

# BUSHWACKER

Official newsletter of the Central Victoria Ulysses Branch

## Out ... again



As of 11.59pm on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> September, regional Vic was allowed out—again. So, after modifying our holiday plans a number of times and modifying various aspects of our home as lockdown projects, Sue and I were more than happy to be out again, if only on Victorian roads. It was rapidly closing to the end of Sue’s leave, so we threw a few things in to our bikes and headed north.



I’m told it’s considered the alternative highway to Echuca. We joined a bunch of roads that took us west of the highway as far as Rochester. We couldn’t remember how far was unsealed after Rochester on the alternative and weren’t too fussed about swapping roads. So we continued on bitumen to Echuca itself, finding a nice spot just below the wharf precinct for a cuppa. Three ducks wobbled over and expected us to share our scotch finger biscuits with them. They turned their backs when they realised we weren’t intending to share at all.

We then continued up the Murray Valley Highway looking for the road to Gunbower Island. We turned off at Gunbower and soon found this wasn’t the road that we have previously taken from Cohuna. So it was back to the Highway to Cohuna, where lunch beckoned us. We grabbed a pie, quiche and a couple of iced coffees from over the road from the visitors’ info centre. The food was great but the iced coffees were an

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## COMMITTEE

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## RIDES & MEETINGS

**ALL ACTIVITIES ARE SUBJECT TO SOCIAL DISTANCING RULES AT THE TIME**

### RIDES

Monthly ride on 2nd Sunday of the month. Depart Rotary Park, Kangaroo Flat, 10am sharp with full tanks.

Casual day ride 3rd Thursday of the month. Depart Rotary Park, Kangaroo Flat 10am sharp with full tanks.

Fabio's short, social rides every Friday far enough to clear the pipes, leaving KFC car park, Kangaroo Flat at 1pm. All riders welcome.

See 'rides & events' for details.

### WEEKLY GET-TOGETHERS

**Thursdays** 10am, Segafredo's Bakery, 96A High Street, Heathcote.

**Thursdays** 1—2.30pm, Shelter at north end of Lake Weeroona, Napier Street, Bendigo

**Saturday** 10.0am—12noon, Shelter at north end of Lake Weeroona, Napier

### MONTHLY SOCIAL MEETINGS

See 'rides & events' for details.

### BRANCH'S BUSINESS

The Branch's Committee meet regularly to process the Branch's business. Input from all Branch members is welcome and can be directed to any committee member. Members can also see either the President or Secretary if they wish to address the committee. Elections are held annually, usually in January



[cvub.org.au](http://cvub.org.au)



PO Box 736, Bendigo Central VIC 3552



CVUB sends a regular email and has a Facebook page with up-to-date info on events.

## From the Branch President

### Coffee place

*Deja vu* all over again. We have had negative feedback from Tysons Reef Café. Bruce and Sue went down to see what their grievance was and to negotiate. However, management wanted conditions of service which were not acceptable to us. The practice that if you do not get enough custom from patrons, then you send them away so that you get none at all, is an odd but common marketing strategy. I note that where it has been used in the past, it has preceded business failure.



On 19<sup>th</sup> September, we had coffee at Lake Weeroona. After consultation with the members who were there, the committee decided that we would continue to meet at the lake for coffee on Saturdays and Thursdays.

The coffee is good although a little distant from the pavilion.

There is limited food but there is an opportunity for us to cook up a breakfast from time to time.

There is no proprietor to tell us to go away.

There are tables and seats and

there is a roof.

It all looks pretty good and at least worth a try. These arrangements are not set in stone.

### Riding

First club ride after lifting of lockdown restrictions was the mid-week ride on 17<sup>th</sup> September. We had six turn up. Robbie led the way to Newstead. The Dig Café was flat chat so we went across the road to the New Boots Café. Very nice place. So nice in fact that I took me best girl there for lunch the next day. A couple went home their own way while the rest of us followed Robbie back through Guilford and Castlemaine to home.

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exaggeration. They weren't particularly cold despite a lollipop of ice-cream in each and their taste was at best, moderately coffee-ish. Still, we were now full and after refuelling, we turned our bikes westward, to Swan Hill.



The last time we stayed at the caravan park on the river, our four kids were still kids, and we were in the 1977 Millard caravan we bought from my parents. I have a strong memory of standing in rain topping up the water tank on the van with a fast-approaching electrical storm. I decided we had enough water in the tank when the hair stood up on the back of my neck and I think I did an

Olympic sprint to the car before pulling away. Although there was some high-altitude cloud around this time, the weather was a very welcome mid-20's as we booked in. We gained a cabin that looked out over the Murray from its balcony and it didn't take us long to unpack, change, and go shopping for dinner and wine before kicking back on said balcony.

Workers were staying in the cabin on one side of us. They initially disappeared down the bank with fishing gear before the guy who oversaw the team wandered up for a chat. They were from Bendigo and were involved in fitting out Swan Hill's Aldi store. We chatted for quite a while before our mutual dinners beckoned us. We either slept very soundly or they were very quiet the next morning because we didn't hear them head off.

BOM told us there was rain around but a run to Robinvale seemed the order of the morning. We forgot how many small towns and communities there were west of Swan Hill and they were charming. It was a good ride despite a strengthening wind and we cruised in to Robinvale with our morning cuppa next to the river just east of the bridge. Our last ride to Robinvale was memorable, with trying to get my rear tyre repaired adequately to be able to get home, and we appreciated the not so great drama this time. It was the first time we noticed that people were a bit more laid back about face masks. This made sense as they were in an

area with little or no covid infections since the start of the pandemic.

After refuelling, we pointed south to Sea Lake. It wasn't long before we pulled into Sea



Lake and we went straight to the viewing platform over Lake Tyrrell. Sue heard from the Geri's that the council had a grant to put in a boardwalk down from there and she was keen to see the development. We saw the boardwalk, along with a heap of sealed car parks already installed and a building under construction on the land end of the boardwalk, presumably for toilets and some kind of tourism info. Having seen tourism for Sea Lake develop, both Sue and I were pleased with how the town was benefitting from the international interest without losing the charm of a small, rural town.

We continued to the Bottom Café in town for a bite of lunch. A couple recently purchased it with plans to develop it beyond what they purchased. We took our food to tables up the road a bit where street art was in from another grant and I for one was impressed. Sea Lake has also joined the silo art trail and again, I felt the art was of a high standard. I can't leave our report on Sea Lake without mentioning that our Ulysses members, Helen and Rod Geri, have had significant input into the recent developments around the town.



More silo art required a stop further down the Calder heading back to Bendigo at Nullawil. This was by a different artist but also of a high standard. I noted that the 'iron man' statue in the park over the road from the silo had a face mask on it. As we travelled home, the iron man wasn't the only statue or bust wearing a face mask.

Our trip had one more stop, at Charlton. The bakery over the road had new owners.



The co-owner came to the door and we asked if they were closed. They were but welcomed us in for our cuppa orders. He was interested in our bikes and she was chatty. Both were generous as she gave us baclava

straight out of the oven for the cost of one and he gave us a loaf of sourdough fresh that day at no charge. Life is good.

The bread was enjoyed with soup when we returned home and the coffees and baclava were downed on exiting, although sticky fingers needed a wash before putting our gloves back on. I remember Tony Elliott talking about doing a club ride to Charlton, although I forget where he said would be a good place for lunch. I think we would do well to add Charlton to the ride calendar at some point.

So, that was our getaway just snuck between restrictions and Sue's return to work (I had another week off). Although the roads weren't as challenging as you get in some directions, the destinations and points enroute made our time on the road enjoyable. Here is hoping there are no further lockdowns for regional Vic, and our city sisters and brothers are let out of Melbourne jail hopefully sooner than later.

Bruce

# September's Mid-week Ride



With Covid 19 restrictions being reduced it was time for me to attend the mid week ride. No doubt five other riders had the same idea even though it was an overcast day, but any day is a good day for a ride.

So Newstead was the place of choice for coffee and we headed off going through Maldon and going to the newest place on the main street. The coffee and service was good and after a chat for a while we headed home via Strange Ways , Guildford ,Castlemaine and up the Highway and home.

It was nice to be back on the bike and out on the road again and also enjoyed the company.

Rob Walder

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Good riding weather; no rain, overcast and just a little cool.

Next scheduled ride is the monthly Sunday ride on 11<sup>th</sup> October. We await arrangements.

I have messaged Paul Butler and he will keep us informed about the Victorian Breakfast Club events. Next anticipated VBC date is 10<sup>th</sup> October but Paul will confirm as there are some hurdles to overcome before he can definitely schedule an event.

Fabio's Friday rides are on again.

So, I will see you all around, at the lake and on rides. Keep safe and stay upright and all that stuff.

Best Regards

Michael Hennessy

## We're Moving ... again

Some members had picked up from the owners of Tyson's Reef Café that they weren't happy having our members sitting around while only buying a coffee (many did buy food as well). Sue and I saw Chris to find out what was going on, as I previously worked with Chris and Michael thought I might be more favourably received.

Chris stated they are not willing to have us sitting around with only a cuppa. Kylie added that in Melbourne, people are expected to vacate after 30 mins (I never witnessed that when I was in Melbourne). She also added the toilet was no longer available.

We tried to negotiate a compromise of an hour, with members being able to buy breakfast before or lunch afterwards. The minimum they were happy with was 45 mins for food services. We brought that to committee and branch members last Saturday (19th), but that is not practical for a social group like ours.

The move to Lake Weeroona means we are in a public place with a coffee van and other food and beverage suppliers nearby. We are under shelter and have plenty of parking available albeit shared with other Bendigonians and visitors. We also maintain a public profile and a walker who also rode was talking with members on Saturday.



We did discuss it with all members present last Saturday morning, before the committee made a unanimous decision to relocate to the lake. All discussion was favourable, with some suggestions of a periodical breakfast cook-up, and maybe moving Thursday get-togethers around cafes in Bendigo, using text, etc., to let members know where. No further decisions have been made on the suggestions but we are certainly warm towards them. - Bruce

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## Motorcycle thefts DROP during pandemic

*The following is an article in [motorbikewriter.com.au](http://motorbikewriter.com.au) by Mark Hinchliffe, 12th September, 2020:*

Motorcycle theft fell a surprising 2.7% to 9021 in the past financial year (2019/20) while overall Australian motor vehicle theft increased 2% to 56,312. It appears motorcycle thieves stayed home during the coronavirus pandemic as motorcycle thefts had been on course for a bumper year. Thefts were trending up with a 10.0% increase to 9672 in the 2019 calendar year. In fact, that was the biggest increase of any category of vehicle.

Instead, motorcycle thefts have dropped dramatically during the pandemic which seems to run completely contra to thefts of other motor vehicles. The National Motor Vehicle Theft Council even points out that there is a



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correlation between the performance of the economy and crime. They tip that with the recession caused by the pandemic it is “almost certain the current uplift in vehicle crime will extend into 2021 at a minimum”.

However, that may not include motorcycles.

### Motorcycle thefts

The biggest drop in motorcycle theft was in NSW, down 251 (11.6%) from 2160 to 1909. At the other end of the scale, Tasmania was up a whopping 27.1%.

State or Territory	2018/19		2019/20		% change
	Thefts	% of thefts	Thefts	% of thefts	
ACT	104	1.1	110	1.2	5.8%
NSW	2,160	23.3	1,909	21.2	-11.6%
NT	100	1.1	77	0.9	-23.0%
QLD	1,864	20.1	1,956	21.7	4.9%
SA	711	7.7	783	8.7	10.1%
TAS	170	1.8	216	2.4	27.1%
VIC	2,037	22.0	2,056	22.8	0.9%
WA	2,121	22.9	1,914	21.2	-9.8%
<b>AUS</b>	<b>9,267</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>9,021</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>-2.7%</b>

### Most stolen

As usual, the most stolen motorcycle brands are also the most prevalent in the market such as Japanese bikes.

However, scooters and off-road bikes were also prime targets of thieves as they are lightweight and easy to steal. Some are also used on properties and tourist destinations where they may not be re-registered.

That explains the high theft rating of off-road brands such as KTM and Husqvarna, and scooter brands such as SYM, Kymco and Piaggio.

### Top motorcycle theft targets



Make	2018/19	2019/20
Honda	2,010	1,938
Yamaha	1,582	1,574
Kawasaki	854	884
Suzuki	816	819
KTM	647	598
SYM	287	336
Kymco	223	257
Piaggio	203	221
Harley Davidson	219	186
Triumph	182	160
Husqvarna	145	146
Longjia	142	130
Hyosung	173	129
Ducati	92	101
Aprilia	94	99
Vespa	78	94
BMW	78	92
Bolwell	65	68
CFMoto	60	57
Vmoto	65	56

# Petition to lower riding costs

The following is from 2 Wheels Action Group (TWAG) started this petition to Scott Morrison (Prime Minister of Australia) and 42 others

We need our Federal and State Governments and Councils of Australia to get Australians moving again!

- Lower the cost of Powered 2 Wheel Registration & CTP (\$50 - 50cc, \$100 - LAMS, \$200 - Open)
- Standardise Powered 2 Wheel Registration and CTP Australia-wide
- LA category vehicles able to be ridden on a car licence Australia-wide
- Incentivise commuters to purchase electric powered 2 wheel transport through green fund rebates (as per current solar rebates) and no stamp duty charges.
- National exemption from motorway, bridge and tunnel toll charges.
- Parking to be free and footpath parking allowed but public thoroughfares and walkways are not to be compromised or impaired

There is little doubt that the Coronavirus (COVID-19) is currently challenging every single aspect of our society. Since the lockdowns and exponential increase in people working from home there has been a significant reduction of traffic on our roads. The current situation is testing for all of us but going forward we could all benefit and enjoy the following:

Sweet, sweet air – The most evident of all changes is that the air in our cities is clearer, so now is the time to rethink our use of single occupant vehicles. Seeing landmarks not normally seen due to pollution haze has been noticed the world over. As the pandemic eases and the cars return to our roads, the air quality will deteriorate. Powered 2 Wheels can substantially reduce emissions in comparison with a car. This can be further reduced through the use of electric 2 and 3-wheelers.

Less congestion = better commuting – People now working and studying from home have realised the cost savings of not paying to park or fuel their vehicles that they use for their daily commute. Powered 2 wheels are also more convenient, saving valuable time and providing tangible social and economic benefits to individuals and families alike.

Social distancing in a tin can – Public transport is a great way to move large numbers of people, but very hard to achieve social distancing: this will be front of mind for many everyday commuters returning to crowded public transport facilities. powered 2 wheel commuting allows social distancing.

Friends with [many] benefits – Many commuters already benefit by using powered 2 wheel transport with ever-increasing electric options emerging on the market daily. This is still one of the most efficient, cost-effective, minimal impact ways to deliver commuting solutions, as it allows commuters to quickly complete their daily travel routines with flexibility and distance capability like no other commuter, and at the same time contributing to:

- less air and noise pollution
- less traffic and parking congestion
- more money in your pockets in these difficult times
- better mental wellbeing and free time due to less commuting time
- taking control and have FUN at the same time.

Let's encourage more people to commute by powered 2-wheel transport. It is the simplest, most cost-effective personal transport solution which satisfies social distancing measures. Let's keep costs of powered 2-wheel transport as low as the impact they have on our roads, infrastructure and environment.

Support the cause now and sign the petition!

<https://www.change.org/p/get-australia-moving-again-with-a-better-deal-for-powered-2-wheels>



## RIDES & EVENTS

Oct	11th	<b>Central Vic Monthly Ride.</b> Leave Rotary Park, Kangaroo Flat 10am with full tanks
	15th	<b>Central Vic Mid-Week Ride.</b> Leave Rotary Park, Kangaroo Flat 10am with full tanks
	28th	<b>Social Night</b> Watch CVUB facebook page, emails, and/or texts.
Nov	8th	<b>Central Vic Monthly Ride.</b> Details to come. <i>Mt Macedon Memorial ride has been cancelled</i>
	19th	<b>Central Vic Mid-Week Ride.</b> Leave Rotary Park, Kangaroo Flat 10am with full tanks
	25th	<b>Social Night</b> Watch CVUB facebook page, emails, and/or texts.



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## FOR THE DIARY

Mar 2021	22-28	<b>Ulysses National Rally @ Mandurah, WA.</b> Further details at <a href="http://www.ulyssesrally2021.com">www.ulyssesrally2021.com</a>
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# The Last La-HA-HA-augh!

Spring!



Instead of the John I call my bathroom the Jim!  
That way it sounds better when I say I go to the Jim first thing every morning!!!

