



Banyule BUG Newsletter

December
2025

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93 Times Around Sol

During the month of November, our club celebrated a significant birthday.

Kelvin turned 93.

Kelvin is a much loved and regular rider of the Latte group who turns up for most of our regular Tuesday and Friday rides. To mark this as an "achievement" would be an understatement.



"Happy birthday Kelvin"

From Alison McCormack CEO ([Return](#))

Re E,Bikes

Hi all,

Following my previous emails, I wanted to provide an update.

We are excited to share a positive win for bike riders across Australia, the Australian Infrastructure and Transport Ministers yesterday confirmed that the internationally recognised EN standard for e-bikes will be reinstated.

This update was outlined in the Ministerial Communique, which states:

"Ministers agreed to work towards a regulatory framework for e-mobility devices to ensure safe and consistent supply and use of these devices in the Australian market, while still promoting mobility and innovation."

A framework is still being developed, however in the interim, the Communique says: "To supplement this (new framework), and to assist importers, the Commonwealth will reinstate the EN-15194 standard and meet with relevant stakeholders to ensure the use of this standard is well understood and supported."

This is a significant step towards reducing unsafe and non-compliant e-bikes entering the Australian market. Reinstating EN15194 provides a clear, internationally recognised compliance pathway and strengthens public confidence in e-bikes as a safe and sustainable transport option. It reflects the strong, unified advocacy led by We Ride Australia and bicycle organisations across the country, including Bicycle Network, as well as the voices of many community members who called for action.

Here are some links to background advocacy for those who would like additional context:

- * [Ministerial Communique](#):
- * [Cycling community celebrates reinstatement of e-bike standard \(We Ride Australia\)](#):
- * [Bicycle Network: Ministers demand urgent e-bike action from Canberra](#):
- * [Bicycle Network: E-bike forum and rider concerns](#):
- * [Bicycle Network: Illegal e-bikes and safety risks](#):
- * [Bicycle Network submission to the Commonwealth Government \(PDF\)](#):

Next steps: Letter to Minister Williams regarding the proposed ban on e-bikes on public transport

I also wanted to let you know that I have written to Minister Williams today requesting that the proposed ban on e-bikes on public transport in Victoria be withdrawn, particularly in light of EN15194 being reinstated at the ITM meeting and outlined in the Communique.

In my letter, I noted that with a clear compliance standard now restored nationally, a broad ban on e-bikes is not warranted. I acknowledged there may be concerns about the current mix of e-bikes in use while the national regulatory framework is being completed, and recommended that Victoria take a more targeted approach. In particular, I advised following the Bicycle New South Wales position of banning post-market modification kits and motor swaps, which are a major source of unsafe, illegal devices.

I have requested a meeting with the Minister to discuss this further and ensure Victoria aligns with the national direction without penalising people who rely on compliant e-bikes for everyday travel.

Christmas E-Bike Buyers Guide

We are also finalising a Christmas E-Bike Buyers Guide to help parents and riders make safe and informed decisions. The guide explains the EN standard, battery safety considerations, anti-tampering protections and the risks associated with unsafe models currently entering the market. We will circulate a draft shortly for your feedback.

Thank you all for your continued collaboration. Yesterday's announcement shows what is possible when we work together, and we will keep pushing for strong, nationally consistent protections that prioritise rider safety.

Best regards,
Ali

Alison McCormack
CEO

Latte Group Summer Rides Starting Time [\(Return\)](#)

Happy Summer to all

After a chat with Colin McKnight and John Perkins we have decided that the Latte Group will commence rides at 8.20 am and 8.30 am, Tuesdays and Fridays from JANUARY 2026 until the end of FEBRUARY 2026, as we did last summer.

December start times will remain 9.20 and 9.30 am.

The Lycra group will commence rides at 8.15 am from December.

*We will consider changing to the earlier start times in December 2026.
Let's chat about it over this summer.*

*Best wishes and safe cycling,
Peter Gurney*

Communicating the benefits of 30km/h streets [\(Return\)](#)

While the benefits of reducing speed limits on selected streets are now well proven following the world-wide trend to lower traffic speeds, there is still opposition from die-hard freedom lovers.

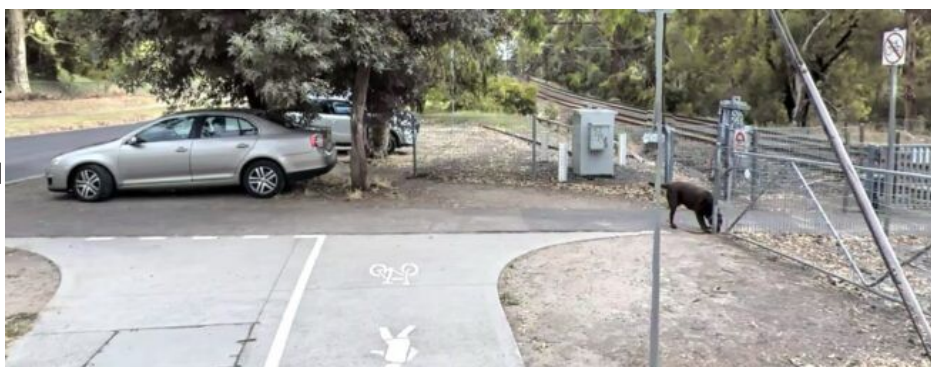
What do you think? Read more here. [\(Link\)](#)

Rail bridge project to extend bike route [\(Return\)](#)

The project to remove the Ruthven Street level crossing in Macleod will deliver an extension of the shared path along the railway line.

The state government has announced that it will remove the level crossing by building a rail bridge over the road.

This design creates space for more landscaping and the new shared user path along Ellesmere Parade – filling long-standing missing link in the local walking and cycling network and giving pedestrians and cyclists a safer, more direct connection between Ruthven Street and Davies Street. Follow this story here. [\(Link\)](#)



A couple of BUG Members on the Sunshine Coast enjoying the warmth – unlike Melbourne. [\(Return\)](#)



Elevated Bike Path Xiamen, China [\(Return\)](#)

I always look with some envy and admiration at what is being achieved overseas in terms of cycling infrastructure. Here is a stunning example from China of an elevated walking/cycling trail that cuts through the city of Xiamen. It is just stunning. [\(Link\)](#)



E-Bike rider dies following collision [\(Return\)](#)

From The ABC.

An e-bike rider has died after colliding with a garbage truck in Sydney's CBD.

The driver of the truck has been taken to hospital for mandatory testing and an investigation is under way.

Premier Chris Minns described the incident as a "tragedy" as he announced a raft of new e-bike safety measures. [\(Link\)](#)

Here is 'Sky News' take on this matter. [\(Link\)](#)

Exercise trains your immune system [\(Return\)](#)

Interesting report from BN.

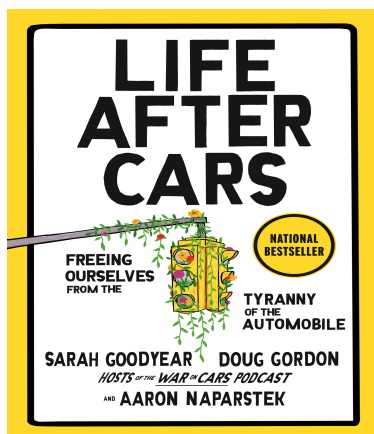
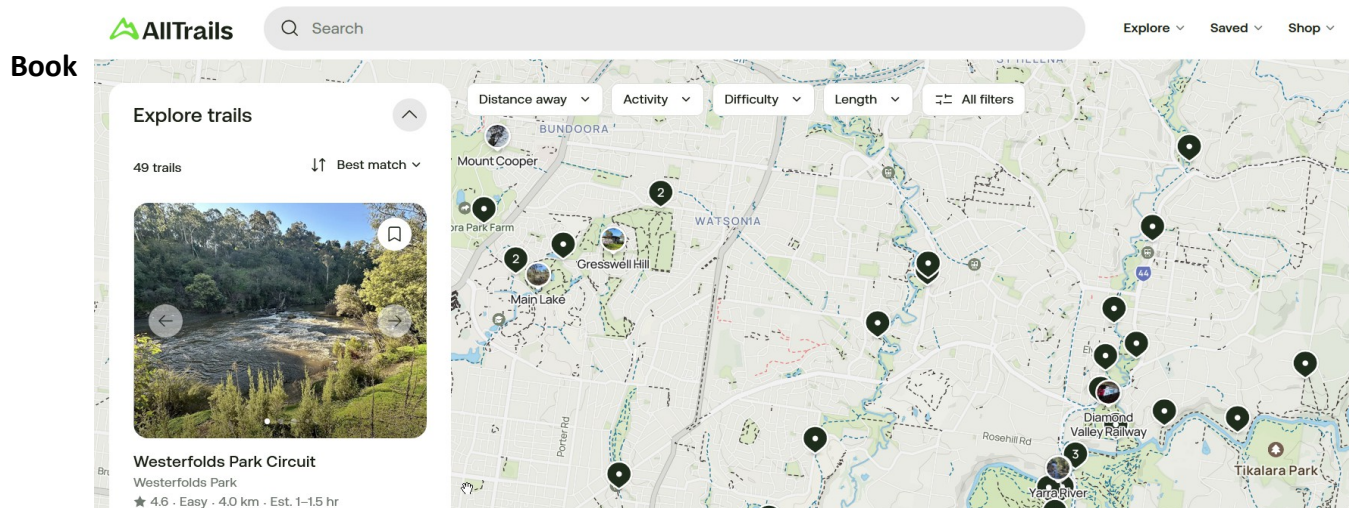


New research into the function of natural killer cells in the body has found that endurance exercise boosts their efficiency and effectiveness in fighting disease and keeping us biologically young.

By indulging in prolonged physical activity such as long-distance swimming, cycling, running and rowing, older adults prime their natural killer (NK) cells to fight off the ravages of inflammation associated with illness and ageing. Full article here. [\(Link\)](#)

From All Trails [\(Return\)](#)

A wonderful offering of suggested trail rides in our area using a clickable map system. It includes photographs of the trail suggested plus a small trail route. Well worth a visit. [\(Link\)](#)



Review

Book Review: Life After Cars [\(Return\)](#)

Life After Cars is a thought-provoking exploration of what society might look like if the automobile—one of the most defining technologies of the last century—were suddenly gone or drastically diminished. Blending social commentary, environmental analysis, and speculative storytelling, the book invites readers to reconsider how deeply cars shape everything from urban design to personal identity.

At its core, the book is less about vehicles themselves and more about the

systems we've built around them. The author examines how car-centric planning has influenced housing patterns, economic development, community structures, and even the pace of daily life. In imagining a post-car future, the book doesn't fall into dystopian tropes; instead, it presents a nuanced picture of both the challenges and opportunities that such a transition would bring.

What Works Well

- **Rich world-building:** The speculative scenarios feel grounded and realistic, making the thought experiment engaging rather than abstract.
- **Interdisciplinary insight:** The narrative weaves together urban planning, sociology, climate science, and behavioural psychology, giving readers a holistic view of modern mobility.
- **Hopeful tone:** Instead of dwelling on loss, the book highlights the potential for more connected communities, healthier environments, and slower, more intentional living.

Possible Drawbacks

- Readers looking for hard science or detailed policy frameworks may find some sections more narrative than analytical.
- The book occasionally idealises post-car life, glossing over political and economic frictions that would accompany such radical change.

Verdict

Life After Cars is an engaging, imaginative, and surprisingly optimistic examination of what the world could be if we reshaped our relationship with mobility. Whether you're interested in urban design, environmental futures, or simply enjoy speculative nonfiction that challenges societal norms, this book offers plenty to think about.

Life after humans [\(Return\)](#)

As an adjunct to this book, Here is a video of what the earth would be like if all humans were to disappear from earth. How long would it take for nature to reclaim our planet? [\(Link\)](#)

Ride of Sunlight [\(Return\)](#)

*Pedals turning, spirit light,
Wheels that hum in pure delight.
Morning breeze upon your face—
Freedom's rhythm, steady pace.*

*Climbing hills with steady will,
Heartbeats dancing, time stands still.
Downward gliding, smooth and free,
Life unfolds in front of thee.*

*Every mile a spark of joy,
Simple as a child's toy.
On a bike, the world feels wide—
Hope and happiness collide.*

*Ride the sunlight, chase the day,
Let your worries drift away.
For every journey, short or long,
Cycling sings a brighter song.*



New Gipps Street link is open [\(Return\)](#)

Riders along the beautiful Main Yarra Trail can at last continue through Abbotsford without encountering any steps, formally ending Bicycle Network's longest-running battle.

A sparkling stainless steel structure now swoops gracefully down to the Yarra River from the Collins Bridge above on Gipps Street.

*Merry Christmas to
you all.* [\(Return\)](#)

*I hope that you have
had a rewarding year
and that 2026 will
bring even greater
fulfilment to you and
your loved ones.*

*As you reflect upon
your year, spare a
thought for those Club
members who are no
longer with us, but
cycled the same paths
and remember their
families.*

You can ride along the river on the Kew side, cross the bridge and then turn down the elevated ramp, turn again and descend to the path along the river through to the Abbotsford Convent.

In the other direction you climb the gentle gradients of the ramp, 200 metres long in total. [\(BN Link\)](#)

