



Banyule BUG Newsletter

April
2024

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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.

To begin, a few notes about our club.

At the last general meeting, it was reported that our club now has some 115 members. For a club committed to cycling advocacy, this is a commendable number. We must be doing something right.

Club contact points

Web Page: <http://www.banyulebug.org.au/>

Face Book Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/banyulebug>

Contributions to this newsletter: Allan Garbutt allang@bigpond.net.au

Walmer St Bridge

The connection between the Main Yarra Trail and the Walmer Street Bridge in Abbotsford has been officially opened.

The opening ceremony was staged by Salta Properties, which constructed the riverside precinct as part of its neighbouring apartment development.

Along with the City of Boroondara's concurrent development of a new ramp on the northern side of the river, the main Yarra Trail is now properly connected along and across the river. Video from our club webpage ([Link](#))

E-Bike replaces car for family use

This is an interesting and revealing story about transport and travel time between using a car or bike. This family found it more convenient and quicker to use their bike and as their family grew, their bike morphed to take in the growing family. ([Link](#))

Riding in the rain

As we move into the wetter months, these 11 tips from "Cycling Weekly" might make your life in the wet a little more bearable. ([Link](#))

Bringing your dog along for the ride

"I am a middle-aged man on a bicycle. I wear Lycra. According to the mainstream media, I'm a free-loading, red-light dodging, unregistered road warrior cruising on expensive cycle paths that would be better redesigned as traffic lanes." Read more. ([Link](#))

While we are discussing bringing pets along with you on your next bike ride, you might like to view what happened to one such pet on a recent club ride. Discretion advised. The dog fully recovered. ([Link](#))



April works update



Watsonia tunnel boring machine launch area

Key roads in Bulleen

Works are continuing in Bulleen as we create the space needed to build the North East Link tunnel entry and exit ramps. In late March, eastbound traffic on Manningham Road was redirected onto Bridge Street. This traffic arrangement will be in place for around 2 years as construction progresses.

The intersection at Manningham and Bulleen roads will be closed at night from **Friday 12 to Monday 15 April**. During these works, there will be occasional lane closures and detours.

There will also be reduced lanes during the day along Manningham Road and Bridge Street until **Monday 15 April**. Delays are expected while we set up this long term arrangement that will keep traffic moving while we build North East Link. Please allow extra travel time during the closures

Tunnel construction

Tunnel wall and roof construction continues in Bulleen as we start work on the tunnel entrance ramp for the future Manningham interchange. Further south, we're working on the foundations of the Yarra Link green bridge on both sides of Bulleen Road.

There will be occasional night-time lane closures along Greensborough Road throughout the month for tunnel boring machine (TBM) deliveries.

The 550-tonne gantry crane continues to lower TBM pieces from ground level into

the launch box, with 10 major parts assembled so far.

We're also building an 80-metre tower crane at the Lower Plenty Road work site to help with the excavation of the tunnel entry and exit ramps, while foundation wall construction continues across the work area.

Rivergum Walk, Rosanna

We're starting to prepare our work site in Rivergum Walk for the construction of the Eel Bridge.

The new pedestrian bridge will connect Rivergum Walk trail to a revitalised Borlase Reserve once construction of North East Link is complete.

Winsor Reserve, Macleod

The Winsor Reserve acoustic shed structure is now complete. Stay tuned for the artwork chosen by locals that will soon be installed on the shed walls.

M80 Ring Road

This month, crews will be busy establishing work sites along the M80 Ring Road between Plenty Road and Greensborough Bypass. This includes excavating the centre mound at the M80 Ring Road interchange and removing trees and vegetation.

The centre median removal works on Greensborough Highway between Grimshaw Street and Watsonia Road will continue over weekends in April and May as we prepare to realign Greensborough Highway.

Preparatory works including piling will take place in April and May to extend the rail tunnel under Greensborough Highway.

Crews will also continue site investigations and relocate utility services across the project to support upgrade works.

Greensborough Highway and Bypass

Lanes will be closed in both directions on Greensborough Highway, between Watsonia Road and Grimshaw Street from **6pm Fridays to 7am Mondays until May 2024**. Speeds will be reduced to 40km/h. Excludes the weekend after ANZAC Day.

Greensborough Bypass will be closed (Diamond Creek-bound) nightly between the M80 Ring Road exit ramp and Plenty River Drive from **10pm to 5am, Sunday 21 April to Friday 10 May**. Detour will be via Greensborough Highway, Grimshaw Street and Diamond Creek Road.

Hurstbridge line

Buses will replace trains between Heidelberg and Eltham stations on the Hurstbridge line from **11pm, Friday 12 April to the last service on Sunday 14 April and again from 8pm, Tuesday 14 May to the last service on Thursday 16 May.**

Frensham Reserve, Watsonia

The temporary carpark for Watsonia train commuters has now opened at Frensham Reserve.

More than 500 car spaces are now available with a shared path providing easy access. Watsonia Station car park will be temporarily closed as part of works to complete the M80 Ring Road.

Eastern Freeway Upgrades

We'll be working on the Eastern Freeway between Burke and Tram roads, on major roads including Bulleen, Thompsons and Doncaster roads and within the reserves on either side of the freeway. In April 2024, we'll be closing lanes on the Eastern Freeway and freeway ramps at night. Day works will happen from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday and 7am to 1pm, Saturday. Night works will happen from 7pm to 6am, Monday to Sunday.

Works include locating services, surveying and assessing ground conditions, removing and replacing line marking and installing road-side barriers in new work areas.

In March, we completed our first overnight outbound closure of the Eastern Freeway and removed an overhead signage structure. Further overnight closures will take place over the coming months.

Koonung Creek trail

From late April 2024 until late 2025 we'll close the Koonung Creek trail on the north side of the Eastern Freeway from Kampman Street to Doncaster Road.

Detours will be in place between Kampman Street and the Estelle Street Bridge. We suggest cyclists use the Koonung Creek trail on the southern side of the Eastern Freeway.

Thompsons Road, Bulleen

For up to 6 nights in late April, we'll close lanes on Thompsons Road, keeping a single lane open in both directions.

We'll continue works on surrounding major roads, reserves and local streets close to the freeway. Works include removing traffic islands, building site access to work areas, adjusting lanes, and installing signage and barriers. Traffic management will be in place to guide drivers through the area.

Speed reductions to 80km/h during the day and 40km/h at night from Burke to Tram roads remain in place.

Disruptions Map ([Link](#))

Train Disruptions Calendar ([Link](#))

M1 Freeway Closures ([Link](#))

Important Change of Dates

Sorry Folks but we have to change some dates.

In sum, info for forthcoming important stuff is:

AGM 7.30 pm Wed 21 August at Watsonia Library Community Room

Awards Night Thu 17 October at Watsonia RSL

Xmas Picnic Tuesday 10 December at Ruffey Lake Park

Banyule BUG Ride Information

Never miss another great ride. An up-to date list of all rides is available on our website along with links to ride maps ([Link](#))

Youth Hostels Australia

YHA has nominated Melbourne as the best, out of 6, Australian cities in which to ride a bike. Do you agree?

Top 6 cycle-friendly cities in Australia

Though not yet at European levels of adoption, cycling is on the rise in Australia and is fast becoming one of the best ways to get about and explore its cities. With the added benefits of exercise, low cost AND a low environmental impact, there's lots to love about being a cyclist as a tourist or local. In this article, we've chosen 6 of the most bike-friendly Aussie cities for you to pedal around to your heart's content, so strap up, clip in, and enjoy the ride! ([Link](#))

From BN Newsroom

9 April 2024

\$1.5M Mount Alexander Road upgrade

The federal government has funded an upgrade to the troublesome Mount Alexander Road bike route through Travencore.

The southbound lane of the busy commuter route has been a risk to riders for many years with multiple crashes.

Between June 2015 and June 2020 there were 19 crashes involving bike riders on Mount Alexander Road between Wellington and Mooltan streets, including one fatal crash.

Various improvements have been undertaken over time, but the intensity of peak period drop-offs at the nearby primary school is an ongoing source of trouble.

This time VicRoads is utilising \$1.5 million of funding from the Black Spot Program on technological aids that will alert drivers to approaching riders.

The Black Spot Program is fully funded by the Australian Government and targets roads where a high number of crashes occur.

The system includes bike detectors, bike warning signs and LED stud lights that flash on at ground level.

Mount Alexander Road is a designated Strategic Cycling Corridor and is a major bike arterial for riders in Flemington, Ascot Vale, Moonee Ponds Essendon, Strathmore and beyond.

It links to stations, schools, local activity centres, green spaces, the Moonee Ponds Creek Trail and Melbourne's CBD.

Work starts from Monday 8 April 2024, and continues in stages for up to 20 weeks between Wellington and Mooltan streets.

Works near residential properties will take place during the day (9am and 5pm) while works in front of businesses will take place at night (8pm and 5am).

Local detours will be in place, with signage and traffic management on site to help direct road users.

The upgrades will be at the intersections at Padman Lane and Flemington Street North, Buckland Street, Flemington Street South, Little Princes Street and Mooltan Street. ([Link](#))

Artificial Intelligence in a Bike Camera

This is a very interesting development in the use of AI. The software examines the video stream and warns of possible dangers coming up behind your bike.

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*AI could keep an eye on traffic behind
Because we can't see what's behind us riders tend to fear
approaching traffic, even
though that anxiety might not always be justified.
We already have radar-equipped bike lights that can detect traffic
behind and alert a
rider, and many riders have found that reassuring.
But now artificial intelligence has emerged as a potential eye-
opener for rear-vision.*

*A small start-up in the USA has produced an experimental bike light
that has a*

*camera and tiny computer that uses AI to analyse the video feed and predict the
behaviour of cars approaching from behind.*

Now in limited production it can:

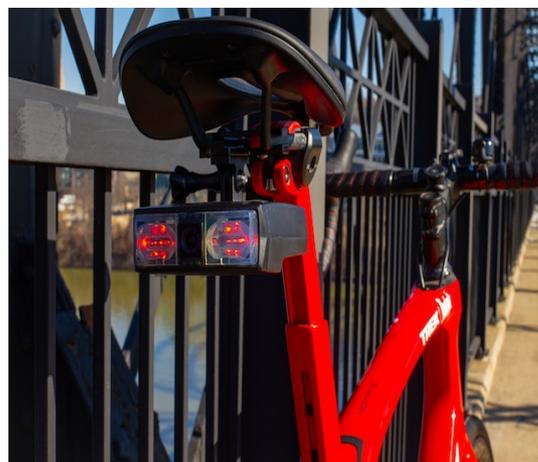
- *identify cars, bikes, and pedestrians*
- *alert riders audibly about cars "following," "approaching," and "overtaking"*
- *issue visual warning to drivers who are approaching too close or too fast*
- *send visual notifications and a simplified rear road-view to an optional paired smartphone*
- *record 1080p video and tag "close calls" and "incidents" from your phone.*

This is a vast jump up from current radar devices such as the Garmin Varia.

But there are drawbacks: the lights-camera-computer unit is heavy at 330 grams, a comparatively bulky 92 x 95 x 35mm, and battery life is five hours. Because of the heft it will hang from your saddle rail.

Nevertheless, the first production run sold out in 24 hours at US\$400 each.

Called Copilot, ([Link](#)) the system was developed by two young PhD engineers with backgrounds in robotics and machine learning.



The first step of developing Copilot's AI algorithms was to collect a large amount of data from riding around a variety of road types, with a focus on interactions with vehicles.

This process was aided by a beta-testing cohort of Pittsburgh cyclists – ranging from commuters to recreational riders – who were given a free prototype unit to test.

A major challenge lay in cramming the camera, LEDs, electronics, and battery pack into a compact and lightweight package.

The device also needed to be powerful enough to run AI neural networks, yet with a relatively low power drain to enable it to be used for longer bike rides.

The company says the Copilot appeals to different types of cyclists, including parents and spouses who care about the cyclist in their life and want something that's going to keep them safer on the road.

"We've had a lot of folks say, 'I would buy this for my son or daughter, I would buy this for my husband'."

<https://bicyclenetwork.com.au/newsroom/2024/04/09/ai-could-keep-an-eye-on-traffic-behind/>

E-Bikes are on a roll

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Let's embrace Australia's E-bike Moment with rebates for clean transport

Australia's transport emissions are growing fast and are on track to become our largest contributor to the climate emergency by 2030.

Meanwhile, millions of short trips in our cities every day are driven as vehicle ownership continues to grow, further entrenching Australia's dependence on cars.

Climate experts and political leaders agree there is an urgent need to clean up the transport sector. E-bikes have arrived as a powerful tool to help them get the job done.

Launched today and endorsed by bike organisations around the country, Bicycle Network's "Australia's E-bike Moment" information booklet provides an overview of the wide-ranging benefits of e-bikes.

DOWNLOAD THE BOOKLET

It details research on how e-bikes are cleaning up cities around the world by serving as genuine replacements for cars, and how governments are using purchase incentives to fast-track adoption and ramp up the fight against climate change.

It's time for governments around Australia to join them.

Research has shown that e-bikes provide moderate exercise, and because they are so enjoyable to ride, people who own them are more likely to spend more time exercising and meet the recommended guidelines for physical activity.

They are far cheaper to run than petrol-powered cars, and because they are capable of carrying kids to school and heavy goods home from the shop, are actively driving down carbon emissions around the world.

Globally, electric bikes are already replacing four times as much oil as electric cars.

Investing in this incredibly efficient mode of transport is the smart choice, and already some governments around the country are making their move.

This started with the Tasmanian Government last year which introduced a rebate program to help 350 Australians onto e-bikes. Two councils in Adelaide have since launched rebate schemes of their own.

Governments of all levels have a golden opportunity to unlock the potential of e-bikes, by making it more affordable for Australians to use one everyday. The returns for both their communities and the planet, are there for the taking.

Read more about how we're advocating for e-bikes on [our campaign page](#).

Contributions to this newsletter can be made directly to
Allan Garbutt
allang@bigpond.net.au
Or through any club member and they will be redirected to me.

Safe cycling to you all.