



## Sept – January 2019 Happy New Year's-letter

Hi TBUG members and supporters.

Once again, thanks for being patient about the massive delay between newsletters! Over the last part of the year, I picked up additional work. No time for travel for me, but this year I am looking hard for my next adventure in 2019. I hope you all had a lovely Christmas – New Year break; I know that the summer weather has been tempting us all to get out and ride. Alison and On Your Bike Tours had 30 plus riders lighting up the night (with their spare Christmas lights and glow sticks) as they cycled around the trails of Launceston. And on New Year's it was fabulous to see the River Edge alive with people eagerly awaiting the fireworks. A huge thanks to Alison; if you missed that event we do have another opportunity to Ride the Night in **Bike Week. March 3-10<sup>th</sup>**.

We are now getting ready for the next Bike Week, it should be amazing as we have plenty of fun events prepared for your enjoyment. We will have another Pop Up shop, a film night, flat bike expo's, a bike forum, a night ride, community ride (both short distance and long- dress age appropriate to your bike vintage). Also, another maintenance workshop is planned, and there is even more. So keep checking your emails for updates.

Just to blow our own trumpet, did you know that TBUG ran over 80 rides in 2018 with 850 riders participating in rides midweek, Thursday evenings, weekends and tours? Impressive, I think you will agree. On a more practical note, **annual membership is now due**, please see the final page of this newsletter for details.

Take care on the road,

*Di McHenry (editor)*



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**It's Spring and Summer and we are bursting with energy!!**

*By Malcolm Reid, TBUG President*

On New Year's Eve we held a very successful ride around the newly opened riverbank areas in Launceston. Nearly 40 people turned up and we had a great night. It was brilliant to see so many people on the riverbank areas enjoying the fireworks, and the difference that developing infrastructure for people rather than just cars can make. Launceston is set for a new era...at least I continue to hope so and TBUG can take some small credit for that! Malcolm C and I have noted our progress on advocacy

this year in another article so please check it out. As I've said before it's slow and sometimes frustrating work but we feel we are getting somewhere.

Our organized rides continue to be very well supported. Don't forget to visit the website for all the latest rides info – it's at <https://tamarbug.org.au/events/category/rides/>. We have rides for all levels and abilities so please join in and encourage any friends who may be nervous about getting started. And **thanks to all the ride leaders in 2018.**

On the promotions front we are providing bike valet services at both MONA FOMA and Festivale this year. Please help out if you can. Simply email [contactus@tbug.org.au](mailto:contactus@tbug.org.au) or contact Malcolm Cowan [malcolmcowanster@gmail.com](mailto:malcolmcowanster@gmail.com) for Festivale volunteering, or Gill Basnett at [Gill.Basnett@launceston.tas.gov.au](mailto:Gill.Basnett@launceston.tas.gov.au) for MONA FOMA. We are also in the process of planning for Bike Week 2019 from March 3 to March 10. We will kick off with a community ride from Heritage Forest on Sunday March 3. Put that date aside now, and keep your eye out for more details soon.

We have continued to do out regular slots on ABC radio, and have worked with Launceston Council to produce a series of bike promotion Facebook videos. Our own Facebook page has grown to over 780 likes, but despite that our **ride2work** day was unfortunately a washout as the response was low this year.

All this work needs your support so if you haven't already, please consider joining TBUG with a basic \$20 membership. More members means a stronger voice for pedestrians and cyclists in Launceston. Improvements don't happen by magic but as a result of the hard slog of convincing decision makers and reminding them that people care!! To join (or renew), simply go to the website <https://tamarbug.org.au/memberships/basic-membership/> and you can sign up.

Once again have a great new year and keep riding in 2019

*Malcolm)*



## TBUG ADVOCACY OUTCOMES 2018

*By Malcolm Reid and Malcolm Cowan*

Our advocacy is focused on two main levels - state and local governments. At the state level we work closely with Alison Hetherington from Bicycle Network in Hobart, and on the local level TBUG is represented on the Launceston Council's Pedestrian and Bike Committee (PBC) and the West Tamar Highway Safety Committee.

The PBC has been working on several initiatives, many of them initiated and continually advocated for by TBUG. We have provided input to major projects such as the City Heart renewal projects, the Invermay Traffic Management Plan, and the development of a new Transport Strategy for Launceston. Thanks also to those members and supporters who participated in council consultations on these issues. It is very important that we show them that people care about making Launceston a true bike and pedestrian city.

Councillors Hugh McKenzie (chair) and Alan Harris sit on the committee. Karina Stojansek was also on the committee during 2018. Here are some of the new on-ground initiatives initiated through the Pedestrian and Bike Committee.

- A temporary on-road diversion route around the Mowbray race track through Mowbray and Dover Village to connect the two sections of the Inveresk Rocherlea Trail. Connecting the two sections from Vermont Road to the old rail trail off-road is the number one priority for the Committee.
- New bike hoops at Launceston Aquatic to replace the original inappropriate stands. A new under cover cycle parking bay is underway.
- Investigating the extension of the Riverbend Trail to provide a link from Tea Tree bend to Main Street.
- Bike parking facilities at the Albert Hall.
- New bike lanes in Brisbane Street (uphill), Hobblers Bridge and Waverley Hill.
- Trialing a TBUG sponsored portable bike parking hoop that uses existing poles.

As a result of our long running lobbying through the West Tamar Safety Committee, State Growth funding has committed to improve the West Tamar Highway edges and surfaces between Legana and Launceston. This will include the removal of obstructing kerbs and islands, improving surfaces and widening edges (see images elow). Planning and costing will continue, with work planned for commencement next financial year.



Your feedback and ideas for our input to both committees would be appreciated through [contactus@tbug.org.au](mailto:contactus@tbug.org.au)



## A LOCAL RIDE STORY - Mal's Mountain Meander

*By Malcolm Cowan.*

Seven intrepid mountaineers joined Malcolm Cowan for an epic five day, 340km tour in early December. On Monday we rode 105km from Launceston to Sheffield with lunch at Christmas Hills Raspberry Farm



and our first overnight at the Sheffield Hotel. Day Two saw us climb the infamous Cethana ascent from the Forth River to Moina and then on to Cradle Mountain Discovery Park bunkhouse accommodation. The day walk around Dove Lake was put off in favour of a dry ride to Devonport via Wilmot and Forth. The next day off was spent walking, drinking, eating, swimming, enjoying the fantastic ship simulator at the Bass and Flinders Maritime Museum and Bohemian Rhapsody at the C Max.

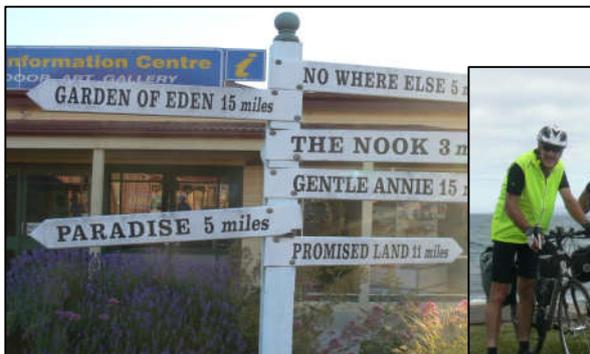
Accommodation was the Backpackers at the Formby Hotel, opposite the site of the Great Devonport Cement Train Derailment. Friday saw us take the ferry across the Mersey to ride 110km home via Latrobe and Deloraine against a 25km headwind!

The group was made up of experienced tourers and those who were trying a tour like this for the first time. For all but one, it was the first time on this route, some viewing the prospect of the hills with trepidation! Despite the fears, the long climbs and the head winds, everyone survived and even prospered from the experience and the good fun that was had on the road and at meals and social time. In the words of Darryl Kerrigan in The Castle "Why would you want to be anywhere else?"



A significant local economic impact from the trip was the extent and the spread of the money that was spent. Over the five days we spent a total of over \$5000. More significantly was the spread - we spent money at every local opportunity. We stopped at 8 cafes, 4 pubs and accommodation venues, 6 general stores, one specialty bar, 3 museums and galleries and 3 bakeries plus supermarkets, a swimming pool and the ferry. So it's not just the central towns and hubs that benefit from bike touring that benefit from cycling tourists - and this is one

of the economic arguments that supports cycle tourism and the extension of the North East Rail Trail.



## ANOTHER LOCAL RIDE STORY

Sourced from *The Mercury* Oct 14th 2018.

A Tassie woman, Emma Flukes rode from Cockle Creek, the one that is way down south in Tasmania, rode through snow, desert heat and fierce head winds all the way to Uluru. The event, called **Race to the Rock**, is held in September. Nine attempted this last year and only four, including Emma, made the complete distance. The race begins in different areas of Australia. In 2018 the distance she rode was 3569km, which took her 19 days. The route is mostly extreme off road and totally unsupported. Ultra endurance cyclist Sarah Hammond completed the distance in 15 days to win the event. Emma said "I have a track record of trying things I have no business doing" which seems about right. Days of 15-hour cycling on dirt roads at the top of S.A. was especially gruelling. For those crazy enough to want to challenge yourself, the next **Race to the Rock** starts in Port Douglas on Sept 7<sup>th</sup> at 6.22am. **Sign up now!**

## COMING EVENTS:

Check out the website and Facebook 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 for any reason. Check the ride quality and length using the [TBUG Ride grade chart](#) as on Website Calendar. Check our grading system below to select the right ride for you.

### **Terrain Difficulty**

- 1 – flat
- 2 – gentle grades
- 3 – rolling hills
- 4 – mostly rolling hills, some steep climbs
- 5 – steep hills, long climbs

### **Pace**

- A – leisurely (13-15kph)
- B – moderate (15-20kph)
- C – brisk to fast (20-25kph)
- D – workout (25+kph)

## Upcoming Rides

### JANUARY

- Jan 9th Harley Parade to Perth. 9.15am **3C**. 37kms
- Jan 16th Carrick – Pitts Lane. 9.15am **3C**. 40 kms
- Jan 23rd. Devonhills – Evandale. 9.15am departs 54 Devonhills Rd. **3C** 44kms
- Jan 30th Longford – Bishopbourne. 9.15am Lyttleton St Longford. **3C**
- Thursday night rides from Park St. leaving at 6pm will be held on; Jan 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st.
- Leisurely Sunday ride on the 13th. Around George Town. Meet at the Seaport Hotel carpark at George Town at 9.15 for a 9.30 departure. Leader is Di. 0418501145.
- Australia Day ride. Sat. Jan 26th. From Harley Pde to Westbury (for breakfast) departs 7.30am. Bring \$15 for breakfast. 3B and 58k.

### FEBRUARY

- February rides for Wednesdays are on: 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th.
- A Saturday P plate ride is on Saturday 12th Feb. 9.30am Park St. 2B 15kms.

In case things change, keep an eye out on Facebook and in your inbox. Marion will let you know, the start is usually Carrick, Westbury or Longford. **Note:** if you are keen to attend then let the leader

know, either by email or text, or by liking the ride on Facebook. This means they can let you know if the ride is cancelled - sometimes we have nasty weather. And as we are making changes to our Facebook page, you might want to add your favourite rides or pictures.



## FIVE WEBSITES TO CHECK

1. Velocipede salon – forums etc. [www.velocipedsalon.com](http://www.velocipedsalon.com)
2. Bike Rumors – nerdy and new tech items. [Bikerumor.com](http://Bikerumor.com)
3. Cycling tips – Aussie Road culture. [Cyclingtips.com.au](http://Cyclingtips.com.au)
4. Big Ring Riding. Photo's etc. [bigringriding.com](http://bigringriding.com)
5. The Bicycle Store. Images of cycling. [Bicyclestore.tumbir.com](http://Bicyclestore.tumbir.com)
6. [WWW.birdsonbikes.com.au](http://WWW.birdsonbikes.com.au)

**Top Quote of the newsletter:** *“The secret of life is not to do what one likes, but to try to like that which one has to do” Anon. possibly Irish?*



## WHAT'S NEW? THINGS TO CHECK OUT

- Crash safe. A gadget that all cars need, so you can break out when you are caught in an emergency situation. Check out <https://trynding.com/crashsafe/>
- Who to contact your local **Bicycle Users Group in NSW**. (there are at least 40) [www.pushon.com.au](http://www.pushon.com.au)
- Getting the kids onto bikes. Check out the full range of neat bikes at: [www.bykbikes.com](http://www.bykbikes.com)
- Gear for all. Threadless clothing, usually offers a discount too.
- More gear. Check out <https://teespring.com> nice gear, but expensive postage!
- A bike that has a string instead of a chain. [www.stringbike.com/](http://www.stringbike.com/)
- Check out inventions insider. [Insiderinventions/videos/9-inventions-to-excite-every-cyclist/1344940422308165/](https://insiderinventions/videos/9-inventions-to-excite-every-cyclist/1344940422308165/)
- Nine inventions that will excite the cyclist in your life. Parkis, bike rack. Geo orbital wheel, Pod ride, cyclo cable, Chol1, bike furniture for indoors. Lumos Helmet, Eco cycle, Fat bikes skis, flat bike lift for a great storage option.
- On you tube, check out a dog powered scooter.
- Water riding kit, check out shuttle bike kit, on you tube. This crazy craft can get you across waterways!
- If you need a great phone mount for your bike, check out <https://getfinn.com/en/> for 18Euros only, it is a wonderful addition to your bike.
- For **phone addicts**, some useful apps include Tripit, WillyWeather, EasyMed Medical, MapMyRide, Zwift, Relive.cc (brilliant!), Strava, CycleMaps, and for the nerd, BikeGearCalculator, Snap, Send and Solve.

## WHAT'S ON

### AROUND LAUNCESTON

- [On Your Bike Tours](#) is a great way to know Launceston. Includes North Esk and Tamar river areas. Friday and Sunday at 10am or 1.30pm. Includes a Tassie Taste platter. Adults \$60. Children 10-18 \$50. Phone Alison 0407 612 611.
- **Wes Sulzberger** our local Champion on a bike has begun a [new venture called En Route](#) and is offering bike touring and training options around our delightful state.
- **Derby.** The Enduro 2019. March 30 -31<sup>st</sup> . Check out the new trails. There is Lake Derby, Rapids, Wotchya Upto, Deadly Bugga.

### AROUND HOBART

- For info on what's on in the south of the island, try Cycling South.

### AROUND AUSTRALIA and BEYOND

- Check out Alltrails.com.au Feb 2019. Snowy Mtns to San Remo.
- New Zealand South Island Feb. Marlborough to Queenstown.
- Top End tour Darwin to Broome, can be done in 1, 2 and 3 stages. May – June 2019. Stage 1 Darwin to Katherine, Stage 2 Katherine to Kununurra, Stage 3 Kununurra to Broome.
- Or take off to Europe and cycle the Danube. 1st July 28th. Available in 2 stages.
- Great Vic Bike Ride. November 22nd -Dec 1st 2019. Limestone Coast S.A. to Great Ocean Road.

### GLOBAL

- [www.tourdevines.com.au](http://www.tourdevines.com.au) unique cycling tours in Aust. NZ and Europe.
- [www.escapeadventuresnz.com](http://www.escapeadventuresnz.com) Includes Kenya and Tanzania, Madagascar, Colombia, Kyrgyzstan, China & Tibet, Cambodia and Fiji.
- From [rome2rio.com](http://rome2rio.com). How to get where you want to go.
- Wayne & Margie offer some unusual tours and trip at NoMints.
- Bicycle Adventure Club does what it says – all over the place!
- Chile, Dolomites, California – all in luxury on a bike at TrekTours.
- Cycle Vietnam, Cambodia, Iran, Samoa and Laos – and change lives. Check SocialCycles.
- Cycle Sulawesi, Bali and Flores with CycleIndonesia.
- Six continents, 80 countries ready to receive your wheels. Ask TDA Global.
- Lake Balaton, Austria and Hungary. Brilliant Cycle Tours riding.
- Pedal nation cycling tours, - Vienna.



## BUY, SELL & SWAP

- Wind trainers for indoor cycling use. Now only \$50. Ring John, 0416 310 722.
- Electric assist bikes. Now available 15% off at Cycology, York Street.
- Old bikes wanted for works of art. Contact Anna at [fovey@intas.net.au](mailto:fovey@intas.net.au) if you have one spare.

## DISCOUNTS

Just tell the shop owners you are a TBUG member and get healthy discounts on products and services. Outlets include:

- Cycle2...; Geards; AvantiPlus; Sprung; Launceston Scout Shop; Aspire outdoor clothing
- Mountain Designs; Mountain Bike Tasmania; Cycology; Onyourbiketours.com



## LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

- Search Tamar Bicycles Users Group or click [here](#)
- Encourage your friends and family to LIKE us too. It's a great way to get the latest updates and news from TBUG. We have hundreds of LIKES on the Facebook page. Add yours!

## THANKS TO

- Major sponsor St. Lukes Health
- Kerry Finch MLC for photocopying
- Foot and Playsted for printing
- INTAS for financial services
- Sarah Courtney for Bike Ed brochures.



## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- We would love to see you at our AGM. **Wednesday Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>**. At Newstead Tennis Centre on Olive Street, 6pm start. We share tea and talk about all things bicycle.

## Tamar Bicycle Users Group Inc.

- Postal: PO Box 5059, Launceston TAS 7250; [www.tbug.org.au](http://www.tbug.org.au)
- General Enquiries: [contact@tbug.org.au](mailto:contact@tbug.org.au)
- Newsletter items: [dianamchenry@netspace.net.au](mailto:dianamchenry@netspace.net.au)
- To unsubscribe: send a blank email to [newsletters-request@tbug.org.au](mailto:newsletters-request@tbug.org.au) with "UNSUBSCRIBE" as the subject (without quotes) and reply to the confirmation email.



## TBUG MEMBERSHIP!!

Any voluntary advocacy group such as TBUG gains strength from the number of members we have. It also helps our financial viability. Elsewhere in the newsletter there are examples of the infrastructure and rides that TBUG works to provide and we need your support to continue to do this. TBUG membership is available on two levels as follows.

**Supporter Membership.** This is only \$20 (\$44 for three plus members at the same address) and runs from October 2018 - 31 December 2019 so it's time to renew your existing membership. You can do this on the website at: <https://tamarbug.org.au/memberships/basic-membership>

Alternatively, if you require **membership and 24/7 ride insurance and support**, join TBUG through Cycling Australia. TBUG is an affiliated Club of Cycling Australia/Tasmania. Go to <http://membership.cycling.org.au/> and select "Ride+" membership. Membership benefits are outlined there. Membership is \$99 and \$74 for Seniors. Cycling Australia membership runs for 12 months from joining date and you will be sent a reminder. Family membership discount is available. Contact CT 9998 6810.