1. Meeting Details 7:00

1.1 Meeting Time and Venue

7:00 pm, Mon 28 Sep 2026, Mill Park Leisure Centre, 33 Morang Drive, Mill Park.

2. Attendance

2.1 Committee

Glenn Eckardt (Chair), Lee Robinson (Secretary/Minutes), David Stephens (Vice-President), Mara Ferraro, Helen Henry.

2.2 Visitors

Bruce Manison and Michael Bates (David Turnball Memorial Ride).

2.3 Online

None.

2.4 Apologies

Keerat Singh (Treasurer), Peter Duncombe, Kevin Balaam, Alison and Alan Kenworthy.

The first item discussed was Item 11.1 to accommodate our visitors. 7:05-7:30

3. Previous Minutes

3.1 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Motion: That the minutes of the 31-08-2026 meeting be accepted as a true record of that meeting.
Moved: Mara Seconded: David Motion: Accepted

4. Items from the Previous Minutes 7:35

4.1 (4.1) WBUG Promotional Poster

The title of this item has been adjusted to reflect the current content.

Thanks to Alan and Alison, we now have these posters available, and some have been distributed to some of the cafes we frequent. We need to continue distributing them, including to local libraries. All suggestions and offers to assist are welcome.

The poster shows us riding along a grass track, which could give the public a narrow view of the BUG's activities. We need to look at designing a road version or a version that shows multiple bike-riding situations.

4.2 (4.4) City of Whittlesea's Seniors Festival 2026

Glenn has agreed to run a bike ride and a BBQ for Fabiana and Tejal from the CoW Positive Ageing Team as part of the Seniors Festival. This will be combined with our WBUG BBQ ride on Sun, 4 Oct. The Positive Aging Team will promote the ride as part of Whittlesea's Seniors Festival.

4.3 (4.5) Basic Bike Maintenance Courses

I have received a quote from Bike It Better to run bike maintenance workshops early next year.

I am proposing that we run two workshops for the community in different locations in the City of Whittlesea (Doreen and Thomastown/Lalor?), probably in February and April.

I intend to apply for a CoW Community Grant to fully fund the two workshops.

4.4 (4.6) New Jerseys

Glenn has created a survey for the design of the next run of our jerseys. People can choose between the existing design or two new options. Survey closes at midnight on 30 Sep. Glenn provided the results so far, and it seems the current design is still popular.

5. Rides 7:30

5.1 Ride Reports

Summary for Sep 2026

Fast and Weekday rides were the most popular. Fourteen rides were offered over 28 days, with five different types of rides; 19 female riders and 68 male riders participated over the month. 2 rides were canceled due to weather.

Short Rides - 2 rides, avg. 1.5 female and 10.5 male riders.

6/09/2026 Father's Day Ride to Bundoora Square, RL Lee R, 25 km, 0 female and 9 male riders.

13/09/2026 Mernda to South Morang (St Ivy's), RL Graeme W1, 20 km, 3 female and 12 male riders.

Medium Rides - 1 ride, avg. 1 female and 9 male riders.

20/09/2026 (CANCELED due to potentially dangerous winds) Epping Stn to Craigieburn North, RL Kevin B.

27/09/2026 Epping Stn to Boot Factory Cafe Pentridge, RL Lee R, 45 km, 1 female and 9 male riders.

Long Rides - None.

Social Rides - 1 ride, avg. 3 female and 4 male riders.

20/09/2026 Joy Ride Mernda - Humevale climb - Kinglake West, RL Wendy B, 55 km, 3 female and 4 male riders.

Fast Rides - 3 rides, avg. 2.5 female and 8 male riders.

12/09/2026 South Morang - Healesville, RL Alwyn S, 150 km, 2 female and 10 male riders.

19/09/2026 South Morang to Kinglake West via Humevale, RL Glenn E, 65 km, 2 female and 6 male riders.

25/09/2026 Uni Hill to Altona Loop Grand Final Eve ride, RL Glenn E, 115 km, 3 female and 7 male riders.

26/09/2026 (CANCELED due to weather) South Morang to Hurstbridge, RL Alwyn S.

Weekday Rides - 4 rides, avg. 1 female and 4 male riders.

2/09/2026 Mill Park to Joyayz Cafe, Doreen, RL David F, 35 km, 3 female and 6 male riders.

9/09/2026 Mill Park to Artiga Cafe, Thornbury, RL Glenn E, 35 km, 1 female and 1 male rider.

16/09/2026 Mill Park to Vorea Cafe at Polaris Village, RL Glenn E, 35 km, 0 female and 1 male rider.

23/09/2026 Four Seeds Cafe Wollert, RL David F, 35 km, 1 female and 3 male riders.

Twilight - Rides run during Daylight Savings Time.

Gravel rides - None.

Rail Trail Rides - None.

5.2 Incidents

Ted Henning's flat-bar handlebars got caught on a damaged section of fencing on the Upfield path. Damaged fence photographed for a SSS report by David Stephens.

5.3 Proposed Rides

Sun 11/10/2006 Whittlesea Ride to celibrate the Lions Club's intallation of a bicycle maintenance station. Ride Leader will be Whittlesea local and WBUG member Neil Fitzgerald.

5.4 Infrastructure Updates

Glenn reported that he was disappointed to learn from council that they only intend to repair the rubber path section of the Yan Yean Pipe Track rather than replacing it.

5.5 Ride Issues

None reported.

6. Treasurer's Report 8:45

6.1 Current Financial Report

Balance at 31-07-2026:			**$4,282.30**
Plus:			
	Memberships	(4 full, 2 conc)*	$110.19
Less:			
	Printing of posters		$43.00
Balance at 26-09-2026:			**$4,349.49**

* Only one person was able to be identified as having paid as they paid directly into our bank account. The other five have paid through Stripe, which only provides an amount and a transaction number in our bank statement.

ACTION: Lee to work with Keerat to be able to identify people who have paid through Stripe to keep our Membership Register and our Team App Financial Members up to date.

6.2 Liabilities

Current Liability	**$0.00**

6.3 Petty Cash

Opening balance		**$283.45**
Expenses	$0.00	
Income	$0.00	
Current Petty Cash balance		**$283.45**

6.4 Grants

We have been successful with our Volunteer Group Grant of $1,000. It should be in our bank by 29 Sep.

6.5 Membership Fees

It was decided to wait until we have more details about the proposed combined BUG and BN membership before we set the 2027–2028 fees.

6.6 Sponsorship

No new sponsorship agreements have been made.

7. Membership Report 8:00

7.1 New Members

Chris Guthrie (potential) - currently unable to tell if he has paid his membership if he has paid using Stripe.

7.2 Team App Members

We have 196 people registered on Team App as of 28/08/2026 (an increase of 8).

7.3 Membership Status

Members: We have a total of 66 members, of whom 52 are fully financial; the other 14 have yet to renew their membership for the 2026/27 financial year.

Gender breakdown: 15 female, 51 male. 23% of our membership is female.

Membership Types: 37 memberships at the full rate and 29 at the concession rate. 56% of our members pay the full rate. There are currently no family memberships.

7.4 Membership Process

Keerat is investigating the possibility of incorporating the acceptance of the ambulance agreement and our policies into the TeamApp process. He will not be able to proceed with this until October due to his other commitments.

8. Website / Social Media 8:10

8.1 Website

Kevin has “tastefully” added Hurstbridge Patisserie and Cafe to our sponsors.

Kevin also supplied graphs of the traffic on our website for August and September, and it looks good—people are interested in visiting our website.

8.2 Team App

Financial Members Group

The group has been set up and is proving useful.

Membership Approval

Glenn is trialing an approval stage when requests to join Team App come in.

Kevin has highlighted the fact that an approval process needs to be established to ensure consistent approvals.

David has volunteered to check new requests by sending an email to the email address supplied in the application to verify that it is valid.

8.3 Facebook and Instagram

Glenn continues to post entertaining ride reports on Facebook.

9. Correspondence 8:15

9.1 Email Correspondence:

1/09/2026

- Tejal Shah from the CoW Positive Ageing Team has confirmed our Senior’s Bike Ride will be included in Whitllesea’s Seniors Festival Program.
- Mara Ferraro shared her article on teaching people to ride in “That’s Life” magazine, where WBUG is mentioned.

2/09/2026

- Janelle Collins contacted WBUG after reading the local Scoop article, saying that her interaction with a WBUG member at our stand at a previous Whittlesea Festival didn’t make her feel welcome as the article suggested. Glenn has politely responded and offered to hear her complaint in more detail.

10/09/2026

- Jim Connor to WBUG requesting support for the Montorency to Eltham Shared Use Path via the Engage Victoria website.

15/09/2026

- Megan Smithwick (CoW Community Development Officer – Whittlesea Township) confirmed that the Whittlesea Lions Club will host a BBQ to support the WBUG Whittlesea Ride on 11 Oct to celebrate the new bicycle maintenance station that the Lions Club funded.

16/09/2026

- WBUG President to Minister Paul Hamer MP Minister for Roads and Road Safety to support Whittlesea Council’s commitment to completing

Donnybrook Road Stage 3, including the delivery of active transport infrastructure.
28/09/2026 A disappointing, noncommittal response was received from the Department of Transport and Planning.

28/09/2026

- Stan Woodhouse (campaigner with the Public Transport Users Association) to WBUG. Requesting that WBUG be added to the signatories on an open letter to all members and candidates along the Mernda Train Line requesting increased services.
  This request was supported by the committee because it is likely to encourage more active transport to train stations.
  ACTION: Glenn to follow up with Stan and provide our logo to add to the letter.

10. Other Meetings 8:30

10.1 Ride Leaders Meeting

Successful meeting held with the Ride Calendar mapped out for the rest of the year.

11. Other Business 8:35

11.1 David Turnball Memorial Ride

Whittlesea March 2027

Bruce Manison and Michael Bates gave a background presentation on David Turnball OAM, a former CEO of Whittlesea Council and a strong advocate for bicycle riding and infrastructure, the legacy of which we still enjoy today.

There have been two previous memorial rides around Whittlesea to honour his memory and raise funds for the CFA. Bruce and Michael are looking for our participation in the ride as well as being able to share the organisational load of the event where they believe we would have some expertise and help to continue it into the future.

The event has been held in March to coincide with David's Anniversary, although the timing can be flexible. It is hoped that the event could become an annual event or at least a biannual one.

Discussions were around addressing safety, insurance, and potential police involvement for larger groups. Bruce and Michael were confident they were still able to utilise council contacts and had good business contacts in Whittlesea. The BUG's role would be initially to promote the event and potentially provide ride leaders.

After Michael and Bruce's presentation, the committee discussed the level of involvement in organizing the ride and the potential for long-term commitment.

Mara, who has been involved in the previous rides, offered to reach out to council contacts to confirm support and clarify the requirements for organizing the event.

The committee agreed it would need to develop a strategy for promoting the event, which has been suggested needs to be six months in advance, including potential partnerships with local businesses and community groups.

The committee will need to follow-up with Bruce and Michael to communicate the committee's decision and next steps, ensuring alignment on responsibilities and expectations.

11.2 Doreen Primary School Bike Ed

Gabrielle Gray, a teacher at Doreen Primary School, has contacted the BUG looking for support to run basic bike maintenance sessions at the school as part of the school's Bike Ed Program in Term Four in preparation for the annual "Great Doreen Bike Ride," a whole-school bike ride from Diamond Creek to Templestowe.

Several committee members have indicated their willingness to become involved, so Glenn will attempt to meet with the school to get a better picture of what would be involved.

11.3 WBUG BBQ

We have had a good response, with more than 30 people responding on Team App as well as a few councillors and their partners accepting the invitation. With potential people from the Seniors Festival Bike Ride attending, we are looking at catering for at least 40 people.

Lee will be organising the supplies, and Peter and Nathan Duncombe have again volunteered their excellent BBQing skills.

The BBQ is scheduled to run from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

11.4 AGM

Glenn will try to book the RSL for Mon 16 Nov to keep it away from Remembrance Day.

12. Future WBUG Meetings 8:55

12.1 Committee Meetings

26 Oct 2026 at 7:00 p.m., Mill Park Leisure Centre Meeting Room.

12.2 General Meetings

Provisionally set for Mon, 16 Nov, at the Epping RSL.

12.3 Social Meetings

TBA.

12.4 Ride Leader Meetings

TBA.

13. Meeting Closed 9:28

9:30 p.m.