

OYB Forests and Murals Tour

18th October – 26th October 2025

Post Tour Report

Overview

The OYB 2025 was well received by all 74 participants.

11 first time OYB participants including 1 from Apollo Bay Victoria.

2 withdrew early due to illness. 2 withdrew early due to prior commitments

Apart from 2 particularly wet and windy days the weather remained ideal for cycling

The route delivered picturesque rural and forest scenery with plenty of wildflowers still in bloom. As always, points of interest along the various routes added extra value to the tour

The venues suited our needs. We were well supported by the local councils and community groups

The rest day evening where participants found their own venues for dinner was well received. Collie provided a unique opportunity for this idea to work due to the proximity of the dining options in the town.

Transport from Kwinana:

12 people needed transport from Kwinana.

The minibus and private cars were adequate for participant transport to and from the train station thus saving significantly on transport costs.

Issues:

The minibus shredded a tyre – fortunately whilst being driven very slowly.

The trailer requires further maintenance – some of the bike wheel holders need replacement rivets and the rail opening needs stronger hinges (Terry bailey will follow this up)

An unexpected road closure resulted in a detour. Fortunately, we were able to divert riders to alternate routes without too much backtracking along the route.

The E-bike Charging station became flooded due to a brief storm causing strong wind and heavy rain. This caused damage to the circuit of one E-bike.

E-bike suitability became an issue again particularly I bike having limited battery life. The same issue occurred during OYB 2024

Budget sent to the treasurer:

The tour made an unexpected profit of \$1435.57 which is a good result. The overriding factor was being able to cancel the optional transport of \$1740 (allocated in the budget able to transport those participants).

Suggested Improvements

E-bike vetting needs improvement

The OYB 26 committee will discuss ways of improving our screening including electrical battery safety checks and battery life checks.

Consider adding a QR reader to the flyer.

Changes to the committee: a participant collator Ann Wilson would like to separate this from the administrator role.

OYB 2026

Terry Bailey will lead the 2026 tour

Starting in Kendenup the tour will take in the towns of Mt Barker (1 night), Denmark (2 nights), Albany (4 nights) Mt Barker (1 night). Loop rides from Denmark and Albany are planned.

Although previous discussion suggested shortening the days on tour for 2026 the availability of a suitable venue in Albany and that it is Albany's Bicentenary Year it has been decided to stay with the 9-day format for the tour.

Report submitted by Lois Grincerri on behalf of the 2025 OYB Forests and Murals Tour.