

THE BIKESHED NEWS

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ISSUE 67 - JULY 2026

- Bike Shed fundraiser party this Sat – you're invited!
- Fundraiser raffle – prizes revealed!
- Bikepacking central Queensland's mining belt (yes, that's right)
- Wheel of fortune: your month ahead revealed

Dear Shed friends, it's NAIDOC week, and what a good week to pay homage to one of Victoria's original cycling champions, Gunditjmara cyclist Stan Couzens, who won a slew of bike races in Warrnambool throughout the 1940s and 50s before his career as a painter. This was the era of the Framlingham mission on Gunditjmara Country and the Stolen Generations – Couzens' success on the race course is an incredible achievement in the face of many odds.

This week we have many things to celebrate, namely the Shed itself and our wonderful community – so we are putting on a big ol party this Saturday, 11 July. We'll be raising funds for our mutual aid bikes program, that sees around 100 bikes a year fixed up and donated to wonderful orgs like Palestine Australia Relief and Action, Wheel Sisters, River Nile School, and more. This year we'll be teaming up with the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre to bring our mechanics course to folks in their network free o' charge – and a big new batch of bikes.

Come and help us help others, and join us for a fab arvo-evening of live music from some of our talented volunteers, staff, and mechanics course graduates; a Merri Creek-themed alley cat race; an exhibition of all the entries to our mural competition; the return of bike tarot; a steaming hot pot of borscht equalled only by the steaming hot pot of mulled wine (and cold beers) next to it. Join us at the Pavilion at CERES from 3-9pm – can't wait to see you there.

AND – get some raffle tickets while you're at it, which will be drawn on the night! Go in the draw to win prizes from Abbotsford Cycles, Hungry, Sauna Goose, Skink Bikes, and many more!

Saturday's lineup

Meet the artists performing at our fundraiser party on Saturday, including some of the talented volunteers, staff, and mechanics course grads we are lucky to have in the Shed community!

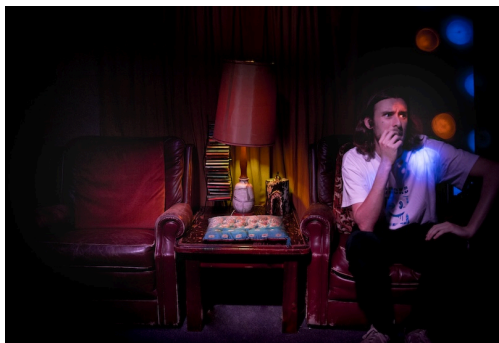
Vital Sparks - you may know him as Andrew, our manager!

Paige Gibson - volunteer and folk musician

Jasmin Win-Ying Leung - mechanics course grad and erhu artist playing her set "Fishing Songs" that explores the virtuosity of Séuiseuhngyàn (水上人) traditional handline fishing.

Studio Norwood Lab - fellow mechanic and musician unleashing the audio-percussive signature of the everyday bike wheel to create surprising sonic voicings and industrial drones.

Double Butted DJs - Bridget and Bee, mechanics course teachers and DJs of variable wall thickness with a degree of flex



✨ MUTUAL AID RAFFLE PRIZES REVEALED ✨

Join us on Saturday 11 July at the Pavillion at CERES for our mutual aid fundraiser! Live music, an alley cat race, dinner, drinks, mural exhibition, and a raffle stacked with prizes generously donated by some of our favourite local businesses!

- 👜 Big Lunch handlebar bag - Hungry
- 👤 5 x sauna pass - Sauna Goose
- 👟 \$250 voucher - Birkenstock
- 🎺 2x Live at RRR show pass + \$100 RRR merch voucher - RRR
- 🌱 Tray of seedlings - Basalt Buddies
- 🚲 Bike accessories - Knog
- 🍺 \$100 voucher + case of beer - Inner North Brewing Company
- 🚲 Bike parts - Abbotsford Cycles
- ⚙️ \$350 custom build voucher - Skink Bikes
- 🍷 2 x venue vouchers - Bridge Road Brewers

Every ticket goes directly towards our mutual aid bikes program - over the past two years we've given away 180+ bikes (with helmets, lights & locks) to people in our community who need them. This year we're partnering with the @asrc1 to fix up a fresh batch and bring our free mechanics course to people in their network.

Raffle tickets are available to buy here, and on the day at our fundraiser, where it will be drawn. Hang on to your receipt, as it is your ticket! Come and support us to support others, and hopefully walk away with a prize from one of the amazing businesses in our community!

Ride report: mines of central Queensland, by Muff

In April 2025, four artists rode pushbikes 400km across Baranha, Biri and Giya lands, through regional mining towns, from Moranbah to Abbot Point coal port near Bowen as part of our research for upcoming book 00-02 Energy, an anthology of 26 contributions that explore the varied economic, environmental, queer and First Nations experiences and knowledges connected to 'energy' on this continent.

This methodology of pedal power helped us grasp the spatial organisation and scale of these sites of extreme entropy, and the histories, cultures and ecologies of regional areas and major industrial towns in central Queensland (CQ). It was sunny and hot (25-35°C) and dry. We only got rained on by the sprinklers at the Collinsville Showgrounds campsite at 3am.

I asked the fellow Field Pedalers a few years ago to bike ride around some coal mines in CQ and surprisingly got an enthusiastic “fuck yeah!”. So we dykes/artie freaks on bikes and a car with a trailer, set off in April 2025 not really knowing what to expect. Tiny us riding bikes alongside a great galumphing open-cut coal pit — a place our bodies should never be — seemed perfect to me. The physical reality was disorienting and at times ridiculous — a scale I had never imagined. The surveillance was intimidating; hawks, crocs, rogue cows, security fences, mining infrastructure and speeding trucks; it always felt like someone or something was going to run us over or at the very least yell at us. We were suss foreign objects to be sussed.

I found myself out there peddling my 'woke' agenda by existing in an 'arty', 'greenie', queer body from the city. CQ and I awkwardly danced. Upon reflection, in the field, I felt unsafe and anxious a lot of the time. Not the best position to come to empathy from. But I felt emboldened — if only by my fellow pedalers and the locals who were brave enough to chat with us — I kept a tight grip on my bike (the Swiftlet) and the road's shoulder.

Conversely, we were mobile, self-determined and at the end of the trip we freely chose to leave and go back to our homes in the city that benefit from the coal outputs of the Bowen region. The bodily anxiety faded and I manage to avoid scrutiny unlike those at the coalface who are genuinely threatened by job and community loss.

Follow this project further:
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Wheel of Fortune: Your month ahead revealed in bike tarot, by Oli

Eight of Allen Keys: restriction; feeling trapped

As winter sets in, pants have become an essential part of your riding ensemble. You now wouldn't dream of mounting your bike without first performing your chic sock tuck. However, in one fateful lapse, you do. No sooner do you hear the hungry growl of your drivetrain than the fabric is caught and devoured by its jaws. Greasy drool coats the remaining shreds, with the rest forever gone into the belly of the bike.

Heed the warning of this card and remember your signature sock tuck, lest you tempt the jaws of fate.



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