



BUG NEWS

The information RE-Cycle

FEBRUARY 2016



New Year New Look Newsletter

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- President's Report,
- Springhurst Citizen of the year
- New Bikes
- *Bellarine Peninsula-
Five day get-a-way*
- O'Shanassy Aqueduct
Rail Trail Report
- Bike Eye Mirror
- John's Highway ride
- Winton Wetlands
- Tour Down Under
- And much more



Presidents Report;

A Happy New Year and prosperous 2016 to all members and their families.

Wang BUGs celebrated the Festive Season in grand style with a well attended Christmas Dinner, held at The Vine and arranged by Fran in her usual impeccable manner. It would also seem that group behaviour has been of an acceptable standard this past year as evidenced by the advent of a number of new bikes now gracing the scene, as detailed later in the newsletter. Another is in prospect in the Boralma area with final negotiations underway. Those of us familiar with the cut and thrust of kitchen table politics will be only too well aware of the care required at this delicate stage. "Quid pro quo" details are likely to remain confidential. Similarly, Jeff is soon to appear on an upper end "Oppy" Malvern Star which is currently being fitted to his requirements. Originally ridden briefly as a demo bike by Wes, it was purchased by a neighbour of the Kneebone's, Gary Ashmead, and those of you in the Tuesday/Friday Glenrowan mob will have seen it around at that time. Recently acquired, it's worth a closer look when officially launched.

Not to be outdone, Des has recently replaced his bike seat with a "new" one, transferred from a retired steed. Lavishly and lovingly bound with gaffer tape, the old seat had reached that stage of discomfiture tending towards self-harm and masochism. Performance was also suffering as concentration could not be maintained whilst shifting seat position, allowing other riders to overtake by unfair advantage. Pondering this investment at length, Des sagely commented " Any number of bikes shops could sell me a new seat, but none could guarantee it would go any faster."

Just prior to Christmas, Norton Street residents were startled and surprised to hear what they thought was the early clatter of reindeer hooves and sleigh runners on gal iron. A number of heads shot out of windows and upon enquiry learned that one of the local worthies was simply correcting some unwanted camber which had mysteriously appeared in his roof.

Our perseverance with the Oxley Flats S Bends speed reduction issue is starting to gain some traction, with Council recently inviting and receiving submissions from the motoring public. Some replied "Get off and walk", but the majority could see the wisdom of the proposal. The issue is currently before the RCoW cycle reference group, where Dianne and Justin fly the flag for BUGs, and we should be able to advance the issue from there. We will also need to keep the solid line marking issue alive. Another matter being dealt with by this group is a proposal to have a bike path loop developed all around the CBD, and which will entail joint pedestrian/cyclist usage of both the stock bridge and the riverside boardwalk and other paths. It's important as a group, we ride slowly in these areas whilst filtering through pedestrians, making them aware of our presence, by ringing our bell.

Current extreme weather is an ongoing cause for concern, and leaders should be mindful of predicted temperatures before setting out and adjust routes and lengths accordingly. If unconscionable to some, any shortfall can of course be made up in the middle of winter.

Upcoming events include the Wangaratta Marathon and Fun Run to be held on 28th February and members keen to be involved as volunteers can contact Justin and Sharon Scholz and support our fellow club mate. Also our Bellarine Getaway as arranged by Tony & Eileen Ransom from 11th - 15th April is not too far away and will provide a great opportunity to escape from it all, relax, drink too much, eat to excess and tell a lot of highly improbable stories. And do some cycling in a beachside environment.

As always, productive pedalling!

Adrian Redfern.



NEW CYCLING AND WALKING PATHS

GROSSMAN LINK SHARED PATH

Dianne and Jen recently rode the new 820m long gravel shared path that has been completed on Boorhaman Road in North Wangaratta. This path connects the two entrances to Grossman Estate

WALDARA PARK TO RIVER'S EDGE ESTATE

The path joining the Waldara Park and River's Edge Estates is now completed. The Friday group recently decided to check out this new section of shared pathway from Yarrowonga Road to Cambridge Drive and then onto Phillipson Street. All members gave it their tick of approval. Friday riding group leaves from Batchelor's Green at 8:30am during the summer months.



L-R; Peta-Lynne, Richard, Jo, Dianne, Frank & Jen



WANGARATTA MARATHON & FUN RUN

On Sunday 28th February there are a number of club members volunteering their time to help in this year's Wangaratta Marathon & Fun Run.

If you wish to help out please contact Sharon Scholz on 5722 5954. 2016 will mark the 6th year for this community event.



CYCLING TO SUCCESS

Well done to Rick, who has for the fifth year in a row managed to achieve his goal of cycling 10,000kms or

more in each calendar year. This brings his total to 53,000kms in the past five years. Rick is hoping to once again achieve the same goal in 2016. Keep pedaling Rick, one month down and eleven more to go!!



Above Tony with the Tour's mascot and right Tony finishing the Bupa's People's Ride with an average speed of 22.3kms/hr which included a 4km climb over Crows Nest Road which has a gradient of 5.8%, thus making it a category 2 climb. Total ride time was 3hr 20min for the 72kms ride

From the 16th to 24th January Tony Fitzgerald and I travelled to South Australia to watch 17 UCI world teams compete in this year's Tour Down Under. This year the race travelled through 62 South Australian towns and covered 832kms of racing. We watched Simon Gerrans win the tour for the fourth time.

On Friday 22nd January we both went in the Bupa People's Ride which is part of the Tour Down Under. 7,000 riders took part in four different rides. 142km, 100km, 70km and 36kms.

Tony rode from Strathalbyn to Goolwa, a 70km ride and I rode from Goolwa to Victor Harbour, a 36km ride.

Tony rode the "King of the Mountain" (hills) while I chose the "Escape Route" and went around the hills.

In Victor Harbour (after we watched the Tour riders finish) we ditched the bikes and enjoyed a horse-drawn tram ride and a steam train ride which was a great way to finish the day.

Liz Quine



SPRINGHURST CITIZEN OF THE YEAR.

Congratulations to Tony on receiving the Springhurst Citizen 2016 award at the Australia Day celebrations in the Springhurst Hall. He said he was very surprised and knew nothing of the nomination, which came from 'someone in the community'.

Reference was made to his 35 years as a CFA member, 20 years with Springhurst and Byawatha Hills Landcare, including 8 years as President, as well as his involvement with Wangaratta BUGs, including President for a similar number of years and currently continuing as Vice President.

Tony, pictured with Rural City of Wangaratta representative Bronwyn Chapman.

Jeff Hirth

Come and join us on the Bellarine Peninsula

Wangaratta BUGs are planning a few days away riding the Bellarine Peninsula, leaving Wangaratta on Monday 11th April and returning on Friday 15th April.

The area features lots of beautiful riding opportunities, with great beaches and landscapes, towns and villages, lighthouses, history, rail trails, a ferry, lots of fun, and let's hope, some good weather.

I've got three rides planned at the moment;

- Queenscliff Portarlington loop, around 55 km
- Queenscliff Barwon Heads loop, around 55km
- Queenscliff Point Lonsdale town loop, around 20 km

This will leave lots of time to do some longer rides if you wish, or other sightseeing, maybe along the Rail Trail into Geelong, or even catch the ferry over to Sorrento, and have a look around the Mornington Peninsula. It's a great area for touring around of all sorts. The actual Queenscliff - Geelong Rail Trail is right next door, but it is gravel at this end and a bit loose, and not really suited to narrow tyres.

We plan to take our Caravan down and stay at the Big 4 Beacon Resort which is between Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale. This place has a whole range of cabins as well so it may suit others of you as well. You can get more details at their website, www.beaconresort.com.au. Some of the cabins at the Big 4 Beacon Resort are quite large, and could fit more than one couple, so that may help bring down the cost. There is quite a bit of other accommodation in Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale, but it all tends to be a bit expensive.

Let me know if you plan to come down and join us.

Tony Ransom Phone 57265365 or 0428 265365



It's official, Jeff has left working life behind and has now become a ***"full time bike rider"***.

Happy carefree days ahead.
From all of us at
Wangaratta Bicycle Users Group.



NEW YEAR – 3 NEW BIKES

Springhurst Sprinter, Jeff has
cycled into retirement



John's proud of his new Cannondale



David has purchased
a Trek Road Bike.

DES'S BIKE - A HAPPY ENDING!

On finding my bike missing on a Monday morning back in 2008 from a car park in Faithful Street and reporting the incident to the police, I received a phone call the next morning from said officer advising a bike had been seen by an observant eyewitness being thrown off the footbridge over the Ovens River (upstream). With the assistance of a fisherman friend, and after much dragging of the river, including a few logs, the bike eventually appeared on the surface, much to the glee of the two searchers. A bit of a hose down and it was right for the ride to Wandin Valley Orchards the next day. Even the speedometer didn't miss a beat after 24 hours at the bottom of the Ovens River. Thanks to Peter Ablajez for the rescue effort and the late Klaus for the loan of the bike and helmet which it turned out I didn't need. Still to this day, after seven years, bike and rider are still going strong!



This photo may not be the actual photo of my bike however this is exactly how it looked.

*Happy pedalling
Des Steele.*

WHITE LINE FEVER

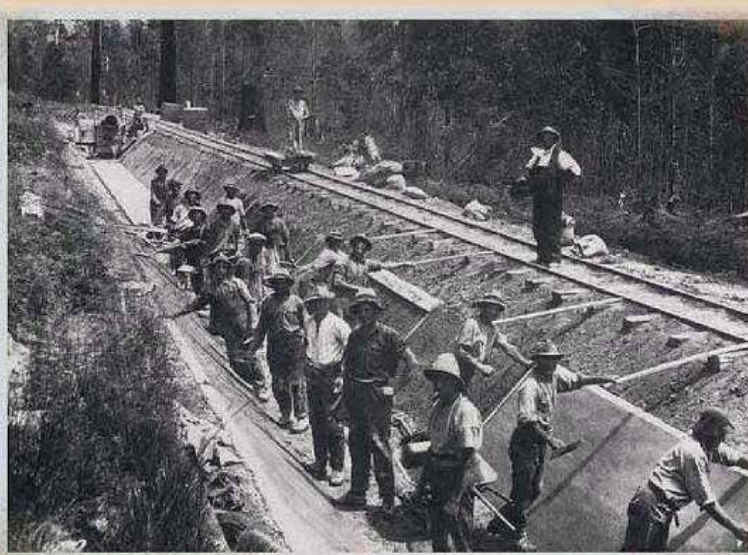
Congratulations to John.
At midnight on 9th December John decided to ride to Melbourne for the fifth time. The puncture free journey took him to Southern Cross Station where he arrived at 3pm, before catching the return train to Wangaratta. Total distance covered was 237kms.



O'Shanassy Aqueduct Rail Trail

While I was surfing the internet for information on the Lilydale-Warburton Rail Trail, I came across a fascinating cycling and walking trail just north of Warburton called the O'Shanassy Aqueduct Trail. This trail was the original access track that the Melbourne water authority (MMBW) used to service an open aqueduct that delivered water by gravity from the east of Warburton into Melbourne's eastern water supply system.

The aqueduct was built between 1910 and 1914, and conveyed water from a weir built on the O'Shanassy River, about 15 km north east of Warburton, around the contour and through the bush on the north side of the Yarra River. After 32 km of open aqueduct, the water fed into pipes north west of Launching Place and continued under gravity into the Surrey Hills reservoirs.



Building of the aqueduct in 1912

This aqueduct continued to deliver water to Melbourne for 82 years until it was fully decommissioned in 1996 and is now managed by Parks Victoria as part of the Yarra Ranges National Park.

The wonderful feature about this trail is that it passes through some magnificent mountain ash and tree-fern forests, with glimpses of the Yarra valley from the north side, as opposed to the views from the Lilydale-Warburton rail trail on the south side.

In many parts the aqueduct trail passes right alongside the aqueduct on the old construction track, as seen in the above photo, whereas in other sections, the aqueduct disappears completely into pipes and the trail takes on some steep climbs and descents to negotiate difficult sections of the local topography.

The township of Warburton lies about one km south from the mid-point of the aqueduct trail, with the seven km section of the trail to the west of Warburton described in the tourist brochures as the best section for family cycling.

I had allowed a whole day to ride from the trail's mid-point up above Warburton to the O'Shanassy River weir but my day was halved when one of the friends I was staying with had a car accident on her way to work and I spent the morning picking up the pieces, so to speak. When my friend phoned her boss at lunchtime, her boss told her to have the rest of the day off and my friend said *'I'm coming with you'*.

So we started cycling on the trail at about 3 pm and pushed for about nine km up the trail before we did a U-turn and arrived back in Warburton for a coffee at about 4.45 pm. This section of the trail is quite overgrown, with only narrow tyre-track sections of gravel visible through the grass, bark, tree litter and branches. On two occasions, we had to lift our bikes over the trunks of trees that had fallen across the trail; elsewhere, it looks like the MMBW workers repaired the pot holes in their track with coarse river gravel. It was quite rough to ride in places and often the smoothest path was along the boundary between the 'tyre tracks' and the grass.

I found the trail rough going even on my hybrid, particularly in the soft wet sections and it doesn't pay to fall off your bike onto the wet grass as the leaches immediately attach themselves to you! I reckon the best cycling option for this section to the O'Shanassy weir is a mountain bike with good suspension.

Nevertheless, the mountain ash and tree-fern forests we cycled through were just magnificent. And the concrete walls of the aqueduct itself, which has been not used or maintained for almost 20 years, are breaking up and falling in, and its base is filling up with tree litter and organic matter and growing grass along its length.

Now your trivial pursuit question behind this report is '*After whom was the O'Shanassy River named?* Sir John O'Shanassy was the Premier of the Colony of Victoria on three different occasions in the turbulent 1850s and 1860s. This was when the landed gentry (the squatters) were desperately trying to hold onto their power and influence as the (Irish) gold miners and immigrant working classes sought fairer representation in the Victorian Parliament. Sir John O'Shanassy was a great advocate for the latter groups.



The aqueduct is now barely visible in the lower left of the photo.



An example of where the aqueduct goes into pipes to go under a road.



Where has the aqueduct gone? It is hidden in the forest overgrowth in the lower left hand side of the photo.

Jeff on one of the remaining control structures on the old O'Shanassy aqueduct.



Jeff Hirth



BIKE EYE

I recently got a “Bike Eye” mirror after seeing it in an article in Bicycle Victoria’s “Ride On” magazine. It’s quick to fit, easy to use and doesn’t get in the way of anything. There is no vibration transmitted from the road up through the bike and the view is very clear with no distortion. I get a really good view of what’s behind by just glancing down. Although the view behind is good, I still look over my shoulder when turning in traffic.

If anyone is thinking about getting one, I would recommend it.

Mike Molloy

JOURNEY TO MOYHU



Back Row; Tony, John, Eileen, Pat and Bob.
Front Row; Terry, Dianne, Fran Julie and David.

After the refreshment stop at iNeeta Cafe in Moyhu, we stopped for a photo shoot at the monument of the narrow gauge Postal Motor, which after 1952, had its daily run from Wangaratta to Whitfield. It was affectionately known as the "Spirit of Salts". (There lies a tale for another day!) All up on this ride we cycled 72kms.

Dianne Cribbes



Gerrie and John.
“Keep pushing”!!!



The restoration of the 8,750 hectare Wetlands is a project of national scientific significance and is the largest wetland restoration project in the Southern Hemisphere.



Recently Fran, Jeff, Julie, David, Eileen, Tony and Robin enjoyed a ride and morning tea at the Winton Wetlands Café. Some members rode the journey from Wangaratta, thus completing an 80km ride while some started from Glenrowan. A most enjoyable morning was had by all of us.

COMMITTEE POSITIONS

President

Adrian Redfern

Vice President

Tony Ransom

Secretary

Terry Kirby

Treasurer

Colin Andrews

Committee; Fran Kneebone, Dianne Cribbes, Justin Scholz,
Jeff Hirth and Barry Jordan.

Newsletter Editor/Web page; Julie McQuade - newsletters@wangarattabug.com

Newsletter of Wangaratta Bicycle User Group Inc.

Registered No. A0031151T

Post Office Box 858 Wangaratta Vic. 3677

PRINT POST PUBLICATION NO 346626/0044



The following local bicycle shops shown below are proud supporters of the Wangaratta Bicycle User Group. You are encouraged to visit their stores, check out their extensive range of bicycles and accessories and seek qualified advice on your bicycle issues. Please support them through your purchases.



21-23 Rowan Street, Wangaratta Ph: 5721 4744



Printed by Daro.
17A Baker Street
Wangaratta.
Ph 5721 9277



Get fitter. Stress less. Have fun.