



## New Track Reveals Bicycle Hazard

Tuesday on the 9am ride we had 3 riders crash resulting in injury to one of the riders requiring an ambulance.

The crash occurred at the southern end of the Darebin Creek Trail a few hundred metre's from the Heidelberg Road Bridge. The group of riders had entered the Darebin Creek trail using the new bridge under Heidelberg Road, to avoid the hazard of crossing Heidelberg Road, on our way to Flinders Street Station. The bridge where the crash

occurred is a **timber** bridge with a **timber** surfaced track and associated approaches that were constructed a few years ago. The bridge has had little use because the Darebin Trail was a dead end until the new bridge under Heidelberg road was recently built. The group had used that section of trail several times before the wet weather arrived without incident. A section of the bridge, where the crash occurred is shaded by trees and it also veers slightly to the right. Due to the recent rain a

fungus/slime has come back to life making the surface on this section extremely slippery. It was difficult to stand or walk on the slimy section without the fear of your feet going out from under you.

It was on this section that the three leading cyclists found their wheels going out from under them as they veered slightly to the right and they all crashed to the ground.

Would you all please keep a sharp lookout for these slippery

# Banyule Bug

## Newsletter

June 2013



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situations on our rides and cross these areas with lots of caution. Walk if in doubt. We need to report and follow up any hazards. Either report yourself with a cc to the Secretary or provide the Secretary with the location and details via email.

There are treatments for timber that provide a non slip surface but are usually short lived. There are also new modern materials that can be used in lieu of timber to provide an all weather safe surface. The challenge is to make our bicycle infrastructure designers aware of these products and their advantages.

Two Darebin Council Rangers attended the site in response to the crash and indicated that remedial action will be taken.

The medical staff at the Austin Hospital reported they have had a few casualties in recently describing the same type of accident.  
Maurie Abbott Secretary

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## Radio Talk Back Now part Of the Bug

Tuesdays ride for the Latte Group saw the introduction of Walkie Talkie radios to aid in keeping track of everyone. Much more efficient than a phone they worked very well over short distances



Allan Garbut demonstrates



Entrance to the crash sight

## The Accident, a first hand account

I've joined the bruised and sore club after a bad crash on Tuesday 21 May 2013 riding with the BUG. We were riding the new link that follows the Darebin Creek upstream under Heidelberg road. When we reached the wooden bridge over the creek Allan peacock was in the lead, I was next and Wallace was behind me. I remember seeing Allan go down on the bend ahead and wondering what the hazard was. A fraction of a second later, I felt both my wheels slip out from under me and I came down very heavily on my upper thigh. I heard Wallace come down behind me but despite the three of us hitting the deck almost at the same time, none of us collided with each other.

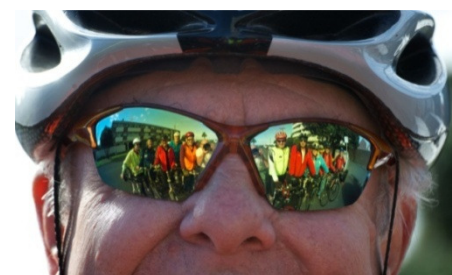
It then became apparent that the wooden bridge it was damp and slimy being partially shaded by overhanging trees. It was as slippery as if it had been covered with an oil slick. To make things worse the bridge is curved and negotiating the bend in it increases the chances of a slide. Unfortunately (or fortunately for the others) I was the only one who couldn't get up and had to go to hospital by ambulance.



Two weeks later I'm still on crutches and in pain. At the hospital the x-rays showed no broken bones and today I had some follow up x-rays and ultrasound. I'll get the results tomorrow but I'm hoping that there's nothing broken or badly damaged. I'm improving slowly but will be out of action for a while yet.

Maurie sent out a warning after the incident and I have heard that there were others that fell at the same spot in the days previous. I don't know if it's possible to foresee these things but I'll be adding wet wooden surfaces to my mental list of cycling hazards.

## Reflections of the Latté group



This photo taken by a age photographer Jason South acknowledges the deeper side the Latte Group and that we are indeed a truly reflective group.



## Floods show little respect for new bike path

The recent rain had little respect for the newly completed section of bike path running under the Heidelberg Bridge. While the path remained intact the water left it covered in mud and its banks littered in debris. Work was in progress to clean up the mess.



## When is a bicycle path not a bicycle path?



When it's separated by a walking track .



The new track linking the Darebin parklands which was presumably a bicycle track now displays these cyclists dismount signs.

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Some people have a good life Andrew and Debbie Hollis from the latte group have been enjoying this view in Bali as Andrew says some people have to do it.

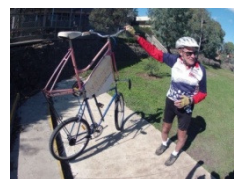
## We Were Out There Again



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The Bug once again combined with other likeminded groups and the Banyule Council to help promote cycling in the area report from Arnold.

The bicycle maintenance classes were well attended. .We had three or four main demonstrators/ demonstration groups going constantly for about 2 hours, all kept very busy with different groups of people being rotated through our groups and all the other environmental/sustainable activities on the morning. The event was organised by Banyule City Council at The Ivanhoe Primary School...Richard, Les and Brian and Alan Garbut were the main demonstrators .Their role mainly answering question and discussing many bike maintenance issues with those attending. ie. how to fix flats, best tyre pressures, adjusting brakes and derailleurs, chain lubrication, safety issues, and doing small fixes/adjustments to bikes some brought along, etc...Jim was demonstrating his odd bikes elsewhere, on the oval at the school venue



### Skipton Rail Trail

A few weeks back - Terry and I did Skipton to Linton, and then Ballarat to the trestle bridge on the Sunday. The northerly winds were a bit of a challenge. This photo is the new 'train station' at Linton - very fancy set-up.

Jean Mehrtens



# Bicycle Parking Banyule Festival



Another successful bike parking day for the Bug at the Banyule Festival The Festival Numbers were up on last year, 126 bikes were parked and our racks were nearly filled to capacity.



This is the crew taking a well-earned break

Photos compliments of Leigh

## The Latte Group Infiltrated by kids?



On a recent ride to Peppers Café Flemington we were joined by Helen and Camille and their two children This is a bit of a new look for the Latte Group and reflects the diversity of the group

Banyule Bug User Group Inc

Registration Number A0036671P

# Mullumbimby Who's heard of it.?



Certainly not me, stumbled into it when on a recent trip to Queensland. Accommodation was a bit expensive at Brunswick Heads NSW so ventured further inland. What an interesting town. Situated on the Brisbane River, it was a bit short on local bike tracks but according to David Martin of True Wheel Cycles (the local bike shop), big on mountainous rides. The local rides though short were pretty along the Brisbane River with little bridges here and there as well as touches of local history. Not far from Nimbin Mullumbimby is reflective of the Nimbin life style with lots of organic coffee and food shops, as well as places for massage healing and alternate medicine. These shops are in contrast to the traditional old hotels that dominate some corners



## Banyule Bug

### Meeting

### June 4th

At this meeting a number of issues were discussed including new regulations regarding displaying our correct name .From now on

"Banyule Bug User Group Inc"

And our registration number must appear on all our correspondence.

Also discussed was the possibility of having access to a facility where we can conduct bicycle workshops and possible the odd BBQ.

New Jerseys were a high priority and also the possibility of printed safety vests being handed out to all new and existing members.

## Welcome Back

The Latte group welcomed back Michael Rogers on Tuesdays ride .Michael sustained serious injuries to his arm when he tried to argue with a kerb. He is still not able to ride because of this however he has found an alternative in which Gill had a bit of a whirl.



## Quote of the week

Marriage is a wonderful invention: then again, so is a bicycle repair kit

[.Billy Connolly](#)