

Mitchell Bicycle Users Group



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Welcome to the Mitchell Bicycle Users Group

This document outlines the reasons behind the formation of the MBUG and provides some information about how you can be involved, be it as a beginner rider or as an experienced rider.

Introduction

The following information about **Bicycle User Groups (or BUGs)** is taken from the Bicycle Victoria web site (<http://www.bv.com.au>). Further information about BUGs and Bicycle Victoria may be found at this web site.

What is a Bicycle User Group?

"A Bicycle User Group is a group of people with some shared interests and goals in relation to cycling." – Bicycle Victoria

BUGs:

- Are involved in improving facilities and opportunities for cyclists
- Differ from cycling clubs in that they usually do more than organizing social rides and are non-competitive
- Offer a chance to be heard as cyclists
- Offer an opportunity to be part of your cycling community
- Provide a local forum for cyclists

Why form a Mitchell Shire BUG?

In essence, we formed MBUG because we enjoy cycling and wanted to meet other cyclists who like doing the same thing, with a view to sharing ideas, riding together and making cycling safer and more enjoyable in the Mitchell Shire.

When we approached Bicycle Victoria about the formation of a BUG, they suggested that we make it a Shire-wide organization since that gives us a defined region to attract people from. In addition, it gives the Mitchell Shire Council a recognised organisation to contact when they want to consult on cycling issues.

Statement of Purposes

The Statement of Purposes gives us guidance in our decision making processes, as well as allowing us to explain to others what the group is about. These will be reviewed and changed as the organization matures.

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<http://www.mbug.asn.au>

We have come up with the following purposes for MBUG:

- 1) To promote the benefits of all types of cycling throughout the region
- 2) To plan and actively participate in a range of organized bicycle rides.
- 3) To provide a forum for cyclists to meet and discuss bicycling matters in a friendly and supportive manner.
- 4) To work closely with local authorities within the municipality to establish and/or improve safe cycling conditions.

Cycling Promotion

One of our goals will be to promote cycling in the Shire and to actively encourage people to jump on their bikes. The benefit of this will be to help people to become fitter and healthier. A side benefit is that, by getting out on the roads and tracks in the Shire, people will discover a lot more about the area in which they live.

Social Rides

Far and away the most enjoyable aspect of MBUG will be the social rides. We will aim to provide a social riding outlet for people of all abilities throughout the shire in a friendly non-competitive atmosphere. There is also the potential to enter events as a group, for example, Around the Bay in a Day or the Great Victorian Bike Ride, or to organize weekends away riding rail trails etc.

In addition, we will work with the Seymour Broadford Cycling Club to develop riders who may decide to go on from social riding to eventually race.

Forum for Cyclists

MBUG will aim to provide some skills training and basic maintenance through information nights as well as getting guest speakers to present to the group.

Improving Cycling Conditions

The final goal of MBUG is to work as an advocacy group with the Mitchell Shire Council with the aim of improving conditions for cyclists (and motorists) through improved signage on roads, better shoulders to enable cyclists to ride off the road and alternative routes for cyclists, e.g. rail trails.

How can I help?

You can help by joining the group and participating in social rides. If you want to be involved in the organisation of the group, feel free to volunteer for one of the committee positions.

Inaugural Public Meeting – January 18 2005

The aim of this inaugural meeting is to provide a brief introduction to MBUG and its interim committee, to change and/or fill some committee positions and to gather information that will help us with our planning. Please feel free to jump in and have a say. We are not a political organization, nor do we have any particular agenda or barrow to push. To paraphrase the Bicycle Victoria motto, we are about:

“More People Cycling More Often (in the Mitchell Shire)”