

Manningham B.U.G. Newsletter – June 2009

Minutes of the General Meeting

Date: 18.5.09

Meeting started at 8:20 pm.

Present: Attendance: Gary, Jan, Peter, Terry, Alan B, Alan E, Harvey, Jo, Helen J, Joan, Katherine and Bernard.

Apologies: Fiona, Lyn.

Treasurer's Report:

Bank Balance \$2,909.36

Membership:

9 family & 29 single

Correspondence: Nil

General Business

Manningham Council has provided information about the Spring Festival to be held at Ruffey Lake Park on Sunday 15 November. The meeting agreed that Gary will submit an expression of interest in conducting a bike crèche, as we have done in the past.

Gary reported on the Manningham Council's Swap for Sustainability event on Saturday 2nd May - he and Terry attended to promote the BUG, and give demonstrations of basic maintenance for bikes, but found themselves conducting roadworthy checks on used bikes that were being swapped.

We need photographs of a range of BUG activities in order to update the display board used for promotions - donations will be welcomed.

Alan B reported that the extension of the Mullum Mullum track south from Tindals Rd will be further delayed by the necessity for Council to negotiate purchase of private land on the route.

Ride reports:

Although not providing a formal report, Alan E and Jo entertained the meeting with some reminiscences of their recent 2,300 km ride from Port Augusta to Karumba in North Queensland. 20 days of riding, 4 rest days, lots of heat and head winds, poor road surfaces, and lots of road trains combined to make the ride 'challenging' even for these hardy souls.

Future Rides (See newsletter & calendar for details):

WXYZ ride will be conducted on Sat 23 May

Bernard will lead a ride from the Zoo to Williamstown on Sat 26 June - details TBA.

There isn't much on the ride calendar for June or July, so members are asked to nominate a ride they will lead.

New operating year starts on 1 July:

Members are reminded that subs renewals are due on 1 July - the cost is the same as last year.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on 17 August, and that includes election of the committee; both Gary and Harvey stated their intention to stand down from the committee, so we will need some new candidates.

Meeting closed at: 9:15pm.

OUR NEXT MEETING

- Monday 15 June, 8pm. Venue: Pancake Parlour, 550 Doncaster Rd Doncaster

IT'S SUBSCRIPTION TIME AGAIN!

Yes, your annual membership is due again on the 1st of July

\$25 - Single or \$40 - Family

Download and print a form from; www.vicnet.net.au/~mannbug/Manningham_BUG_subs_&_disclaimer.pdf

Those who receive this newsletter via the postman will find a form enclosed

- if it's missing ring Harv 9890-8006 or Terry 9848 6027

(Please ignore all the above if you receive our newsletter on a complementary basis.)

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We need some more rides:

We need some more rides to fill our calendar so ring Harv on 9890-8006 with your ideas
- Watch out for a possible Phillip Island weekend later in the year.

FUTURE RIDES:

The Zoo to Williamstown and back - Sat 20th June

Meet at the Zoo railway station (Melway 29E11) at 9:30am. It will be a fairly easy ride of around 30km.
Book in with Bernard on 9878 6640

Westerfolds to Diamond Creek- Sat 27th June

Terry is leading another meander from Westerfolds to Diamond Creek and return, starting at the Porter Street car park (Melway 33E3) at 9.30am. Tell Terry you'll be there on 9848 6027.

RIDE REPORTS:

The final alphabet ride - WXYZ!! - Sat 23 May

Sixteen members met at the Fairfield boatshed car park for Gary's "Last Of A Series Ride". We immediately headed up the hill to the boulevard then of to the long gone Willsmere Station site. Down past Xavier College and Xavier St. in Kew to follow around the old Hawthorn-Kew rail easement. Yes, as usual it was to be another ride that wanders around joining the letters. Down onto the Yarra and heading off to a crowded Abbotsford Convent - too crowded to coffee so on to Qunice Café in Clifton Hill. Then via some back streets to the Zoo for the final 'Z' photo. Following the trail across to Rushall where the Trail is still closed we split up for the final dash back to our start.



These are the facts only - the sense of completing the alphabet ride series could only have been experienced by being there. More needs to go in a future newsletter.. Watch this space.

BUT a BIG BIG thanks goes to Gary for some fantastic rides.

AGM:

The BUG Annual General Meeting will be held in August -so mark the date: Monday August 17th now.
Nearly all positions are up for grabs - so give a thought to putting in a year to grow our BUG.

Street Directory

Some admired Alan's compact street directory on the WXYZ ride. It was a "UBD Melbourne Compact" - it's slightly smaller than A5 and weighs only 500grams. Not many places stock it. His was \$11.95 (member price) at Doncaster RACV. The writing is small and the maps are not quite as good or extensive as a Melways but it is much more portable and easily fits in the pocket of a pannier. UBD also have a "Mini" version but Alan found that it was useless - all the minor roads are missing in the mid and outer suburbs.

The Five Dollar Fix

Alan E. used a five dollar note to patch his tyre after it was slashed by a rock on his recent 30 day/2300km Gulf to Gulf ride. The note still in there. Those Aussie banknotes are quite tough.

Gelantipy Wilderness Escape Apr 17-19

I first noticed an ad for this event in Bicycle Victoria's magazine 'Ride On' late last year. I was hooked when I read 'Escape to the wilderness of East Gippsland & explore the beauty of the Gelantipy and Buchan regions'.

I felt a little tentative when I read the ride descriptions, for example 'the McKillops Bridge route, which features a steep descent and precipitous road edges' but I signed up anyway.

The ride was organized by the 'Wilderness Bike Ride Association'- two affiliated cycling groups: 'SNOBS' (Snowy Orbost Bicycle Society) and 'BADMOB' (Bairnsdale and District Mountain Bikers).

Approximately 40 people gathered at Karoonda Park in Gelantipy - choice of dormitory-style accommodation or camping- all meals provided. We were briefed each day on one or two riding options and the weather was mostly kind to us. The organization and support throughout the 3 days was excellent.

I have to admit that before the ride -apart from a passing thought that perhaps I should be riding a mountain bike and not a hybrid- I had thought more about the scenery than the actual ride.

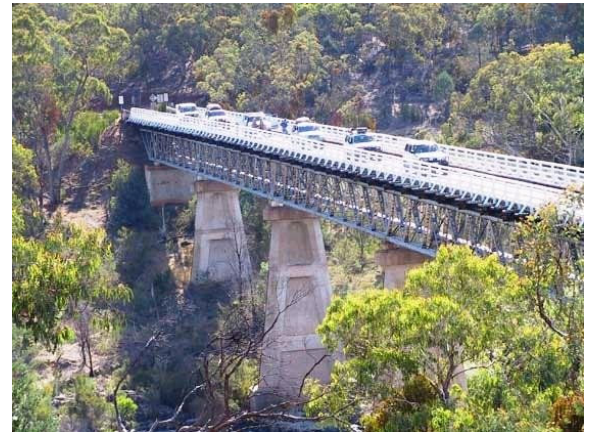
The uphill were 'upmountains' but you can always walk those and I often did. I'm not a dare-devil so I beetled down the steep descents very slowly - the most worrying moments were when I couldn't keep my hands on the brakes because the roads were so corrugated!

All worth it though- the scenery was spectacular- and in the evenings you could relax in front of a log fire with a glass of red wine and delightful company.

We also had some fascinating talks, firstly about the local history and secondly, on saving the brush-tailed rock wallaby - until recently only found in the Snowy River National Park.

I'd thoroughly recommend this event. It always takes place in East Gippsland but the location changes from year to year (2008's was based at Cape Conran). I'm certainly adding this to my list of 'must-do-again-next-year' rides'.

Fiona



Travellers:

Jacinta and Kevin have reported from distant Machu Picchu in Peru.

"WOW!!! All the photos in the world don't do it justice. It was amazing to see all the different structures and the work involved in shaping the granite and so long ago. So high in the Andes. You really have to see it to believe it. And we have!!

The 4 day hike was something else. We travelled over rocky surface and sandy ground seeing many sites along the way. Our walking poles were a bonus as the steps are very uneven in height and on steep up and down paths. Kev and I agreed it was probably the most physical challenge we have ever undertaken. Breathing difficulty with lack of oxygen in high altitude was heavy going but not impossible obviously, as we achieved the goal each day. We shared the camp at night with a couple from Toronto who were only 24 and 25yrs old but good company for the grandparents!! Our guide walked and talked only to us 4 as we journeyed through beautiful country and to Inca sites only seen on this walk. There were only 500 hikers each day including porters who carry up to 30 kilos of weight on their back running to the camp site each day ahead of us to set up our tent and prepare incredible meals on only a double gas burner!

Needless to say a life long memory of a special place we have shared.

Anne and Harv are off to the Oodnadatta Track in the top of South Australia late June through to mid July so there will probably be no June BUG Newsletter but there should be one in August before the AGM.

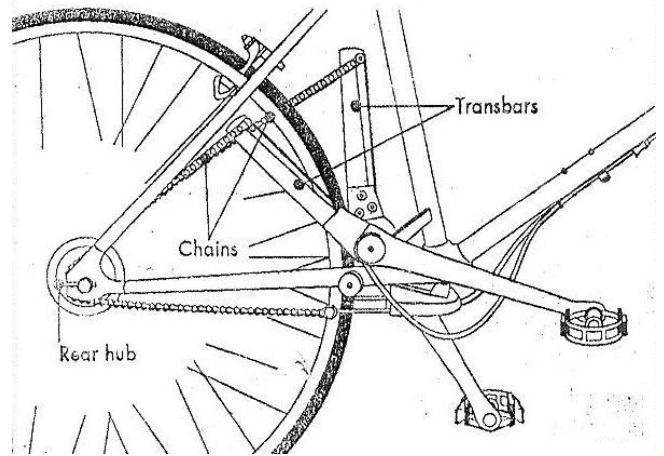
Other ways to 'pedal' your bike

The Transbar Power System

. This system was invented by a Korean; Marn T. Seol, and is sold by Alenax. From what we can find out there's no distribution in Australia - maybe you're looking for a business opportunity?

This is how it works...

As one foot pushes a pedal downward, the other pedal rises, ready for another downward stroke. Each pedal is connected by a separate chain to the ratcheting hub on the rear wheel. As the pedals seesaw up and down, separate chains on each side of the wheel propel the bicycle.



Ride, Sit and Go or is it Rise and Go?

How the RISIGO works. The pedals are evenly aligned. The rider doesn't shift their weight from one leg to the other. Body weight is utilized to power the Risigo. Both feet push down together and as you do this the seat rises. Then as you sit down on the seat the pedal both come up.



The Mullum Mullum Trail

How much of the Mullum Mullum Shared Trail from Tindals Road to Park St is complete? This question was asked by Maurie of Banyule BUG and Alan Ball answered

"A little over half is complete. You can ride the kilometer that is complete from Park Rd at Conos Ct. It is bitumen except for about 50m. It has a complete major bridge and finishes at a 2nd timber bridge currently 99% complete but closed and fenced off. It just needs the remaining "simple" path to Tindals Rd.

It was to be finished this financial year, but they were going to run the path through a new subdivision at the Tindals Rd end. That subdivision wasn't approved. One council officer said the owners are now apparently going to sell the land and Council is looking at purchasing the strip required. He thought it may be done next year, but that may be wishful thinking. At least they've done the expensive bridges.

The next section from Park Rd to Eastlink is still scheduled for construction in 2010 -2012 as far as I know."

Thanks for the update Alan.

True Tales

Did you hear that Gary tried to swap Terry for a burnt sausage at the Sustainability Swap Meet - he got the sausage but the no-one would take Terry!

At least one member has re-invested the Rudd \$900 in a new bike - way to go girl!

Jo is going to run the Melbourne Marathon this October - No she has ever run a marathon before! She has undertaken a 20 week training program and has to raise \$2,000 for Can Too. Can Too is a program where professional coaches train you to run or swim an endurance event while raising money for Cure Cancer Australia Foundation.

Oh by the way, if she doesn't raise the \$2000 she has to pay it herself.