



# Banyule BUG Newsletter

June  
2019

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## *Cycling in Melbourne*

*Here is a question and answer about cycling in Melbourne. It comes from 'reddit'. It is an old post but the advice from an experienced rider is still relevant today. I thought it worthwhile reposting here (Ed.*

*Tips for cycling in Melbourne?*

*Just moved back here. I haven't ridden much since I was a teenager, but thought it might be a good thing to get back into.*

*Bought myself a single-speed bike, and loving it so far. Still need to adjust to being on the roads without a car. Any general advice for riding around Melbourne you guys can pass on?*

*Thanks!*

***I found my post from last time a similar thread came up and added a few bits:***

***Ride confidently. Teetering in the gutter is inviting other road users to squeeze past you. It's also full of glass and crap. Take the lane where it's going to improve your safety.***

***Never ride in the car door zone. It's not worth it. If for some reason you are anyway, try to pay attention well ahead of you. Car doors normally (though not always) come from cars that have just parked, seeing that car parking a few hundred meters up the road could be what tips you off. Also look in wing mirrors. As long as it's not dark or the car tinted, you'll see some ones head if there is someone sitting in the drivers seat. Though this doesn't help for a rear passenger seat which is why you should never ride in the door zone - as people in cars will never always look, it's just a form of gambling.***

***If you're riding in stopped traffic, think about your speed. It feels great to zoom past stopped traffic, but if you're going full speed you're at risk from people changing lanes/turning without checking wing mirrors (they rarely do), car doors and most of all pedestrians crossing the road. A short person or someone behind a truck is invisible until they step out in front of you, that unfortunately doesn't make them any less solid. So use an appropriate speed for the conditions and identify hazards ahead.***

***A common accident is someone turning right coming the other way when you're zooming through stopped traffic. They turn thinking its safe because the traffic is stopped not even thinking there could be a person on a bike. If they do this manoeuvre quickly and you're going quickly then neither party has a chance to see it coming. The fact you had right of way is of little relief.***

***If the traffic is moving then watch the front wheel of the car, if they're about to turn into you, the front wheel will always move, the indicator may not.***

***The other thing to watch is tram tracks, always try to cross them on a large angle, never go parallel close to them. Roads like Gertrude St are pretty hazardous as you're sort of stuck between the door zone and riding in the tram tracks - given those options, I'd tend to ride in the middle of the tram tracks as there are less***

*hazards that would require deviating slightly into the tracks. When they're wet they're also super slippery, so again big angle cross them quickly and get it done with, don't try and turn or brake while on the track.*

*The biggest dangers are heavy vehicles, delivery drivers, taxis and pedestrians who aren't paying attention. Always ride with caution around any of those. Riding a bike though is still very safe overall. It decreases mortality a lot more than it increases it. These tips just further stack it in your favour.*

*If you're riding in a pedestrian shared space, then don't be a dick, even if they stumble into the bike lane, still don't be a dick, just politely point out it's a bike lane. In the same way people riding bikes don't like car drivers telling them what to do/"teaching" them a lesson by intentionally going close, the same goes for pedestrians. If you're doing something you shouldn't be doing, then this rule goes double.*

*Beyond that enjoy it, it's a great way to get around that removes you from having to stress about timetables, parking spaces or costs (beyond some cheap maintenance). [Buy a good D lock](#) (That one is excellent for it's cheap price. It's probably on eBay cheaper or your local bike shop more conveniently too) and [learn how to use it](#), some chain lube to reapply if you ever ride or park outside in the wet and you're pretty much set.*

### **New Bridge**

The new bridge over the Darebin Trail is rapidly taking shape. The bridge and new pathways will connect the Darebin trail to Tee Street, near Bundoora Park. The bridge will eliminate the need to use the dangerous Cheenies St when heading north on the trail from Bundoora Park.



*In the time elapsed between taking the construction image and the release of this newsletter, progress on the bridge has been excellent. Completion was delayed for a time while graffiti was removed from the pathway.*

*Here is the completed item.*

*A pleasure to cycle over.*









### **Interesting web sites/links**

#### **e-Bikes**

Have you ever been confused about the terminology surrounding e-bikes? I have and I own one. Here is a really good site that demystifies much of the jargon encountered when discussing watts, amps hours and motor type. Thanks to Leigh for the posting.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HW7leoCOgxI>

#### **Cycling Hazards**

Cars are not the only things cyclists need to worry about when using our roads.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-04-08/deer-narrowly-misses-cyclists/10980778?section=sport>

#### **Mullum Mullum Extension**

For those of you who have not had the delight of cycling the new(ish) extension of the Mullum Mullum trail from the East Link trail to Park Rd, here is a 'virtual ride' movie I put together of the full (new) section. It has been edited down from some 10 minutes riding.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgvT4XGIbPw>

#### **Banyule BUG Latte Group**

The ride maps for the Latte group can now be accessed from the following link. Not all rides are there as yet, but this is gradually being worked on. The ride elevations will be of interest to riders who are debating whether a ride will be to their liking/ability etc.

<http://www.banyulebug.org.au/rides.html>



## Rubberised Decking

Whittlesea Council is experimenting with a rubberised trail in an effort to protect the tree routes and to provide a surface that doesn't crack as the roots grow. It is a good worthwhile idea, but it is like riding on treacle.



## A wrong turn that could have been disastrous!

I was on a bike ride in the Northern Territory from the 11-18 May last month and we were at Kings Canyon. We were meant to ride on a sealed road east for 100km. Unfortunately I needed to do some work on my bike that morning and was leaving in a rush.

In the hurry to catch up, and with the early morning sun in my eyes, I missed the direction sign and turned left instead of right, heading in the wrong direction. Alice Springs was about 300km along this road.



The first part of the road was sealed and I was enjoying the wild life and the crisp silent morning. The road eventually changed into a corrugated sandy gravel road. I thought to myself "this is certainly some outback experience" and continued on, convincing myself I could see people far ahead.

There were signs that should have told me I was going in the wrong direction, such as not seeing any bike tracks. The only tracks I saw were from camels and dingos on side of the road. There were two 4wd that came up behind me and stopped for a while. I thought these were the backup crew and had stopped to let me get ahead. Well - that's what I thought! They later drove past me and I continued on.

After an hour a vehicle coming towards me stopped, suggesting I move to the other side of the road as a Roadtrain was coming and I would have been covered in dust. Which I did, then asked the driver whether he had seen any cyclists from where he had come. The answer was "No".

I should have turned around. Unfortunately I didn't believe him and continued on for another two hours, always believing those marks on the road a long way ahead were riders. After a total of three hours I realized I was in a very remote area on my own, I hadn't seen anyone else for ages and I wasn't sure I would be able to ride all the way back on this rough road. I was concerned at my situation.

Fortunately, Jamie the driver who had spoken to me some hours earlier was returning to his work and I waved him down. Put my bike in the tray and ask him if we could go a bit further to see if the riders were ahead (I still thought they could have been). We went further and no-one was seen.

Now my only friend Jamie drove me to his works office some kilometres into the bush. We tried ringing my group but received only an answering message. I was then taken to his bosses. They were fantastic, offering me food and water and asked Jamie to drive me and catch up to my group, which was heading the other way from Kings Canyon.

I thanked them profusely for their hospitality and their fantastic help. So, we headed off again in a vehicle this time and eventually caught up to my group, passing the backup bus. They recognized me and we all pulled over, transferring my bike from one vehicle to the other. I had had enough riding!

I thanked Jamie, gave him a hug and then I continued on in the back up bus.

I have since written to the Oil Company expressing my appreciation for what they did to get me safely out what could have been a disastrous situation. And particularly a acknowledging Jamie for realizing I was in a very vulnerable position and giving me a lift.

The CEO has since advised me that he had heard of my situation and would pass my thanks onto Jamie's group.

PS. A bit of information - they are doing conventional oil drilling.

Bob West

On a recent cycle along southern side of the East-link trail, in a secluded gravel section, I noticed one or two gnomes crouched in the bushes. I didn't take a lot of notice, but a little further on, I came upon a whole population of gnomes and other associated hanger-ons. If you are ever up that way, it is well worth a look.







## Ride report

By way of promoting a regular Banyule BUG ride that occurs each Thursday from Warringal Park starting at 0900, I can do no better than to reprint John P's words. I do love good prose and John uses words as well as he rides his bike.

Folks,

Thursday looms, when it's time to hop on the saddle, loosen the belt and make for Petty's Orchard Cafe at whatever speed you enjoy. Leaderless, rudderless, motherless and you'll leave Petty's penniless after scoffing more delights than get given the gong at the CWA's annual bake-off.

Last week four brave (foolish?) souls braved the drizzle, slush, gravel to arrive with unclean bikes but pure souls. And look at the joy that followed - Lou Bosco heaped cool cream on his warm apple slice, with a latte on the side, while Andrew Hollis contributed to our food porn picture collection with his classic sugar-free apple pie posed against a backdrop of austere bristles. Artistry!

Only 40 km and even shorter if you have an e-bike with a thirsty throttle. 9 am at Warringal Park, Thursday 5 (*and following Thursday's at this point ed*), June and that's only the beginning.

Cheers,

John P



*Andrew's pie*



*Lou's tart*

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