



December 2015 - Jan 2016

Hi TBUG members and supporters

Welcome to the end of another successful year of TBUG. I hope that you have all enjoyed the rides we have offered and trust you will be with us in 2016. Season's Greetings to you all. So enjoy reading this smaller newsy update. Cheers Di

Quote for the month; "You can't buy happiness, but you can buy a bike and that's pretty close"

What's TBUG been up to in the last 2 months?

Members have been enjoying the Wednesday rides that Mick introduced, come along on Thursday nights, now we have more daylight the rides can last an 1 ½ hours!

Messages from the President and Committee.

Notes from Bike Futures Conference *Cycle Tourism – Jobs, business, strong communities*. Held in Launceston 1-13 November

TBUG attendees: Malcolm Reid, Di McHenry and Craig Elliott.

- Overall positive and well organised event.
- Premier attended and acknowledged importance of cycling to health and economy. Looking for govt to make strategic interventions. There are still issues of "organisation and delivery." This was referring to NE Rail Trail. Business attendance disappointing although some such as Alison Hugo - who is setting up bike/history tour business in Launceston - found it very useful. E-bike businesses brought some e-bikes for demonstration purposes and people were fascinated.
- Best presentations from:

Evan Freshwater, NZ Cycle Trails Manager. NZ has well established number of Great Rides (off road) and Heartland Rides (on road). Built in response to GFC under a 'jobs summit' and need to support tourism when visitor numbers dropped. Collaboration between National, Local govt and business. They have discovered cyclists are high value, ie they spend a lot. 75% of railtrail riders were over 55 with 25 -49 next biggest group. Important issues – negotiations with traditional owners, having high profile trail champions – both local and national - and in NZ Prime Minister is also Minister for Tourism, importance of data collection and feedback to business, need to develop trail trusts with businesses to manage maintenance etc, organising events to promote trails, Local 'ownership' and

commitment to the trails and supporting businesses with a national strategy setting track standards, accreditation, priorities for future developments, central fund (matching dollar for dollar) for repair and maintenance work

Clayton Neil, Alpine Shire (Vic) 10 year process to make shire (Bright and surrounds) a cycling mecca. Base on original survey that showed 60% interested in cycling but have issues re safety, confidence etc with 8% committed. Highlighted importance of business case, creating political will and providing visitors with a good experience of locals. Need to know your market and provide different products for different riders. Now have 426 businesses registered in shire as cycle-friendly. Based on two 'activators' – infrastructure (trails, paths, support businesses) and events. Events really significant for business support and are perfect way to demo to local businesses the value of the market. Also importance of regional collaboration. Help visitors find / discover what appeals to them as part of the package - riding plus food, wine, landscape views. Cycle friendly business program. Point to point touring market exists but not strong for NE VIC, more accomodation hubs and short to medium distances trips

Luke Middleton, Active Transport Planner State Growth, Seminar on Positive Provision Policy. All Tas road infrastructure projects cycling and pedestrians have to be provided for. Where this doesn't happen Project Managers have to specifically justify why not. Luke reported that it was still a frustrating and slow process but a big step forward. State govt will spend \$4 million over next 5 years improving roads for cycling. Luke is happy to talk to TBUG

Also went to a workshop on collaboration which was encouraging groups like ours to run with things and get on with ideas and not rely on government to lead orcesses. I think we do that quite well already!

Susie Bower - Dorset Council - Economic Benefit of Cycle Tourism to Small Towns

- The 'vibe' of the town identified earlier by trails developer – potential to attract visitors
- Topography - room to grow
- 'Ski in and ski out' direct from the town and cafes
- Community ready and willing - they knew it was their future
- The market - MAMIL's w \$100k income
- The offering - predominantly green and blue (80% of market) and taste of black and double black. Design of stacked loops, artefacts (hero shots)
- Branding - trail logo as well as pictograms for each trail, merchandising online (Council also acting as a warehouse where local businesses can draw on merchandise)
- Multidisciplinary - trails fest
- Trail counters - weekends normally, July showed Mondays

Norm Douglas- Forrest MTB Trails

- Traditionally forestry etc, went thru downturn in 90's, stimulus package for ecotourism (including MTB)

- Since 2006, visitor numbers increased year on year, pre- just four businesses, now over 20 including accom, brew house, corner store (owned by Norm).
- Town surrounded by trails
- Norm hosts events, other events (trail running) also occurring to bolster. Visitors now not just MTB etc
- Typical visitors
 - MAMIL, families
 - Stay as groups (together) - group accom
 - Credit card travellers - don't come prepared
- Good - branding Forrest as a brand, investment by State Gov't, private investors, 180 bed nights (in town of 200 ppl), support infrastructure (quality food, wine etc, bike repairs)
- Bad - lack of planning for maintenance, lack of involvement from Council, not enough vision fm decision makers re strategy,
- Ugly - no ongoing funding or business model for trail development and maintenance (DELP is land manager but primary role is fire Mgt and spends 6 mth on burns)
- What next
 - Future planning and commitment fm stakeholders re what next - has to evolve, trails need to change or can become tired and maintenance heavy
 - Red tape - same risk Mgt and WHS Mgt practices as DELP
 - Land mgrs slow to move
 - Staying at the front -
 - Tourism growth across Otways, leveraging off the Great Ocean Road tourism
 - Structured event calendar (avoid event exhaustion, ensure visitor experience is good)

Sarah Hirst - NE Rail Trail, How to get community buy in

- Board oversight for 70km fm Scottsdale to Launceston (Scottsdale Rotary did the 28km fm S'dale to Billycock Hill)
- Research - business case
- Structure organisation
- ID, consult and communicate w landowners - 130 landowners, mix of traditional dairy farmers to lifestyle refugees from mainland, wrote to them re intention to apply for funds, contact point. Never had public meetings - one on one to avoid rallies re opposition
- ID issues - privacy, trespass
- Action - Dorset Council submitted application to Strnger Regions fund, good letters of support fm business community.
- Share the journey w the community
- Don't expect 100% support

Mathew Dickerson - Dubbo, driving tourism through events

- Dream destinations often remain just that - event deadlines drive activity - and every location is unique
- What is the primary goal - visitation (drive ppl to come), exposure, community focused event
- Evocities MTB series - initially fed Gov't funded but dried up, agreement by each council to continue, collaborative series across a number of different areas. Made it unique in

the richest prize money, run by local MTB clubs with prize money, sponsored by Fairfax media. 1363 competitor's w 81% fm outside area and 49% had never visited before. Bring ppl to regional areas, experience regional areas, enjoy regional areas, either return or move to regional areas. Also had media coverage. T'conf w 7 MTB clubs, some opposition to prize money approach - disc re focus on 'elites' vs wider prize pool - wanted to draw elites so ppl ride with them plus a random draw for those who 'never win/place' a race. Sometimes a person will compete / get involved just for the jersey

- Clear and definite focus
- Small w small committee (start w one!) - used Rotary for some
- Create the point of difference - quirky can be good
- Ask, ask, ask (for favours, funding, sportspeople to be involved) for the event
-



A few happy Ride2Work members

Launceston City of Launceston Pedestrian and Bike Committee - October Meeting Report from Malcolm Reid, President.

You may not know but TBUG has two positions on this Council committee, presently Malcolm Cowan and myself. We have now been joined by Sally Barnes from the Heart Foundation as the Pedestrian Representative and Garry Bailey from Bicycle Network.

The Committee's main task to promote the interests of cyclists and pedestrians through implementing the aims of the recently adopted **Bike and Pedestrian Strategy**. The Committee has the power to make recommendations to Council and is an excellent means for us to encourage and support Councils efforts as well as provide feedback and sometimes criticism!

Outcomes from the last two meetings included:

1. Drink fountains with bottle fill facilities going in around Trails and Heritage Forest, Punchbowl and Cataract Gorge.
2. Plans and costings underway for pedestrian and bike bridge at Seaport across to Northbank. Test drilling has commenced.
3. The 6 monthly bike count in September indicated the count between 7am and 9am around Launceston was static. This is worrying but in line with national trends. However, **infra red**

counters have detected a total of 64,000 passes at two points on the levy bank trails since December 2014, a great indication that people are appreciating off-road trails.

4. The improvements at the Wellington St/Howick St intersection to avoid the tree east bound are at the design stage.
5. The Flood Levee Authority were contacted by the committee and have committed to sealing the surface of the levee bank between Forster St and Vermont Rd.
6. After much TBUG lobbying production of new maps of the Trail system are underway
7. Vulnerable Road Users funding has been won for :
 - o Bike lanes in St Leonards Rd
 - o Green surfacing of lane crossings intersections in Elphin Rd
 - o Pedestrian lights in Kings Meadows shopping centre
8. Supported plans for safety upgrade to Normanstone Road, Beatty St/Invermay Road and Elphin Road David St
9. Report back to Council reinforced our support for the vision of the City Heart Project ie a more people friendly CBD and the importance of improving cycling and pedestrian environment. We encouraged Council to get on with it. **Council will vote on revised traffic proposal (not as many 2 way streets) on December 14.** This will still focus on traffic calming and environment improvements for cyclist and pedestrians. We accepted this
10. Northern Tas Cycling Tourism Strategy – Now almost completed with extensive input from TBUG

If you want any issue raise at this committee please let me know via email. The next meeting is on February 17 2016
malkanga@bigpond.net.au

Up and Coming events:

Check out the website for any late changes, additions or more rides. Click [here](#)

If you are keen to do any rides, contact the person listed and they will be able to tell you more or if the ride is cancelled – due to inclement weather.

TBUG RIDE GRADE CHART

Terrain Difficulty	Speed is pace on the flat
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1. Flat	A. Leisurely (13-15 kph)
2. Gentle Grades	B. Moderate (15-20 kph)
3. Rolling Hills	C Brisk to fast (20-25 kph)
4. Mostly rolling hills, some steep climbs	D. Workout (25+ kph)
5. Steep hills, long climbs	

Forthcoming Summer Rides.

Wednesday 9 December 2015

The Mid Week Ride next Wednesday 9 December will start at 9.15am at the Carrick Community Hall. Meet Mick for a 38km 3B ride around the Carrick area. Enquiries: hlmstatham@gmail.com or 0418 131 211.

Sunday 13th Dec. Grindelwald Grind

5B 35kms. 9.1 5 at Brickfields, or 10am at Legana Shopping Centre. Marion: marionsargent@bigpond.com or 0438 432 848

Wednesday 16th Dec. Longford ride.

Meet at the Longford Village Green at 9.15, 2B. 20 kms. Marion: marionsargent@bigpond.com or 0438 432 848

Saturday 19th Dec. Cycle the Blue Derby trails.

Meet at Blue Derby car park at 9.00am. Optional rides 2A to 5D. MTB or Hybrid bike needed. Chris Adams. Cjadams@bigpond.net.au 0448 342 749

Wednesday 23 December 2015. Cressy.

Meet Mick at the Big Trout, Cressy for a 9.15am start. 3B, 35km ride around the Cressy district before having lunch at the Ringwood Hotel. RSVP for lunch by Friday 19th to hlmstatham@gmail.com or mobile 0418 131 211 or just come for the ride.

Note that the last Thursday night ride is Dec 10th with Marion, this will be a History ride. Thursday night rides resume on Thursday 14th Jan.

Sunday 10th Jan. 2016. Railton to Sheffield rail trail Ride. 2B 54kms. Meet at RSL car park in Railton at 9.45am. Enjoy a Coffee and fudge break in Sheffield and return downhill to Railton. Di: dianamcherry@netspace.net.au or 0418 501145

Wednesday 13th Jan. 2016, Carrick. 3B 40kms . Meet at Carrick Hall at 9.15am.
Explore the quiet country roads with Mick: hlmsatham@gmail.com 0418 131 211.

TBA. Saturday Jan 16th. P Plater overnight ride to Hillwood. 4A 80-100kms.
Meet at 2.30pm at the Brickfields, cycle to Hillwood Hall, BYO food, cycle home the next day.
Malcolm: malcolmcowanster@gmail.com 0417 573 991

Wednesday 20th Jan. 2016, Carrick. 3B 40kms . Meet at Carrick Hall at 9.15am.
Explore the quiet country roads with Mick: hlmsatham@gmail.com 0418 131 211.

FULL MOON NIGHT RIDE, To Campbelltown. Sunday 24th Jan. 4B 83kms.
Meet at Prospect Market Place at 1.00am yes that is correct! Cycle during the night on the quiet roads to Campbelltown.
Malcolm: malcolmcowanster@gmail.com 0417 573 991

Australia Day Ride. Tuesday Jan 26th. 3B 58kms. Meet at 7.30am at Harley Parade, Prospect and cycle to Westbury to share breakfast at the Westbury RSL Hall. Malcolm: malcolmcowanster@gmail.com 0417 573 991

Wednesday 27th Jan. 2016, Carrick. 3B 40kms . Meet at Carrick Hall at 9.15am.
Explore the quiet country roads with Mick: hlmsatham@gmail.com 0418 131 211.

Sunday Jan 31st. Newstead History ride. 2A. Meet at Royal Park at 9.15am. Marion: marionsargent@bigpond.com or 0438 432 848

BIKE WEEK. Tasmania's Bike Week 2016 will run from Saturday 30 January to Sunday 7 February. We have plenty planned so check your emails.

Sunday 7th FEB. Latrobe to Devonport Circuit. 2B 30kms. Meet at Bells Parade, Axeman's Hall of Fame carpark at 9.45am. Ride along the river's edge into Devonport and then experience the foreshore trails of Devonport riding through to the Don River Railway and return to Latrobe, we will stop at the Bluff for a lunch time snack. Latrobe also has some lovely shops if you want to wander there on your return. Di: dianamchenry@netspace.net.au or 0418 501145

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Events that might interest you during the year. Add these to the calendar so you don't miss them.

More things happening around Launceston/Tasmania.

Around Tasmania.

Wild Side returns to TASMANIA. 16-19th Jan 2016. www.wildsidemt看.com

Ride the Night. Hobart Sat. 30th Jan. 2016. Ride the quiet City streets after all the party goers have gone to bed, dress up your bikes and clothes with lights and have a fun night. This ride is also held in Melbourne if you are over the Strait! And for other or more information go to www.cyclingsouth.org

Around Australia.

Santos Tour Down Under. 16 – 24th Jan. 2016. **South Australia.**

If you are planning a visit to **SA**. Check out Escapegoat adventures. Mountain bike trips from Adelaide. www.escapegoat.com.au

0422916289.

Discover the **Flinders Ranges** by bike. 200kms of cycling adventures. 0428 432 567
www.barkinggeckotours.com.au

If you happen to be visiting the Adelaide area look out for the Cycling and Walking Maps, there are 5 of them available. www.dpti.sa.gov.au or www.bikesa.asn.au/AdelaideCityBikes.

Cycle the **Golden Trail, Robe to Bendigo**, 16,000 Chinese walked this trail to get to the Goldfields in the 1850's. Now you too can have the experience, walk or ride it up to you?

N.E. Victoria. Search info@alpineshire.vic.gov.au

Summer riding tips and our annual snake alert! The warm conditions are a reminder to brush up on [snake bike treatment](#) as a lot of slithery critters have been spotted from October to March.

A shared path photo who gets right of way?



What is happening in Hobart?

More information go to www.cyclingsouth.org

Overseas travel, the condensed version.

Contact Bruce Robertson. CEO of Cycletoursglobal, phone 0403742110, or look for www.cycletoursglobal.com

Rail Trails in Tasmania. Scottsdale to Billycock Hill. A successful day out was had by all. A nice write up in the Examiner too. Well done, get ready for the next leg, Rocherlea to Scottsdale!

An interesting you tube clip.

Lego Mountain Biking

[More>>](#)

Membership for 2016.

TBUG membership for 2016

Your membership helps TBUG work to improve infrastructure, safety and participation for ALL bike riders – recreational, commuter and serious road riders. There are 2 options for joining TBUG:

OPTION 1 Basic Membership (without ride insurance)

This enables you to support TBUG advocacy, promotions, website, and access member benefits but does not provide ride insurance coverage.

You can “come and try” 3 TBUG organised rides but after that we encourage you to take out insurance. You can still ride with us without insurance but will need to sign a disclaimer to absolve TBUG of any liability in the unlikely event of an accident.

Ride insurance is available by joining TBUG through Cycling Australia – see Option 2 below. You may also seek your own ride insurance through other organisations such as the Bicycle Network or the Launceston Mountain Bike Association.

If Option 1 Basic Membership suits your needs please complete the attached [membership application form](#) and return to TBUG. Payment can be by cheque or direct deposit - Individual \$20 or Family Membership \$44 (for 3 or more people).

OPTION 2 Membership with Ride Insurance

Join TBUG through Cycling Australia [CA] www.cycling.org.au Ride Memberships: Adult Individual \$99, Juniors (13 – 18) \$66, 65+ \$74, Kids (under 13) \$32.

On the CA website select Cycling Tasmania as your state, and Tamar Bicycle Users Group as your club.

Insurance cover is 24/7 (full information on the insurance coverage is provided on the CA website) and TBUG Basic Membership is included.

Family membership (2 adults, 2 juniors) is available through CA with a 20% discount but cannot be completed online. Please contact CA on 02 9339 5800

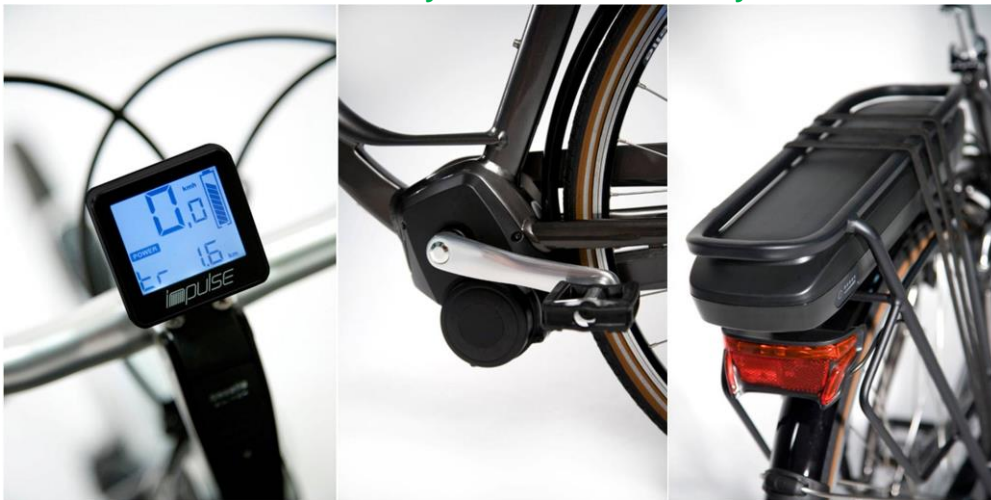
Note: If you are already a CA member you will be advised by CA when your renewal is due.

If you are keen to look into owning one of these contact: sales@eurocycles.com.au or phone 1300 300 607. I got to try this one out at the Bike Futures conference, but others are available. See further below.



An electric bike review!

Gazelle Electric Bike Review by TBUG member Sandy...



Gazelle Orange C8 Step-Through
Price \$4199

What was your overall impression of the bike?

In short I didn't want to give it back!! Having never ridden an electric bike before and I didn't know what to expect, but from the moment I hopped on I was hooked. To be honest when I was first given the bike I actually had no idea it had the electrical technology built in, to me it just looked and felt like a standard bike. But then the power assist function was enabled and I was off and racing!!

How well did it assist you to ride up the West Launceston hills?

The wonderful views from our house in West Launceston are great but come at a price, large hills to climb to get there. I never thought I would say this but the Gazelle E bike actually made it enjoyable riding up hills and in actual fact the steeper the better. The best way I can describe the power assist is like swimming with flippers on, you still have to work/pedal but the more effort you yourself put in the more the electric functionality gives back.

How did you find riding the bike without power assist?

I would say when the power assist is switched off it feels as though you are riding a mountain bike mainly due to the weight of the bike. During my experience I would switch the power assist off to save battery life but also because I was quite comfortable riding it in a standard bike mode.

Was the seat and riding position comfortable?

I found the upright riding position and wider seat extremely comfortable and actually prefer it to my own bike.

What are you going to do after trialing the bike?

Save up to buy one!! As I mentioned previously I did not want to give it back, I enjoyed the experience so much that it has motivated me to continue to ride to and from work. Granted the hills will be tougher but it has renewed my love of the outdoors, the benefits of exercise and the positive impact it has on my life.

Would you recommend others to try an E bike?

In one word "absolutely"! For the three days I had the bike, all I did was rave about how good it was; to my family, friends, colleagues, visitors to my workplace and pretty much anyone that would listen. I found the Gazelle E bike to be great for all fitness levels and riding experience, it is great as a standard bike, if you need a little extra boost or to power you up hills. It's a game changer for its ease of ride, it's a beautiful design and most of all its eco friendliness and I would highly recommend to others to get into Cycle2 and give it a try.

Available at Cycle2 Brisbane St Launceston 63 31 2400

If you would like to provide a review of a bike, accessory or gadget, please send it to editor Di McHenry, dianamchenry@netspace.net.au

If you are interested in local touring "Like" Bicycle Touring Tasmania on Facebook and contribute.



LIKE TBUG ON FACEBOOK at
Tamar Bicycles Users Group or click [here](#)



Encourage your friends and family to Like us - it's a great way to get the latest updates and interesting news from TBUG. Go to <http://www.facebook.com/tbugbikes>. We have almost **500 likes** on the Facebook page. Bike riders from all over are liking us!

THANK YOU's



- ❖ Major sponsor St. Lukes Health
- ❖ Kerry Finch MLC for photocopying
- ❖ Foot and Playsted for printing
- ❖ Discounts for TBUG members are provided by:
 - Cycle2...
 - AvantiPlus
 - Sprung
 - Mountain Designs
 - Mountain Bike Tasmania
 - Freedom Mountain Bike Hire
 - Cycology
 - Launceston Scout Shop
 - Sarah Courtney. For the Bike Ed brochures. See me if you want one!

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

We would love to see you at our committee meetings, 6pm at Newstead Tennis Centre on Olive Street. We share tea as we meet and talk about all things bicycle.

Next meeting: Will be Feb 17th. 6pm

CONTACT US

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General Enquiries please email contact@tbug.org.au

Newsletter items please email dianamchenry@netspace.net.au

To unsubscribe please send a blank email to newsletters-request@tbug.org.au with "UNSUBSCRIBE" as the subject (without quotes) and reply to the confirmation email

