

THE BIKESHED NEWS

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ISSUE 66 - MAY 2026

- Welcome to our new committee members
- 'Riding on Wurudjeri Country' mural
- Bike of the month: Tractor 3000
- Ride report: Bairnsdale to Wangaratta
- Wheel Sisters
- Wheel of fortune: your month ahead revealed

Bonjour mes amis, the cassette on your bike may be so-called because it resembles the same technology used to play music in a '98 Falcon's car stereo: a modular, self-contained unit of stuff spooled onto a spindle, ready to roll and take you places. French for "little box" they say, the arms race of la petite boîte has just hit a new record of 14-speed which begs the question how many tracks per side does one really need?

We are now deep in Waring, wombat season, when the hearts of soft tree ferns become a key traditional food source in lieu of summer fruits. Fungi burst up through the rain-soaked earth and the grand new XXL marquee at the Shed makes increasingly pertinent appearances to keep us dry. We are delighted to have a full house in the proverbial wheel house of the Bike Shed Committee once again – read on below to meet our new members. We have completed our second term for the year of the Bike Mechanics 101 course and welcomed a new cohort for the first one-off Gears 101 class – congratulations to all participants.

Meet our new committee members!

I'm Cait, the new president of the committee. I first got involved with The Bike Shed doing the Bicycle Mechanics 101 course (highly recommend!) a couple of years ago and have since become a regular volunteer at the Shed. I've learnt so much at the Shed and I'm very excited to work on making it a safe and comfy space for all, and support the positive impact that the Shed makes on community groups and individuals. Outside of the Shed, I loooove my bike and am addicted to finding creative ways to get from A to B using bike/train combos!!



Hey I'm Mia, a new general rep on the committee! I've been around the Bike Shed for about a year now and like to spread my love across the days. I'm a 90s mountain bike and cantilever enthusiast, often found jangling my spoke beads down the Merri or digging around at market gardens all over town.

Hi folks, Pete the new committee secretary here. I have really enjoyed the past few years at the Bike Shed, meeting great people and learning heaps. So, I am looking forward to working with everyone on the committee. I have been messing about with bikes for over 50 years; you could say I am a bit of a bike tragic, but cycling is the best way to get around and explore the world. I enjoy road, gravel and the odd bit of easy MBT riding, but touring (what people call bike-packing these days) is my favourite. It is great to disappear for a few days and explore an area. See you at the Shed.



Riding on Wurundjeri country mural, by Bridget

This month we had the honour of collaborating with triathlete Dayna Kelly-Guthrie of TRIMOB on the 'Riding on Wurundjeri Country' mural on the Gong House wall. Thanks so much to all who helped out – it was a beautiful day on a different style of tools!

Dayna has this to say about the project: Every space we walk into should feel safe and inclusive. We should feel seen and as though we belong, no matter what Country we may find ourselves on. Thank you to the Bike Shed for the opportunity and to TRIMOB for leading the way in this space for our mob.



We were grateful to work with Dayna and TRIMOB and are excited to support their work making sports like cycling more accessible for Indigenous athletes across the continent – watch this space for further collabs.



Bike of the month: Tractor 3000, by Jack

The Toyota Carolla of bikes. Built around the same three pillars of design - comfort, reliability and swag.

This 60s era speedwell was built for extremely medium speed and amazing simplicity, the steel frame has lasted 60 years and will continue for another 60, I'm sure of it. Finishing the absolutely solid foundation is artisinal hand paintings, including the high tech "this is a worth \$0 crusty bike" security immobilizer for protection and questionable tractor motifs.

Having only one gear means there's no complications, no distractions, just momentum. It looks forward to someone taking it's reins to frolick the urban meadows of Naarm and beyond.

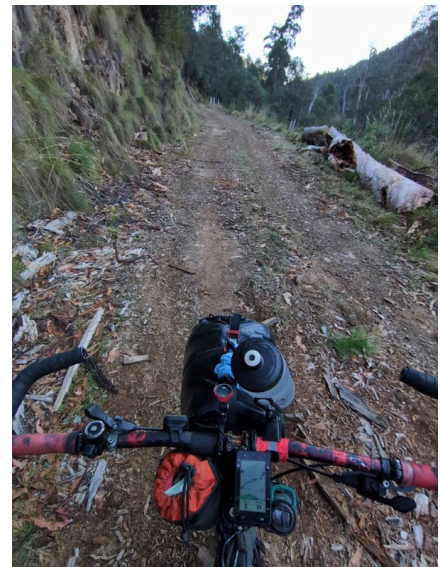


Ride report: Bairnsdale to Wangaratta, by Anthony

I set off from Bairnsdale for Wangaratta a few Mondays ago. Starting at 6:10 I was alone on the roads, other than for tradies and truckies in their vehicles - neither of which makes for great cycling companions. And it was cold - somewhere around zero. I hadn't been so cold since... since the last time I had the bright idea of such an early start on a cold morning. The sunrise over a mist-filled valley north of the town was spectacular, and once past Mount Taylor, I turned into Mount Alfred State Forest. The scrubby forest and smooth dirt tracks made for fast, enjoyable riding, and I covered the first 50km quickly. So quickly that I started to fantasise about being able to commence the 1100m climb of the Dargo High Plains Road from Dargo in the early afternoon.



As the forest became denser, the track quality began to deteriorate. An early indication of what was to come was the hand-painted sign pointing towards Dargo - most helpful as the dead-end private road certainly looked more like a road than the muddy goat track that the sign indicated I should follow. Mud and a distinct lack of goats were the highlights of the next few kilometres as I moved along the muddy, goatless track slightly faster than a frozen slug gliding across a sandy beach. Once through, the sight of a grassy slope made the goatless goat track look positively appealing. It was deceptively steep. So deceptively steep that I already was bracing for it 500m away. Having pushed up the steep - but smooth - slope, I approached the rocky - and just as steep - section that followed. Now THIS was properly hard - not even a properly thawed out and warmed up slug would manage this easily. And it was starting to warm up. After an hour of battling a rocky track that was being increasingly unfriendly towards my minivelo and me, I decided that I needed a proper feed, rather than trail snacks, so out came my gas stove and a dehydrated meal. Lovely as the view of the valley was, it didn't improve my enjoyment of the tofu and pumpkin curry I'd dehydrated maybe 15 months ago. I was tired.



Wheel Sisters, by Faith

When “I should learn to ride a bike” makes it out of the group chat and on to the Merri Creek! We’ve got over twenty women learning to ride or re-learning confidence and skills in the Wheel Sisters program at the moment thanks to the ongoing support of Merri-Bek Council. Together with organisations like the Bike Shed, Merri-Bek BUG (Bicycle User Group), Brainwave Bikes, Fawkner Neighbourhood House, WeCycle, and everyone else who has donated a bike or time to keep this program going and the excellent instructors from Bike It Better. It’s getting close to three years since we started and close to 100 women who have jumped on a bike!



Wheel of Fortune: Your month ahead revealed in bike tarot, by Oli

The Fool (adventure, embracing the unknown)

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, gentle reader, it's you. Indeed, this month you will discover that if you pedal fast enough, you can achieve lift-off.



If you'd like to include anything in next months issue, simply send it along to newsletter@thebikeshed.org.au