

### Banyule Bicycle User Group

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## **NEWSLETTER**

# August 2011

## Ride of mass disruption



## **Meeting** The AGM to be held 10th August at 8pm at Watsonia

**Annual General** 

Guest speaker Marcus Walker from Walkers Wheels

Library

#### **Profiling**

## **Our Guest Speaker Marcus Walker**

Marcus is a true local in that his new shop on the corner of and Para Rd. and Station Rd. Montmorency is only 300meters from where he was born. He started riding at the age of 6 and Walkers wheels was born in 1990 out of his passion for riding and the skills he accumulated along the way. He acknowledges that the upside of owning your own business is that you have no "boss" the down side is no sick leave, holidays or long service leave. Owner of 9 ½ bikes his favourite is his Titanium MTB. Marcus also has some other intersting pastimes such as a scooter (gets up to 15k hour) and bit of motor bike riding. His most gruelling bike ride was the Otways Oddessy which he did on his favourite mountain bike a Soums a fixed wheel mountain bike. He has also climbed Hotham and Buffalo on this bike one distance being 125k, interesting ride on a fixed wheel bike. He commented "that was on the road so it was easier"Marcus has two children aged 16 and 17. One according to him wont go too far from the commuter while the other is a keen mountain bike rider .Of his new venue he says "love the view natural light its a wierd building and it suits me.

Recently a small group of Banyule Bug members namely Les Lorraine and Maureen put their lives at risk to experience the Critical Mass event held in the city. It was certainly not an experience that one would forget in a hurry .It had the similarities of a ride on the big dipper at Lunar Park. Terror and exhilaration all at once, but definitely an experience not to be missed. The ride began outside the State Library and consisted of a group of approx 40 riders complete with blinking lights a dog, a child and other assorted stuff.

The ride took us along Latrobe down Russell, then Spring Street. via Bourke Street eventually turning down Gertrude and winding our way towards the Abbotsford Convent. This was all accomplished to music from one rider who's bike was equipped with a rather formable set of loud speakers that would have been at home at any self respecting party. It was interesting to note that the animosity the ride attracted was not from cars but from pedestrians. One remarked that "we should be giving way to the traffic" this was counteracted by a seasoned rider who stated "we are the traffic". This remark hit the nail on the head in that possibly most people do not regard riders as" traffic" but see them as secondary

The ride cumulated with a visit to Handsome Steve's who we thought had got much younger than we remembered, then someone said "no, that's his nephew, there's Steve over there" And there he was just like we did remember him. Definitely a ride to do at least once in your life.

#### Les administers restraining order

A sequel to Critical Mass played itself out on the home journey when coming through the park Les observed a man face down in the park with another man sitting on top of him. Thinking fowl play he approached them .The story was the man on the ground was having a fit and apparently needed to be restrained for his own safety. While we waited he recovered and the other man left. Unfortunately the fit reoccurred and Les had to respond to the man's request to be restrained. He refused our offers of seeing him home. It was a dramatic end to a dramatic night.

#### A piece of trivia

A bareheaded motorcyclist participating in a ride to protest mandatory helmet laws was killed when he was thrown over the handlebars in Onondaga,

New York

#### Not happy Jan!



The Latte Group have been very fortunate to have Jan to get us home when some of our trusty leaders have had other plans .We have followed her around Carlton and the inner city and have had much confidence in her ability to get us back.. However that confidence was badly shaken the other week when making our way back from Moonee Ponds when she took us down this path under the pretext it was a legitimate bicycle track and she knew exactly where she was going.

We think the picture speaks for itself!

# The things one sees on a bike ride





So what does it all mean?

### **Socialising**

Anyone wishing to socialise? The Latte Group generally meet at La Porchetta
Greensborough approx 6.15pm for pizza and wine prior to the bug meetings
Come join us