

## EastGippBUG

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.

[www.eastgippbug.com](http://www.eastgippbug.com)

### Bulletin No 3. March 2007

#### Grow the group

All our BUG supporters are reminded that there is plenty of room on the email list for a lot more bicycle riding friends.

#### Buchan & Cape Conran get BIG tents

The last Parks Victoria PR effort (Canopy No 31 Jan 2007) reported on an interesting innovation for visitors to Buchan and Cape Conran - their Wilderness Retreats program using very big tents. Aimed at couples but can sleep up to 4, with most mod cons, they offer a 'camp out' option for those traveling light, like cyclists! Get all the details at [www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au)

#### Adding off road access around Bairnsdale

A valuable addition to the off road pathway network as part of a \$226,500 project is to be constructed around Howitt Park South ovals and adjacent to the Mitchell River. There will be improved seating, lighting and cultural signage, with a clearly marked link to the East Gippsland Rail Trail.

The Dept of Infrastructure is providing \$157K and the Shire \$69.5K. Extensive community input is involved to 'get it right'. Well done EGSC and DOI.

#### Asking VicRoads to share the cycling story with East Gippsland

EastGippBUG activist Michael Oxer wrote to VicRoads Acting Chief Executive Gary Liddle January 11th last.

*Dear Mr Liddle,*

*A very significant development for cycling in Victoria in recent years has been the work of the Bicycle Advisory Committee, conducted within the VicRoads organisation.*

*An important part of BAC structure has been the inclusion of regional representation at the meeting table.*

*However, based on our experience drawn from supporters of this Bicycle User Group for East Gippsland, there is a serious weakness in the feedback process for the eastern region. It has been a surprise to most that the key central forum responsible for dealing with many cycling matters even has a community representative with a brief which should include this area of the State. A better link to deliberations and decisions of the BAC is also highly desirable as part of the process of encouraging easier and safer cycling in this region.*

Mr Liddle replied 18th January: and in part stated -

*The Government recognises the social and environmental benefits cycling and is committed to encouraging more people to use bicycles for transportation, recreation and tourism. ....*

*A key objective of the VBAC is to support the continued development of cycling in regional Victoria. ....*

*As indicated in your letter, the main role of community members on the VBAC is to consult with and represent their local communities and stakeholders on the Council. VicRoads is currently reviewing the terms of reference and membership of the VBAC for 2007/08.*

*signed: Gary Liddle ACE*

This was a quick and positive response to our questions but unfortunately the last VBAC meeting (March) never got near considering the regional reps matter. In fact it was not even on the agenda! And the next VBAC meeting won't be until maybe June. Oh, how the wheels of government move so slowly when it comes to the needs of mere bicycle users. And look at what is happening to the proposed Copenhagen Lanes for safer cycling on St Kilda Road. Cries of outrage from car drivers and furious back pedalling by Minister Pallas.

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](mailto:eastgippbug@wideband.net.au) *Meanwhile enjoy Autumn's cycling weather.* **END**

#### The EastGippBUG email network.

The link will be to and via: [eastgippbug@wideband.net.au](mailto:eastgippbug@wideband.net.au) and at our [website](#) as above.

The email Bulletins will be 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: 7th March 2007