



Banyule

Newsletter

October 2013



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Vested Interests In The Bug

The Banyule Bug council ride on Sunday 13th Oct was well attended by a mixture of enthusiastic children and adults. The threat of rain failed to dampen this enthusiasm as they followed John for a short ride along the trail. The usual repairs were carried out consisting of adjustments to Brakes and gears with a bit of tyre pumping and advise on the side..

- Vested Interest
- How bike friendly are we?
- Malahang Access
- Important Dates
- September General meeting
- President Fails Anger Management Course
- What Clive can do
- Rider Log
- Bike Warning in Brunswick



It was also an occasion to introduce our new vests. Modeled by Leigh, John and Les above and Lorraine below they are in addition to our Lycra tops and will be issued to all

existing members. They will also be given as part of a welcome package to all new members. As well covering the issue of safety, they also give uniformity to the group when we attend council functions such as the one above .



Christmas Picnic Dec 3rd
Christmas Party December
10th 6.30 at Club 106
crn. Mountain View and
Sherbourne Rd
Briar Hill

Denmark Bike Heaven

On a recent trip to Denmark Donna Flynn observed



I took a trip to Denmark in July this year and always hearing about the bike infrastructure in Copenhagen, I thought I'd share some pictures. The bike lanes in Copenhagen are of excellent material so you can glide along them, different from walking on the sidewalk with cobblestones and cement tracks for baby buggies, carts, etc. I was fortunate to be able to borrow a bike and ride a few kilometres in the city with my daughter. Yes riders obey the laws, but there are some who go through red lights, don't wait behind stopped buses etc.

In Denmark a pedestrian knows not to walk on the street because of the consequences relating to cars. Pedestrians can

cross bike lanes, but are not allowed to walk along them. If there is an accident, the pedestrian is at fault. Most people have old style bikes which can be left in front of their apartments// shops without fear of being

stolen. New bikes are mostly stored out of sight in a special place at work. If you are not into bike helmets, then Denmark is the place for you. I hardly saw anyone wearing them and most people were in street clothes no lycra. In the country the bike/walking paths go from town to town and are well maintained. In some towns they are lit at night with lights turned on by sensors.



And yes bikes can go on the train and are provided for with special carriages. There

is usually one or two on each train.

Most of Denmark is flat but there are some hills. Driving through some towns we saw riders using their electric bikes to get up these hills and also to carry their groceries etc. home.

Worlds Most Livable City?

The former mayor of Bogota, Gil Penalosa, who is here on a visit, says that Melbourne is a dangerous place to cycle and needs to improve the cycle infrastructure with separation from the car traffic. He is for the lowering of speed limits to 30k/hr. (The Age 14/10/13). He also talks about the 8-80 concept in urban planning- making the community safe for 8 yr. olds and 80 yr. olds to move around on foot and by bike. The changes required to pass the 8-80 test would create a successful city for everyone. He slams the East West road tunnel as a 20th century idea. He also said the outer suburbs were as poor in travelling and commuting as many bad cities. In great cities walking and cycling should be a right and it should be possible not to own a car no matter where you live. The most livable city should be Copenhagen where they are building bike highways from the suburbs. Melbourne should make significant reforms and extend its bicycle network. In some ways this runs counter to the late Frank Fisher's thoughts on cycling in the city where he wanted bicycle use to be seen as a legitimate social construction and not requiring separate facilities.

Thanks John Merory

The Colombian capital, Bogota, is widely praised as the best Latin American city for cycling.

For the past 37 years the city's authorities have held car-free Sundays, when only pedestrians, skaters and cyclists are allowed in many of the capital's streets. One in seven of Bogota's inhabitants uses the Ciclovía, or the bikeway.

When Will We Get It Right?

Victoria in comparison to Denmark and Bogotá has a long way to go in recognizing the bike as a legitimate form of sustainable transport and to be encouraged. As well it also fails to recognize that riders are a major contributor towards tourism in Victoria.

A report from Bicycle Network states;

“Swanston St carries the highest number of riders in Melbourne, making it the city's cycling spine, with a growth rate of 700% over the last 15 years. Carrying over 1,400 bikes in the 7-9am peak (that is an average of a bike every 5 seconds) and one tram per minute, there is a pressing need for adequate space for freely-flowing traffic.”



They also found that the last ride to work day that 10,500 commuters now ride to work and number up on the last count. Yet the City despite its attempts to make Swanston St bike friendly it is a nightmare and a health hazard to ride around. Also Latrobe's Professor Sue Beeton's [latest study](#) has found that Rail Trail riders spend on average \$258 per day when they visit the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail. This is made

up of \$147 for food and drinks, \$47 for transport, \$37 on miscellaneous expenses and \$27 for accommodation. Riders clearly like to sleep cheap and eat well.

Dr Beeton also found that expenditure on the East Gippsland Rail Trail is \$69 per person per day and concluded that \$51 per person per day was an appropriate factor to calculate economic benefit

She also concluded that 100 visitors on a trail would generate 22 new jobs.

These figures are not to be sneezed at, so much so that the State Government has seen fit to pend

- \$1.5m for a bridge over the Maroondah Highway on the Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail;
- \$1.3m for a bridge and resurfacing of the High Country Rail Trail,
- \$850,000 to construct the Warrnambool to Port Fairy Rail Trail
- \$500,000 to construct a new section of the Murray o Mountains Rail trail from Rutherglen to Wahgunyah on the Murray; and
- \$250,000 to build the Coast to Crater Rail Trail from Camperdown to Timboon, which also received \$210,000 from BHP Billiton. With this level of expenditure it is interesting that the government have not followed through with the “Getting There” issue.

Because while the East Gippsland trail is profitable the huge difference in revenue between it

and the Murray to the Mountains trail could be attributed to the fact that the Murray to the Mountains is serviced by a train and **bike friendly buses**. This makes this trail accessible without a car Until it is recognized that riders are a major contributor to the tourism dollar and to be encouraged by creating easy access to rail trails by **Bike friendly buses and easy train access** then the money spent on these trails will not reach its potential plus small towns like Molesworth will miss out on their share of the bike dollar.



General Meeting 1st October 2013

A number of issues discussed at this meeting included the reporting of hazards along the path.

Riders carrying identification with information as to next of kin etc in case of an accident.

Malahang Hut and its use As well as the Christmas function the venue for this will remain the same as last year.

Best wishes for a quick recovery to Elizabeth Thompson who at the moment is having a hip replacement.

President Fails Anger management Course

While not discussed at this meeting some of our members have been expressing concern with regards to the competency of our president. He signed up for an anger management course wore this shirt to class and wondered why he failed. Last we heard his councillor a well respected man in counselling circles has now himself sought counselling .



Or This



On A Bike

Does it get much better than this?

The Latte group outside a newly found café opposite Alphington Station introducing new rider Debra to the Latte world of coffee and cake



pictures from Leigh

Trestle Bridge Moonee Ponds Creek



Or This Murray river Mildura

Bikes Vandalised in Brunswick

Warnings have been issued with regards to leaving your bike unattended in Brunswick. Complaints have been flooding in after a spate of vandalism. Many riders have been caught out when after a five minute cup of coffee they have returned to find their bike covered in wool.

This vandalism however is not only confined to bikes Bike stands as well have fallen to what can only be described as knitting graffiti.



It is difficult to believe that anyone could treat a carbon fibre bike in this way. Not to take into account the cost of unravelling these bike racks.



Bicycle Words of Wisdom

Im lazy. But it's the lazy people who invented the wheel and the bicycle because they didn't like walking or carrying things."-Lech Walesalazy.

What Clive Can Do We Can Do Better

Cycling activist Omar Khalifa launched **The Australian Cyclist** party at the Australian Bike Expo in Melbourne. The intention is to give cyclists an independent political force. The party intends to register for the State election next year and in NSW in 2015

The Aims of the Party

The Australian Cyclists Party will advocate for those who bicycle and promote cycling in all of its forms. We will do this by selectively contesting for positions in government across Australia.

How can you help?

Become a member. In each state we must have a certain number of party members in order to register the party for forthcoming elections. For instance we need 750 in NSW and 500 in Victoria. All members must be on the electoral roll in their state before joining. Identify your skills and how you can help us! We need help currently to sign up members through word of mouth, online promotion and at events in NSW and Victoria. We are also recruiting members for future electoral efforts in other states and territories.

Their web site ; icycleivote.com



A seat from Gizmag for those who who like a bit of air conditioning, designed by California chiropractor and triathlete Vincent Marcel, called the infinity seat said to be very easy on the bum

Malahang Reserve



We are now the proud possessors of a key to Malahang Bike Hut. This comes with many options we are able to access their tools for bicycle workshops as well as tea and coffee making facilities. There is also a BBQ. We also have the option of starting some rides from there. It has a large car park and easy access to trails.



Also anyone with time to spare would be most welcome on a Thurs pm to help kid fix their bikes

Rider Log

RiderLog is a free app that turns every bike ride into a vote for better bicycle facilities. Download it to your iphone now.

About RiderLog

Your RiderLog app records basic details of your trips and anonymously uploads them to the Bicycle Network. All the travel logs are then aggregated to show when, where and why we are riding.

This information is used to [improve the planning of bike infrastructure](#) and convince authorities to invest more in the locations where people ride.

Help

Start the app, choose transport or recreation, press the silver Sleep/Wake button and put the phone in your pocket, bag or bike mount to use as a bike computer . At the end of your trip, wake up your phone and save your ride details.

[The app will log your ride in your phone](#), including elapsed time and average speed. Press Map to see your route. The phone tracks your cumulative distance and time over the week and month, providing a record of your activity. [See below for more detailed instructions](#).

Privacy Policy

[You decide how much information about you and your riding gets uploaded](#). The data is anonymous. Unless you change the Settings no personal details are provided. If you are a member or friend of Bicycle Network, you can enter your rider number. If you would like to get to know us, you can choose to tag your data with your email.

[1 How to use RiderLog to record your trips](#)

Press Start before you ride, Stop when you get there and then Save Ride

[2 Other features of RiderLog](#)

RiderLog allows you to track your rides, show your bike routes to others and provide in depth data

[3 How governments can use data from RiderLog](#)

The data from RiderLog will be available to governments so they can get more people cycling more often.