

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

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EG BAD MOB Rides keep growing; and Jeff could do with some help.

In a move to provide certainty about a calendar program, BAD MOB's Jeff Steedman has issued a notice with both a fixed rides 'day of month' move, and a call for support, as he says, *"I am keen to develop a broader group involved in ride planning. For any group to survive it needs input from more than one person so it isn't dominated by and reliant on what one person wants to do. If you have some rides you would like to share with us or maybe don't know the area that well but would be willing to come along on some pre BADMOB rides to help assess potential rides for our members let me know, I would be very grateful for the shared ideas and company."*

Jeff also suggests a sort of "BAD MOB lite" for those who want to ease into mountain bike riding and could be daunted by the longer rides.

Updates on the BADMOB web site. www.wildernessbikeride.com.au/cycleg

VicRoads interested in rail trails?

Many rail trails intersect with roads controlled by VicRoads but this is an interesting new development. No details yet of what might be involved but we know this powerful agency is having a look at the economics angle (benefits thereof) of rail trails. The current management and maintenance situation for most rail trails is a grossly inequitable situation with all the problems left to largely volunteer committees who have to scrape around for funds.

Support from VicRoads from a 'pro cycling' aspect might be just what we need to convince Spring Street that rail trails need a budget line for both day-2-day management, and maintenance, especially for mega-trails like our East Gippsland example!

EG Cycling Advisory Committee gets new wheels?

This one seems a bit slow off the mark but an update scheduled for next Bulletin. Meantime, the Councillors holding the Transport Portfolio are:

Crs Bob Haldane, Ben Buckley, Robert Nettleton and Ron Schrader.

Rail Trail back on the (brochure) map.

It has been a long gestation but a new edition of the RT information brochure (and map) has been sent off to the printing presses. In A3 fan fold format it features a completely updated map and for the first time, text advertisements from a number of local businesses. A new angle is inclusion of Side Trips, options for trail visitors to venture of to explore other local highlights. The brochure will be widely distributed. www.eastgippslandrailtrail.com

The Big Issue gets on its bike.

No 277 (April/May) featured a 3 page spread on the topic noted as "a quiet pedal-powered revolution". Bicycle use has built a main stream base, at least in Melbourne, which is leading all other States with an 11.5% participation rate. The reason? For starters, Victoria's per-capita infrastructure spend is about \$4. 'Build it; they'll use it!'

"Boosting spending on cycling is the way of the future, said Rosemarie Speidel, Program Director of the Cycling Promotion Fund. People are already buying the bikes, so it's time to capitalise on that public interest." she noted. *"Governments should be providing opportunities for people to ride bicycles and use them more frequently - they should be creating bicycle-friendly environments."* Speidel added.

And we could add, that the EG Shire Council should be taking the same lead.

We have four Councillors listed for the Transport Portfolio but what are they doing for cycling?

www.bigissue.org.au www.egipps.vic.gov.au

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

Now the rain has turned the land emerald green, it's also ideal cycling weather.

The EastGippBUG email network.

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

These email Bulletins are 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.

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