



Banyule Bicycle
UserGroup Inc.
Registered Number
A0036671P

Banyule BUG Newsletter

February
2020

Contents

- 1 Ride report
- 2 Interesting web sites
- 3 Mounting a 'penny-farthing'.
- 4 "Trains and boats and....."
- 5 Poem

Our thanks to the Office of Anthony Carbines MP, state member for Ivanhoe, for their support in providing the photocopying facilities for this newsletter.



Fran St. Templestowe.

Not everyday you get to stand under your very own street name. Here is Fran, doing just that. We discovered this street in Templestowe on one of our rides towards the end of last year.

I wonder how many other streets we pass on our rides that have names of club members. It would be interesting to build a list.

I will add to the list:

Fran St – Templestowe
Allens Rd - Montmorency

Happy New Year to all our members. May all your journeys this year be safe and enjoyable.

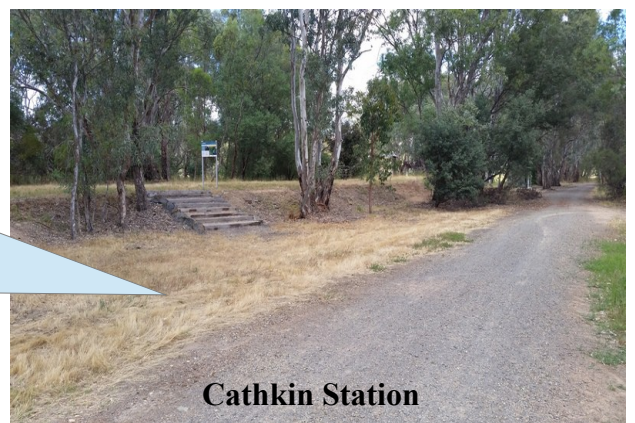
Ride Report

In December of last Year I cycled from Cathkin to Alexandra. This rail-trail was once a spur line of the Tallarook to Mansfield line and was mainly used for transport of harvested timber and other farm produce. The trail climbs gently from Cathkin rising about 120 metres of a distance of about 12kkm where it drops steeply to Alexandra Station. (A steep ride out of Alexandra) The trail is generally straight and passes through undulating hills with very attractive views. The view from the highest point of the trail is a magnificent vista over the Alexandra valley. The old Alexandra Station has been restored and quite some time can be spent exploring it and the surrounding collection of farm/logging and rail machinery. It is just a short ride into the town of Alexandra with its well laid out main street and ample choice of refreshment shops. A thoroughly enjoyable cycle on a well formed gravel trail.

Here is a link to my video of the ride. [Cathkin to Alexandra](#)

Allan Garbutt

The locals lobbied hard in the 1880's for the Alexandra Branch Line but were beaten by nature and the engineering realities of the hilly terrain and steep gradients that surround their township. It was not until September 1909 that the Alexandra Township Railway Extension was complete.



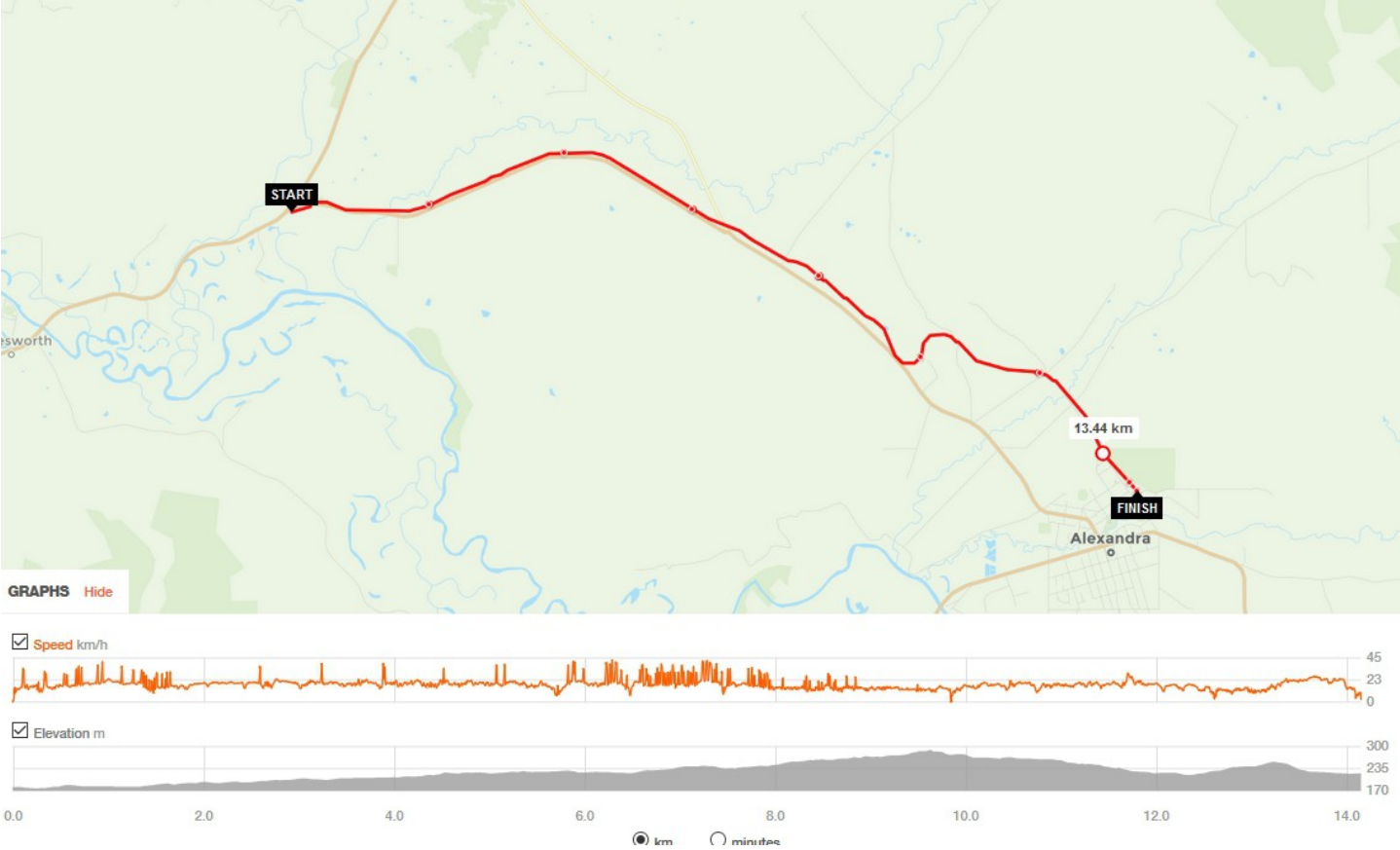
Cathkin Station



Alexandra Station



Route Map and Profile

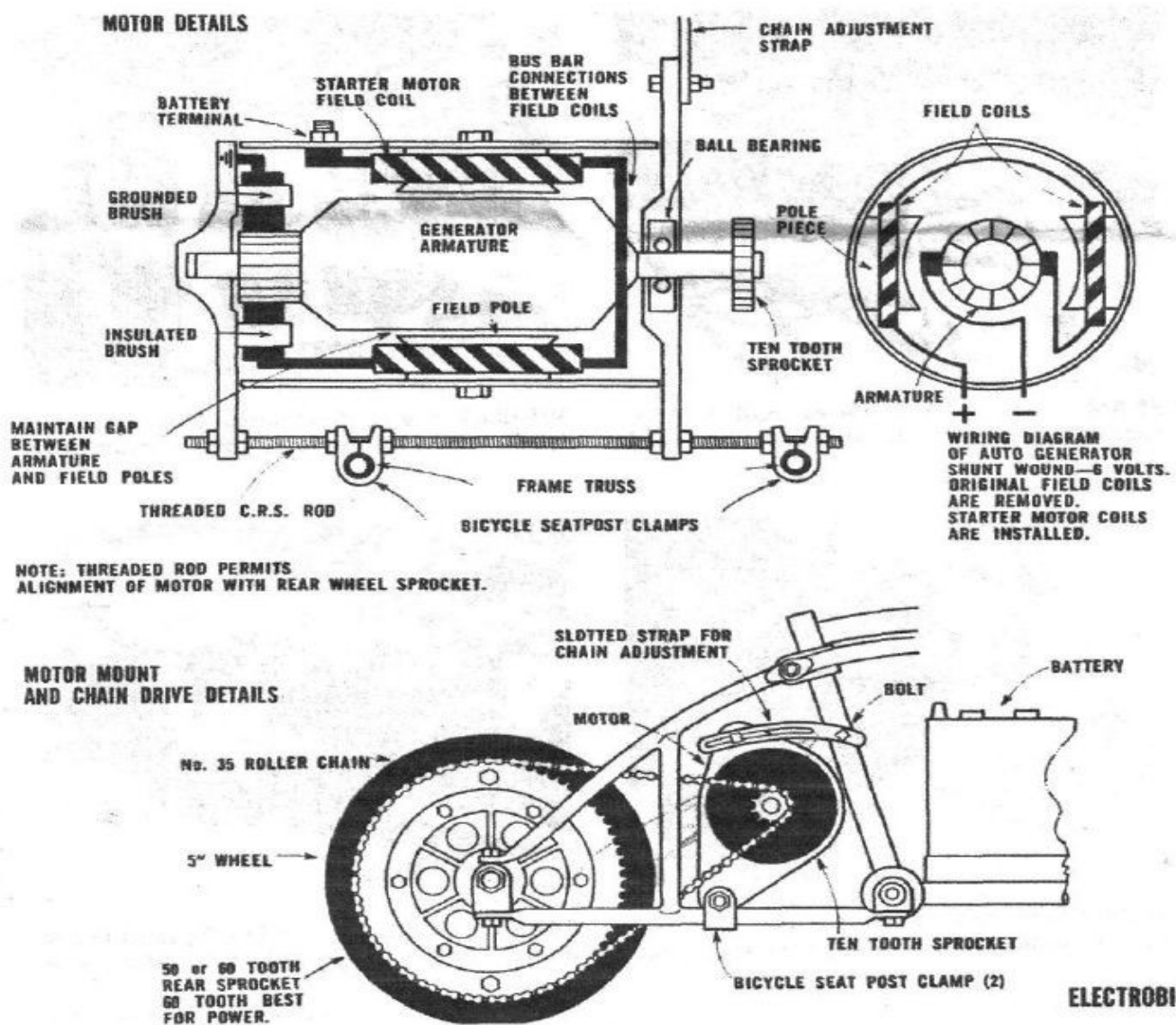


View of Alexandra Valley from the trail's highest point



Interesting Web Sites

[Calls for e-scooter laws to change as people flout the rules and police turn a blind eye](#)



Here's a Youtube video that explains all you ever wanted to know about e-scooters but were too afraid to ask.

[Best Electric Scooters in 2019? ZERO 8 & 9 Review](#)

Victorian law regarding e-scooters (I think)

In Victoria, an e-scooter cannot exceed 200 watts in power or 10km/h in speed. If an e-scooter exceeds these limits, it's classified as a motor vehicle and would require registration and a valid license before it can be used on the road with a speed limit of less than 50km/h.

How to mount a penny farthing

While leading a B-BUG ride along Beach Rd, John Pietka spotted an opportunity to fulfil a dream cherished since childhood — sit atop a penny farthing. The chance to show who really is the big wheel in town! First things first – how the hell do I get up there? Read on.....

Three easy steps



Make sure the bike is firmly held by Dean Bolwell, the craftsman who built this magnificent machine. There is a small peg at lower left. Place left foot firmly on peg. Hold handlebars and hoick yourself upward.



Left foot remains on peg. Push hands down, straighten arms and edge butt over beautiful handmade leather seat. Try not to wobble.



Both feet onto the pedals. Look relaxed and calm. “*Next time*”, you say aloud, “*I’ll do it all myself*”. Avoid waving. Plays merry hell with balance.

Each year Dean Bolwell makes 30-50 of these machines by hand, including wheels and tyres, and they are beautifully finished. Most are exported. If you’d like a change from your e-bike (so 2019, so passé) have a look at his website:

<https://www.pennyfarthingdan.com.au/buy-a-penny-farthing>

Trains and boats and bikes?

Banyule BUG's Super Dooper Looper ride, November 2019

Some of our more mature readers will remember the 1965 song, *"Trains and Boats and Planes"*, sung by Dionne Warwick and written by Burt Bacharach and Hal Davis:

*"Trains and bloats and planes are passing by
They mean a trip to Paris or Rome
For someone else but not for me"*

It may have inspired this ride but we decided to replace *Paris* with *Portarlington*, *Rome* with *Geelong* and *planes* with *bikes*. This is what happened next:

A very early start

The first goal was to reach Docklands no later than 9 am. John Perkins and Jack Mitchell started from Eltham, sweeping up Laurie Baressi and Randall Dehnert further on. Swept into Docklands at 9.02 precisely, to be greeted by an elegant Tony McKittrick near the *Cow In A Tree* statue. The Fabulous Five!

Why the rush? Well, to catch the 9.30 am ferry to Portarlington. Passengers are advised to get there by 9.15 and there's space for 20 bikes; \$16 one-way with bikes free. Handy hint: the Port Phillip Ferry terminal houses a small café offering egg & bacon muffin plus coffee for \$10. And more options. Welcome and delicious!

The ferry company has just started a Geelong—Docklands service too. All details of schedules and fares on their website portphillipferries.com.au

On the ferry

First step is to stow the bikes. Twenty ceiling hooks at the stern, with loops and ropes below to lash the cargo. So nautical! And we didn't lose one.

Two enclosed cabins for passengers plus an on-board café. More coffee! Very new; very luxe.

Slowly back out from the dock then circle and cruise out to the bay. Great views of the Dockland buildings, weird and wonderful. Including the black and-white optical illusion that damages your brain and the apartments modelled on the Leaning Tower of Pisa.





The catamaran runs at a gentle pace for some time. Once out in the Bay the pedal is pushed to the metal: it picks up its skirts and flies! We were cruising along at 55-60 km/h (as checked on the bike computer). Very stable and level inside the cabins; outside a thrashing chaos of churning wakes and thundering engines



The trip takes 1 hr 10 min — highly recommended

Up the Bellarine

We took inland roads to Drysdale. Up the hill from the jetty, left on to the main drag then right at the Queenscliff turn-off (C126). Dead straight road, not too hilly, not too busy. Right at Murradoc Rd (C125) to Drysdale. Pedal through the village outskirts and meet up with the Bellarine Peninsula Rail Trail, recently

given a bitumen topping which makes riding pretty straightforward. Must be said there was a strong headwind all the way. The lads stopped to take down details of exciting new job opportunities then pressed onward under thickening clouds.



So then it rained. Not torrential soaking maddening rain but gentle and continuous drizzle that has the same ultimate effect. Passing South Geelong station Tony McKittrick suddenly remembered he had to shampoo his pet ferret. A V-line train was at the station — what better time to jump aboard and whizz back to the Big Smoke?



Only a half-kilometre further and we cleared the drizzle into sunshine and central Geelong. Perfect time to stop for lunch at the Sailors Rest café on the seafront. Jack Mitchell surpassed us all with a chilled glass of crisp white and a plateful of Portarlington mussels in a chilli sauce. He ate every morsel, quivering with delight!

If this is making your mouth water, here is a recipe

Ingredients

- 4 Roma tomatoes
- 50 ml extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 tbsp finely chopped garlic
- 1 tsp finely chopped fresh birdseye chilli
- 2 kg , scrubbed and debearded
- 250 ml dry white wine
- 800 gm canned tomato polpa or chopped canned tomatoes
- ¼ cup each flat-leaf parsley and basil, coarsely chopped, plus extra to serve
- To serve: toasted ciabatta, drizzled with extra-virgin olive oil

Method

- 1
Bring a small saucepan of water to the boil. Make a small cross incision on the base of each tomato and blanch until skin starts to peel off (30-40 seconds), then place in iced water, peel off skin and coarsely chop tomatoes, discarding seeds.
- 2
Combine extra-virgin olive oil, garlic and chilli in a saucepan over medium-high heat. Add mussels and wine, cover with a lid and shake occasionally until mussels open (2-3 minutes). Strain, reserving liquid, and arrange mussels on a platter. Return liquid to saucepan over high heat, add chopped tomato and canned polpa, and bring to the boil. Add herbs, then pour over mussels. Season to taste, scatter with extra herbs and serve with toasted ciabatta.

Hovells Creek Trail to Lara

The trail runs from Geelong at the rear of the docks area, near the refinery. Fascinating, if you're interested in industrial architecture and some hidden surprises.

One was the huge number of wind turbine parts including those immense blades; another spoke for itself. The trail leads to Lara and the train station. V-line trains were going through every 20 minutes or so and there was plenty of space for bikes. Fare was c.\$7.



Southern Cross to home

We decanted at Southern Cross, only for Randall to discover a flat tyre. We left him valiantly pumping until he took the relaxed option and caught a Hurstbridge train. For the rest – one of the usual routes to Warringal, beside the Yarra, past the MCG and north.

In all, 113 km of cycling for the round trip Eltham-Eltham. A ferry and a train, a delicious lunch. Very enjoyable — a big mix of locations, views, weather, modes of transport. Recommended!

John Perkins
January 2020

[For a nostalgia trip here is a link to Dionne Warwick singing the original “Planes and boats an planes”.](#)

Changes to footpath cycling laws

https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/newsmedia/2019/changes-to-footpath-cycling-laws?fbclid=IwAR1odHzNUvqlh0zm-G6Tqclylea1SANGqqo-yA_1AI3hd3bRw3RAc3wsssw



Before you decide to cycle along the footpath on your next ride in Victoria, check out the link above.

Darebin Creek Upgrade and Closures

Maurie did post this link in an email, but here it is again. There will be significant changes to our rides along the Darebin Creek for a little while, but the work is sorely needed.

A number of people have asked about the archived images for Banyule BUG rides. Well here they are and there are two of them.

[Latte Group Riders](#)

[All BUG activities images](#)

These archives are large, but spend some time exploring as you are bound to find an historic picture of yourself.

[Check out this image for a 'blast from the past'.](#)

Riding with the BUG

*-I'm as free as a bird
a magpie on the wing
clear blue sky,
and a treed canopy overhead
I cross over bridges
with water rippling over
-rocks below
what peace and joy I feel
and connection with the infinite*



Irene Gerrard 22nd January 2020

A new Banyule BUG uniform???



I I couldn't help but be impressed by the flare and undoubted courage of these cyclists displaying their latest () cycling gear. The Banyule BUG uniform committee should seriously consider something along these lines for our riders.

Close your eyes if you will and try to imagine the white, skin-tight lycra adorned with tiny red ladybugs all marching lock step in one direction. It would re-define what it means to be a cyclists.

*Now, dear readers, as
always. Send your
contributions to Allan
Garbutt
allang@bigpond.net.au*