

# BOROONDARA

*Bicycle Users Group*

## Newsletter December 2006

**Boroondara BUG meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month, except January. Next meeting will be our Christmas Barbecue at 6.30pm on Wednesday 13 December, at Jason den Hollander's place: 34 Tuxen St, North Balwyn. All welcome. BYO drinks, veggie burgers or meat, and something to share.**

The Boroondara BUG is a voluntary group working to promote the adoption of a safe and practical environment for commuting and recreational cyclists in the City of Boroondara. We have close links with the City of Boroondara, Bicycle Victoria, Bicycle Federation of Australia and other local Bicycle Users' Groups.

Boroondara BUG has a web site at <http://www.boroondarabug.org> that contains interesting material related to cycling, links to other cycle groups, recent Boroondara BUG Newsletters and breaking news.

We also have two Yahoo Groups:

Send a blank e-mail to [BoroondaraBug-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:BoroondaraBug-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) to receive this monthly newsletter and occasional important messages.

Send a blank e-mail to [BoroondaraBugDiscussion-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:BoroondaraBugDiscussion-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) to monitor or join in an ongoing discussion of bike related issues both local and general.

All articles in this newsletter are the views and opinions of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of any other members of Boroondara BUG. All rides publicised in this newsletter are embarked upon at your own risk.

### Features

#### East Gippsland Tour

For those who prefer two wheels to four legs the Melbourne Cup Weekend, with its promise of moderate weather and long daylight hours, is the ideal opportunity to escape from the city for an extended bike tour. I had ridden the East Gippsland Rail Trail from Bairnsdale to Nowa Nowa a few years ago, but now that the new section from Nowa Nowa to Orbost is open, as well as the Gippsland Lakes Discovery Trail to Lakes Entrance, I was keen to go again.

I was hopeful that I could enlist a few of my regular riding companions to accompany me. In the event our party numbered 26, 5 drivers and 21 riders, though not all could stay for the full four days. We began riding just after midday on Saturday, once we had all reached Bairnsdale, most by car but three by train. Though some of the party were much faster, the 60km ride to Nowa Nowa took me almost exactly the 6 hours I had anticipated by the time we stopped for lunch, and then again for afternoon tea in Bruthen, conveniently situated at the midway point. After the first 8km to Nicholson the surface of the trail is unsealed, with a few patches of deep sand. There is a fair bit of climbing; most of it is gradual as you would expect on a rail trail, but there are a couple of steep descents to bypass the magnificent old trestle bridges with corresponding steep ascents on the other side.

Nowa Nowa is a tiny place. For our two nights there our party was divided between the two main accommodation options in town – the Hotel/Motel and Mingling Waters Wilderness Retreat. Groups from both the Bayside Cycle Touring Club and Darebin BUG were also in residence at Mingling Waters, giving the town its busiest weekend in living memory. By arrangement we had dinner at Mingling Waters Café on the Saturday Night. Mike Ryan the proprietor did us proud with a wonderful selection of homemade food including plenty of vegetarian options, and the sort of luscious desserts which those who have ridden hard and long can eat with a clear conscience. He also kindly made available a wonderfully atmospheric undercover barbecue area complete with chandelier where we self-catered the next night.

Sunday was the most challenging day of our tour with a ride to Orbost and back along the new section of track, which turned out to be quite hard going and a bit longer than I had estimated – about 82km for the return trip. A few of the group decided to return by road, which was a little shorter and easier, and three of us opted for lifts one way or the other. In the many years since my last visit Orbost had become a vastly more attractive town with several appealing eateries along its pleasant main street.

On Monday we rode back along the EGRT to Seatons Track and joined the Gippsland Lakes Discovery Trail, aka the Mississippi Creek Trail. Although quite rough and steep in places, with the odd log blocking the track, this turned out to be the

most popular part of the whole tour. Riding single file along the narrow corridor through the forest with its abundant birdlife provides a real wilderness experience. It was pleasing to see a number of cycling family groups on this trail, including a couple with a toddler in a trailer and full camping rig. Although the Mississippi Creek section was mainly down hill this was followed by some quite taxing up and down on unsealed road before a last swoop down into Lakes Entrance. The total distance for the day was only about 42km, 17km along the EGRT then 25km down the Discovery Trail, leaving time and energy for some exploration around Lakes Entrance, though a stiff wind made this hard work.

On Tuesday we rode back to Bairnsdale where some of our group had left cars at the caravan park and others had a train to catch. We started out on the Princes Highway, using the path beside the road for the short, sharp climb up to the lookouts on the west side of town that provide such magnificent views of the lakes. Once on the road we had a good shoulder for most of the way to Swan Reach, where we stopped at the General Store for a coffee. We overshot the road we meant to take to return to the EGRT but the next one, at Johnsonville, got us there anyway. So for the last 15km or so we were back on our outward route. The excellent bakery at Bairnsdale made a good spot for a farewell meal before we made our separate ways back to Melbourne.

The East Gippsland Rail Trail and Gippsland Lakes Discovery Trail provide quite a different cycling experience from the marvellous Murray to the Mountains Rail Trail. While they lack the range of wineries and gourmet dining options, the mountain views and the relatively smooth sealed surface of the latter, they offer a more rugged experience of farmland and forest and more abundant wildlife. Our party spotted snakes, goannas, wallabies, and even a tortoise along the way as well as a huge range of birds. While mountain bikes are ideal for this terrain many of our party rode hybrids and experienced little difficulty, though most of us got off and walked on at least a few steep ups and downs and sandy patches.

There is a good little brochure available for the Gippsland Lakes Discovery Trail. However the East Gippsland Rail Trail brochure is currently out of print while being revised to include details of the new section to Orbost. There is lots of information on both trails, including maps, on the Web. Start with the Rail Trails Australia site at <http://www.railtrails.org.au> And if you go don't forget the insect repellent as East Gippsland is blessed with more than its fair share of flies and mozzies!

*Julia Blunden*

## General News

### Bicycle Victoria AGM

The 31st Annual General Meeting of Bicycle Victoria Incorporated (BV) was held at 7:00pm on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2006 at the Melbourne Town Hall. Boroondara BUG members present included: Graeme Stone, Phil Crohn, Jason den Hollander and David Leong (Julia Blunden was an apology).

I arrived at around 7:05pm to see Simon Crone (President), presenting his report, which included the confirmation of the minutes of the 2005 AGM, and the Volunteers recognition ceremony. The rest of the meeting was dedicated to Questions and Answers (The President answered almost all the questions), all of which are planned to be placed on the BV website for all to see. The main issues are summarized as follows:

A member via email asked a question on BV's high expenses in respect to their Collins St address and high legal expenses and wrote, '.... Are you going to ignore this Email as you did at the last election or are you going to pull your finger out and get real!!'

Many questions were asked about what BV's future national agenda entailed. The President responded by saying that BV will pursue national initiatives when it is of particular benefit to BV or where BV has been invited to assist or where BV has a particular expertise in the area, such as in organised rides and arranging Ride to Work Day. He said that that there was no plan to change the name to Bicycle Australia (BA) or similar, but they have discussed changing the name to remove the word 'Victoria' from the title, so as to make the organisation state neutral, which assists the organisation when dealing with non Victorian based initiatives.

Another question was BV's relationship with other key stakeholders (in particular, other cycling organisations such as BUGs and the BFA). The President's response was basically that BV will pursue relationships when and where it is in BV's best interest and cited the example of Sandringham BUG being a case where it was not in BV's interest to pursue a pro-active relationship due to opposing viewpoints on the Bayside Trail. He also stated that the BFA was an example where it was much better to have a relationship with them whilst not actually being a member.

A member acknowledged that Bicycle Victoria was successful in getting more people cycling more often, but what was required was more people cycling '**MORE SAFELY**' more often.

There was discussion on the need for Bicycle Victoria to be more media savvy (i.e. one cycling voice, rather than a divided voice) when it feels inclined to publicly condemn other cycling groups such as the Hell Riders and the Critical Mass. Harry Barber - CEO took over from the President at this point and stated that his take on the matter is to make cycling seem normal

to the general public and that cyclists on the fringe need to be distanced from BV in the same way that motorists in general would distance themselves from drag racing drivers.

There were calls for initiatives to lobby the government to have cycling related questions included in the Learners Permit test, in the hope of raising the awareness of the next generation of motorists of the importance of road sharing.

It was asked why the BV stand at the Bicycling Australia show was left unattended (and why weren't volunteers called upon to assist)? The President's answer was that all resources were tied up with running Around The Bay In A Day on the same weekend, but a better effort will be made in the future.

Members questioned the board member electoral process, in particular the use of an offshore electoral service provider, rather than say the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) (which may make scrutineering more difficult) and why some candidates ballot paper statements had been altered (contact details omitted) without prior permission. The President's response was that the offshore electoral service provider was chosen primarily because they offered BV the best deal, but next year they will give more consideration to using the AEC. The issue of altering ballot paper statements was justified on the grounds of creating a level playing field in that other candidates had not included their contact details, but contact details for all were on the BV website.

The issue of accessibility of board members to the general membership was raised. The President said that the BV website included details on how to contact the board and that he didn't believe that members should approach board members individually, but rather direct queries to the Board as a whole.

Phil Crohn thanked the President for chairing the AGM, but asked that the other board members be given an opportunity to give a short speech about themselves and their visions on cycling. The President said that we didn't have time for this, but would suggest it for the 2007 AGM.

*Thanks to David Leong for this report*

## **Bicycling Achievement Awards**

The 2006 Bicycling Achievement Awards were presented at the Bicycling Australia Show Dinner in Melbourne in front of 150 guests from industry, business and community sector. The winners are:

### **Cycling Promotion Fund of the Year:**

**Professional Category:** Jim Krynen, Public Transport Authority WA

**Honourable mention:** Bill Spurr CEO Tourism SA

**Honorary category:** Doug Stewart, Bike North

**Award for special initiative:** Victorian Metropolitan Ambulance Service

**Award for special initiative:** Moreland City Council for the Cyclovia

**Special Achievement Award by a bicycle organisation:** Deadly Treadlies NT

**Local Government Award for initiative to encourage and promote cycling:** Noosa Shire Council

**Award for an educational institution for innovation in encouraging cycling to school:** Nashville State School, QLD

**Honourable mention:** Graceville State School QLD

**Bicycling Achievement Award for Bicycle Friendly Business:** Royal Automobile Club of Victoria

**Honourable mention:** Public Transport Authority WA

**Bicycling Achievement Award for contribution towards cycling by a politician:** Cr. Janet Rice, Mayor Maribyrnong City Council

**Honourable mention:** Cr. Norman Jew

**Bicycling Achievement Award for contribution towards cycling by a bicycle retailer:** Joint winners: Gran Prix Cycles, Caulfield South, Vic; Hammer 'n' Cycle and the Bike Shed, ACT

*Thanks to Chris Star for this item*

## **The Riesling Trail**

The Clare Valley is one of South Australia's most beautiful regions, with rolling vineyards and classic scenery. Amongst this beautiful environment lies one of the best cycling and walking rail trails in the country – The Riesling Trail.

For information on accommodation and visitor information please contact the Clare Valley Visitor Information Centre on FREECALL: 1800 242 131 or via email on [ask@clarevalley.com.au](mailto:ask@clarevalley.com.au)

In March 2007 we will be launching a new 70 plus page guide to the Riesling Trail detailing extensive maps covering the trail highlighting wineries, art galleries and attractions located within a close proximity. If your club wishes to receive a copy or copies of this booklet please reply on this email with your postal details.

**Kelly Bruhn, Marketing Co-ordinator, Clare Valley Tourism Marketing**, phone: (08) 8842 1750; fax + (08) 8842 1757; email: [marketing@clarevalley.com.au](mailto:marketing@clarevalley.com.au) ; web [www.clarevalley.com.au](http://www.clarevalley.com.au)

## **Training Opportunity**

COTA Victoria has received funding from Office of Senior Victorians to provide grant subsidies to people to undertake a course in Fitness - Strength training, either certificate 3, older persons module or certificate 4, bridging from nursing to fitness, or undertake RPL.

For further information contact: Sue Hendy, Executive Director, Council on the Ageing Victoria, 4th fl, Block Arcade, 98 Elizabeth St, Melbourne 3000; phone: 0413 80 20 54 or 9655 2102

*Thanks to Janet Bennett for passing on the above two items*

## **Safe Family Research Scholarship**

The Amy Gillett Foundation recently announced the Safe Family Research Scholarship, in partnership with the Monash University Accident Research Centre. Applications are now open and close on 15 December. The successful candidate will undertake studies at the Monash University Accident Research Centre and will be expected to conduct research into crashes and interactions involving different road users, particularly motorists and cyclists.

**Enquiries:** Post-graduate Studies Administrative Officer, Accident Research Centre, Building 70, Clayton Campus, Monash University, Victoria 3800, phone: 9905 4371, email: [enquire@muarc.monash.edu.au](mailto:enquire@muarc.monash.edu.au)

**How To Apply:** Applicants should complete the [Expression of Interest form](http://www.monash.edu.au/muarc/postgraduate/index.html) available at <http://www.monash.edu.au/muarc/postgraduate/index.html>

*Thanks to Kathy Brunning for this item*

## **Beyond Boroondara**

### **Graeme's Media Grabs**

#### **Heidelberg Weekly, 28/11/06, p.6: Cyclists get off on wrong footpath**

BUREAUCRATIC finger-pointing could doom a push for a footpath beside a dangerous road in Wattle Glen. A loose coalition of residents and members of the Nillumbik Bicycle Riders Group raised the alarm a year ago over concern that children and bike riders were forced to use the shoulder of the 80kmh Heidelberg-Kinglake Road. The road is the responsibility of VicRoads, which is not willing to sacrifice the road shoulder, according to lobbyist Louisa Haussegger.

#### **Mordialloc Chelsea Leader, 29/11/06; p.9 Brakes on bike lane**

KINGSTON Council is yet to decide if Beach Rd cyclists will get their own road lane for weekend rides. The council last week deferred its decision on whether to enforce a weekend ban on parking along the scenic route until the outcome of the Bayside community consultation process.

#### **Bright Observer, 22/11/06; p.1: Concerted effort by leading groups on road safety campaign**

AHEAD of the Great Victorian Bike Ride a new national ride safety campaign has been launched as part of a united effort by Australia's leading road safety groups. Rosebank Helmets' general manager Maurice Wulfsohn said a new bike safety education resource would be provided free of charge to all primary schools across the country.

#### **Upper Yarra Mail; 21/11/06; p.3: Plan for aqueduct**

A RE-ELECTED Bracks Government would spend \$800,000 to open the O'Shannassy Aqueduct as a forest bicycle route. The money would enable the remaining 25 kilometres of the 30 kilometre trail to be completed, as well as improving services related to the trail.

#### **Chelsea Independent, 21/11/06; p.6: Letters: Cycle path**

IN recent consultation with Kingston Council about the Kingston section of the "Round the Bay" bicycle route, environment groups urged the council to consider a verge of Beach Rd cycle track as an extension of the successful 2.5 metre wide shared trail in Bayside. A proposal was put to VicRoads to relinquish .7 of a metre of Beach Rd's left traffic lane to avoid encroachment onto the foreshore area. Unfortunately VicRoads has refused the request and would instead widen the left traffic lane to allow commuter and onroad long distance club cyclists to continue to use Beach Rd as a training route alongside the verge of road recreational cycle path.

*Thanks to Graeme Stone for supplying the above items*

# Boroondara News

## New Bicycle Advisory Committee

On 8 November 2006 Boroondara City Council resolved to establish a Boroondara Bicycle Advisory Committee (BBAC) with the following composition:

- A Councillor to chair the meetings (initially Councillor Menting).
- Boroondara Bicycle User Group representatives (2).
- A member of the public representing motorists', pedestrian and public interests (1).
- Representatives from Engineering and Traffic (1), Parks and Gardens (1), Strategic Planning (1) and Leisure and Culture (1) departments.
- Secretarial support (Engineering and Traffic - 1).

The BBAC will meet quarterly or as required by circumstances. Dates scheduled for 2007 are:

- Friday 23 Feb 2007 3-5pm
- Friday 25 May 2007 3-5pm
- Friday 24 August 2007 3-5pm
- Friday 30 Nov 2007 3-5pm

## Minutes of Boroondara BUG Meeting 7.30pm Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2006

**Held at Swinburne, Hawthorn Campus, Room TD 244**

**Present:** Graham Ellis, Graeme Stone, Julia Blunden, David Leong, Alister Huth, Jason Den Hollander.

**Meeting with Jim Hondrakis 27/10:** Scott Lipscombe took the official notes of this meeting which are still to be circulated to those who attended. JB reported on the main items covered. It was agreed that AH would write a letter thanking Jim for the vast improvement to the path leading to the tunnel at the western end of the Koonung Creek Trail. JB expressed concern that plans proposed by JH for the Leonda car park may mean further delays and create a dangerous route for cyclists. It was agreed that a letter would be drafted to be sent to Cr Coral Ross who attended the recent site meeting and in whose ward this falls.

Copies of the new Boroondara TravelSmart were distributed to BUG members present at the meeting.

**VicRoads, Planning Applications and the PBN:** GS has circulated the letter drafted by JB to relevant staff at VicRoads and held a meeting. It was agreed that the current VR checklist needs revising to take more account of cycling and public transport issues when regional staff are commenting on planning applications. Both the Bunnings and Tooronga Village developments were discussed and it was agreed that as a minimum the status quo should be preserved when it comes to bike lanes. GS suggested that the draft letter should be sent to the VR CEO with the expectation that it will be referred to both metropolitan regions. GS also requested that JD refer to BV the issues of the bike lane on Tooronga Rd, and bike access from Gardiners Creek Path to the east side of Tooronga Rd. GS offered to forward his panel submission regarding these issues to JD.

**Bicycling Australia Show and BFA:** Phil Crohn was not present to report on the BFA meeting. JB, GE and AH took turns to staff the combined BUG stall. JB suggested that BBUG needs a couple each of A4 and A3 sized posters with the BBUG logo and name, preferably laminated, to display at such occasions in future. JD agreed to email the relevant file to AH who will print the posters and deliver them to GE for laminating. TravelSmart maps will be a popular giveaway at future stalls.

**Structure Plans:** JB reported that she had attended the first stakeholder workshop for the Glenferrie Road Activity Centre Structure Plan, which bore a remarkable similarity to those held for the Integrated Transport Strategy. Many visionary ideas such as abolition of parking in Glenferrie Rd or its conversion into a pedestrian mall, or a Copenhagen style bike lane in Power Street were suggested. Whether any of these things will come to pass is quite another matter. A Kew Junction plan is also currently underway, and Rosemary West has made a submission and agreed to attend the first meeting. It is important that cyclists do have input into all such plans. JD suggested that we need to monitor the Council web site to identify them as it is common that only residents in the immediate vicinity are notified by Council.

**Word vs PDF file for Newsletter:** JD agreed to investigate the possibility of JB uploading the newsletter to the BUG web site. He also offered to provide information about a free source of software for converting word files to PDF. However it is likely that the newsletter will continue to be sent to the Yahoo Group in Word format.

**December Meeting:** JD will host the break up barbecue at his home. We will start at the earlier time of 6.30pm. Those attending will be asked to bring their own veggie burgers, meat or whatever, drinks and something to share.

*Notes by Julia Blunden*

## Contacts for Rides

There are many BUGs, clubs and other organisations, several of them local, which organise rides. Below are some of their contact details. At the end of this newsletter is a separate section with details of many of their forthcoming rides.

**Camberwell Downhill Gourmet Bike Riders:** contact Elva Parker, phone: 9836 6392

**Boroondara Bushwalkers:** contact Julia Blunden, phone: 9853 5095, e-mail: [jblunden@bigpond.com](mailto:jblunden@bigpond.com); web site: [www.keypoint.com.au/~bbwinc](http://www.keypoint.com.au/~bbwinc)

**Hawthorn Cycle Tours:** contact Hawthorn Aquatic and Leisure Centre, phone: 9815 0988; e-mail: [lexbishop@bikerider.com](mailto:lexbishop@bikerider.com); website: <http://www.geocities.com/perften/Hct.html>

**Council on the Ageing (COTA) Cycling Group:** contact Janet Bennett, e-mail: [janpeter@bigpond.net.au](mailto:janpeter@bigpond.net.au) or COTA, phone: 9654 4443.

**Knox Bicycle Touring Club Incorporated, email:** Email: [Mikeaatleisure@aol.com](mailto:Mikeaatleisure@aol.com) Web site: [home.vicnet.net.au/~knoxbike](http://home.vicnet.net.au/~knoxbike)

**Manningham BUG:** e-mail: [seball@netlink.com.au](mailto:seball@netlink.com.au), [H.Edwards@bom.gov.au](mailto:H.Edwards@bom.gov.au); web site: [www.vicnet.net.au/~mannbug](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~mannbug)

**Maroondah Bushwalking Club:** to obtain details of how to book on a walk and a copy of the current walks and activities program Contact **information officers:** Sandra, phone: 9728 3833; Aileen, phone: 9876 1104; web site: [home.vicnet.net.au/~mbush/](http://home.vicnet.net.au/~mbush/)

**Whitehorse Cyclists:** e-mail: [ejhopper@vicnet.net.au](mailto:ejhopper@vicnet.net.au); web site: <http://www.whitehorsecyclists.org.au/>

**Banyule BUG:** email: [banyuleBug@yahoo.com.au](mailto:banyuleBug@yahoo.com.au); web site: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~banylbug/>; contacts: Richard phone: 9459 8648, or Les phone: 9459 2701

**Darebin BUG:** Rides and Events Coordinator, Doug Morffew, phone: 9499 7325 (AH), email: [dougmorf@alphalink.com.au](mailto:dougmorf@alphalink.com.au) Download the [Darebin BUG rides flyer](#), with details of rides. (Word doc); web site: [www.darebinbug.org.au](http://www.darebinbug.org.au)

**YHA:** contacts: Claire, phone: 9726 5142 or Jane, phone: 9525 6462; e-mail: [yhacycling@yahoo.com.au](mailto:yhacycling@yahoo.com.au); website: <http://yhacycling.org.au>

**Melbourne Bicycle Touring Club:** contact Touring Secretary, Dave Cash, phone: 9817 3269, or e-mail [info@mbtc.org.au](mailto:info@mbtc.org.au) (Note that this e-mail address doesn't get checked every day - so don't expect an immediate response!) Web site: [mbtc.org.au](http://mbtc.org.au)

## Boroondara BUG Contacts:

### Membership Secretary & Treasurer:

Graeme Stone, 16 Jervis Street, Camberwell VIC 3124.  
e-mail: [graeme\\_stone@optusnet.com.au](mailto:graeme_stone@optusnet.com.au)

### Newsletter Editor & Minutes Secretary:

Julia Blunden, phone: 9853 5095  
e-mail: [jblunden@bigpond.com](mailto:jblunden@bigpond.com)

### Additional Contact:

David Leong: [leongd@anz.com](mailto:leongd@anz.com)

### Media Contact & Webmaster:

Jason den Hollander, phone: 0407 11 88 91  
email: [fdutch@gmail.com](mailto:fdutch@gmail.com)

### Meeting Chair:

Phil Crohn: [philcrohn@ozemail.com.au](mailto:philcrohn@ozemail.com.au)

## Boroondara Bicycle Users Group

## Membership Application Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Member of Bicycle Victoria? Y / N

Phone: (H): \_\_\_\_\_ (W): \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership requires a one-off payment of \$10 per household. There is an additional charge of \$10 per annum for delivery of a hardcopy newsletter. Please send cheque (made out to *Graeme Stone*) along with this form to: Graeme Stone, 16 Jervis St , CAMBERWELL, VIC 3124