more than two abreast	\$144
Carrying a passenger on a bicycle illegally	\$144
Misuse a bicycle path, separated footpath or shared path or footpath or fail to use a bicycle lane	\$144
Ride bicycle on a dividing strip, footpath, nature strip or traffic island when not permitted	\$144
Fail to give a right turn signal	\$144



Future Vision of Nillumbik

The proposed expansion of the trail network will ensure a strong link is maintained with the surrounding landscape. The trails will be created sustainably to fit with the natural environment with the intent of ensuring an exceptional recreation experience.



The draft trails strategy recommends an investment of \$12 million in recreation trails over the next 10 years. Indicative costs have been identified for each of the recommendations within the strategy, with \$2.5 million in planning and design, \$8 million in capital expenditure and \$1.2 million in maintenance.

It is recognised that a significant level of funding from federal and state government sources will be required to deliver the strategy objectives. The recommendations for capital investment and planning in the regional trail network include:

- Diamond Creek Trail – extend this trail from Diamond Creek to Hurstbridge, estimated at \$4 million.
- Aqueduct Trail – determine development options for this trail following the establishment of land owner status, from Eltham to Christmas Hill, estimated at \$5 million.
- Green Wedge Trail – formalise this trail which extends from Wattle Glen to Kinglake, estimated at \$1 million.
- Kinglake Way - establish a trail from Hurstbridge to Arthurs Creek, estimated at \$0.5 million. Looks like a rate rise???

The Ultimate Bike Tool

The Ultimate Bike Tool, as it's called, includes dual 3D-printed tire levers secured around a metal body. The cut-outs in the body not only allow the tire levers to snap together, but offer 12 different wrenches. One tire lever has a holster of six driver bits, and the other holds the adapter for mounting them. The adapter can mount to the two slots on the tip of the metal body to create a long, thin driver that can maneuver into tight spaces. It can also mount at a 90-degree angle for increased torque. The body also includes two open wrenches and four spoke wrenches. The obligatory bottle opener finishes off the toolset.

DePeyer built a steel prototype last month and has been tweaking the design since then. The latest prototype uses a lighter aluminum body in place of steel. DePeyer has also smoothed out a few earlier mistakes and changed the open-top bit clips to sturdier, more secure bit slots. Local Motors is close to having a retail-ready tool, which it plans to sell in its store. It is inviting people to offer feedback on the project's Web page (linked in our source). There's no word on pricing yet.



We've included Local Motors original prototype video below because it provides a detailed look at the different tools in the Ultimate Bike Tool. You can see how this rough version has improved in the [video update](#) published last week.

Source: [Local Motors](#) Thanks Les and Gixmag