

EastGippBUG

www.eastgippbug.com

is an Internet based 'virtual' entity giving voice to issues affecting bicycle riders across East Gippsland, speaking with those who can affect change, and building advocacy for more and safer cycling.

Bulletin No 10. October 2008

Please spread the word about this email bulletin.

It exists to help raise a voice for more and safer cycling in East Gippsland.

Ride 2 Work - October 15 a winner.

Those who rolled into The Advertise car park on 15/10 to enjoy the most generous breakfast provided by Bob Yeates and staff, and a local baker, certainly were winners. And the first 25 to arrive scored a free honker bike 'bell'.

It was the biggest turn-out in several years. Maybe that reflects in a small way the growth of cycling in EG which is so obvious around inner Melbourne. Thanks to the BA crew! Other groups in EG did their own thing, including TAFE, and a valiant group who took the train to Stratford then rode back.

Maybe the 2009 R2W breakfast could be held again on the fine lawns of Main Street, to more publicly emphasis the idea of cycling not 'car-ing' to work? Council views? Yours?

"Get our towns fit for everyday cycling."

Or to turn that into a slogan - 'Towns fit for cycling'

And now you can influence getting better cycling condition. Because of a VicRoads funding condition in the past that only towns with a population of 10,000 or more got onto the infrastructure development list, it was slim pickings for EG. Otherwise it is up to the Council's generosity to deliver better infrastructure to the many smaller communities.

This restriction has been raised with the Victorian Bicycle Advisory Council (VBAC).

For all the 6 Councils in the Gippsland Region there is a real problem allocating sufficient staff time to work up funding proposals. An effort is being made to get a grant to employ extra staff time to resolve this problem. (See the VBAC report from September 2008. PDF)

However, why not add your observations? What improvements would you like to see? Every bicycle rider will have made a mental note about some hazard or barrier which if fixed will make for safer / easier riding. If you have any such 'wish list (I wish that could be fixed!) please take a few minutes to share those comments by email to Michael. And likewise for extra amenities such as parking rails, or more on-road marked lanes and bike symbols.

Over to you. Let's get our towns 'More fit for cycling!'

Is this a late April Fools Day suggestion - compulsory rear vision mirrors?

There is a rumour afloat of a call for governments to mandate rear vision mirrors on all bicycles. Apart from the sheer impracticality of the proposal - if it is true - how would it go on a racing bike, or the cost for the many with more than a couple of machines (now quite common)? Many riders invest in a mirror and find it disconcerting to be on the roads without one. **They are a great safety item.** However there might be some sense in requiring riders to wear mitts (gloves), but even then, the more things a rider needs to 'wear' (are helmets not enough?) are just disincentives for using a bike, especially for short trips. Any views?

This BUG web site goes BLOG

Our BUG site has been overhauled and is now a Blog. There will be extra facilities for both the display of information (including VBAC reports etc., and a photo gallery of bicycle parking facilities - coming), and for running comments on posted topics. Go explore.

East Gipp Rail Trail gets new Management Committee.

All but one of the recent Committee has 'signed back on' for another three year stint to look after this very significant rail trail, part of EG's valuable tourism infrastructure. The new Rail Trail management team includes: Michael Oxer (Chairman), Jacqui Martin (Secretary), Andrew Sharpe (Treasurer, and DSE representative), John Nelson, Bob Yeates, Brian Gustus, Michael McStephen, and Alan Mildren. Jacqui Martin, Michael McStephen and Alan Mildren are very welcome new members, adding their expertise and enthusiasm to the efforts of the others who have all served previously for years past.

If you have an issue related to cycling in EG, or want to air a topic, please email your thoughts to eastgippbug@wideband.net.au

The EastGippBUG email network.

The link will be to and via: eastgippbug@wideband.net.au and at our [website](http://www.eastgippbug.com) as above.

This email Bulletin is Bcc'd as a privacy measure.

To add a name to the list **please ask the person interested to send** the following:

an email message with their name, a postal address and phone No. It will be presumed that this response will give permission for their name etc to be held on the EastGippBUG database and email address used for the Bulletin mailings.

PDF dated: 26th October 2008