

BOROONDARA

Bicycle Users Group

Newsletter November 2006

Boroondara BUG meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, except January. Next meeting will be on Wednesday 8th November, at the Swinburne Hawthorn Campus in room TD244. The TD building is between Park and Wakefield Streets.

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 to receive this monthly newsletter and occasional important messages.

Send a blank e-mail to 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

Federation Trail Finally Complete

The grand opening of the long-awaited Federation Trail between Werribee and North Altona finally took place on Sunday 22nd October. Sadly I was unable to attend, but keen to experience for myself the trail that I had been reading and writing letters about for so many years, I organised my regular Thursday ride to take it in. We caught a train to Werribee and, after enjoying morning coffee on the sunny balcony of the Coffee Pot Café overlooking the Werribee River, we descended to the riverside path and rode downstream to reach the western end of the trail.

The first few kilometres of the trail through a pleasant avenue of trees alongside the Maltby Bypass were familiar enough, but once across Duncans Rd we were in terra incognita for the most part. The trail mostly follows the old outfall sewer reservation (shown as a narrow green corridor in *Melway*) and there are interesting views of the sewer, much of it painstakingly constructed in red brick, as well as of the original red brick arched bridges over the Kororoit and Skeleton Creeks. The engineers and historians in our party were rapt.

The trail is generally well-signed. Its surface varies: there are some relatively short sections of beautiful smooth concrete but the bulk of the 23km are of bitumen of the rougher variety, so not really suitable for road bikes. Road crossings are well-marked and many have lights. Although we passed many industrial sites we did not smell any noxious fumes. However there is at present a complete dearth of facilities such as shelters, seats, picnic tables, drinking fountains or toilets. Hopefully in time these will come, along with some additional tree planting. There are opportunities to buy refreshments close by at Hoppers Crossing and at the point where the trail crosses the Princes Hwy in Brooklyn.

Unfortunately the trail currently ends at a particularly busy stretch of Millers Rd near the Westgate Fwy, without any obvious way to proceed either to the city or to a station. A link to the Maribyrnong River Trail is under consideration. Our group simply headed south down Millers Rd. Initially we used the footpath, and then moved onto the road where the bike lane kicked in. We turned right at Cherry Lake, the nearest picnic facilities, for our rather belated lunch. Some of our party caught the train home from Altona; others headed east to Williamstown along the foreshore trail and from there back to the city, making the ride a total distance of about 55km from Werribee.

Bicycle Victoria has produced an excellent folding 'Cruising' map of this trail, which also shows other paths in the western suburbs along with planned future links. On the verso is a map of the Dandenong Creek Trail showing planned extensions and links being created as part of the Eastlink project. Collect a copy from BV's office or from bike shops.

Julia Blunden

TravelSmart Maps

At last the long-awaited Boroondara TravelSmart map is available. It covers the entire municipality plus small areas of other municipalities to the north, west and south. Other TravelSmart maps already available include: Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Darebin, Bundoora (LaTrobe University), Clayton (Monash University), Parkville Campus & Inner City (Melbourne University), Banyule, Yarra and Ballarat. Port Phillip and Moreland are in the pipeline. For the last three years TravelSmart has also produced a special edition of the Melbourne TravelSmart Map to support Ride to Work Day and the Cycle Cover Insurance Bicycling Australia Show.

Areas are selected for the TravelSmart program on the basis that public transport is underused and the local council is interested in doing something about this. Thus TravelSmart maps are designed not only for cyclists, but also for walkers and public transport users. That is not necessarily a disadvantage as many of us already like to combine bike and train travel, and it is even possible that in the future bikes may also be able to be carried on some buses or trams.

The maps are based on *Melway*, providing the advantage of familiarity for most Melburnians. However the colours used have been changed to give greater emphasis to public transport routes and bike facilities. For example shared paths are shown by a continuous blue line, unlike the red dashed line in *Melway*. The main addition is that of on-road bike lanes, shown by a blue dashed line alongside the road; the Boroondara map also shows informal bike routes by a dotted blue line. *Melway* map numbers are marked on the maps and adjoining map numbers shown in the margins. Many BUG members have had extensive input into the maps for their own localities.

The versos of the maps have been used to provide a variety of useful information. For public transport users there is information about fares, ticketing and SMS timetable information, and if all else fails how to get a taxi! For cyclists there are tips on cycling in traffic, locking up bikes, BUG contacts and such. The three university based maps even list locations of on campus shower facilities. Sadly the original practice of providing outlines for all the maps published to date on the key map seems to have been dropped in the most recent additions to the set.

Probably the greatest limitation of the maps is that they have not been planned as a coherent set, like for example the wonderful *Bike Direct* maps available to cyclists in Adelaide. This means that while there are unnecessarily large overlaps between some of the maps there are unfortunate gaps between others. However the maps are printed on good quality paper and are very compact and portable. Folding to approximately 9 x 15cm they are easily slipped into a pocket or bumbag. And they are free!

According to the TravelSmart web site at <http://www.travelsmart.vic.gov.au> the maps are available from the Information Victoria Bookshop at 356 Collins St, Melbourne and you can also submit an email request online at www.bookshop.vic.gov.au or by phoning 1300 366 356. Individual maps for the universities are available from Student Information Centres on campus. All maps it is claimed are also available from Bicycle Victoria at Level 10, 446 Collins St, Melbourne though in fact at any given time this is not usually the case. The Boroondara map will be distributed through libraries and various other outlets and will be available at BUG meetings.

Julia Blunden

Beyond Boroondara

Graeme's Media Grabs

Bendigo Advertiser, 23/10/06; p.6: Cyclists fear death.

Careless drivers pose a risk at roundabouts CYCLISTS fear another death on Bendigo streets because they say drivers are failing to give way to them.

Warragul Gazette, 17/10/06; p.11: Grant questions trail funding

Residents Action Group secretary Julie Grant has questioned the amount of money Baw Baw Shire Council will spend on the two towns trail and other walking and bicycle paths in Warragul and Drouin. Mayor Ian Clark said council had allocated \$175,000 in its current budget to the development of the two towns trail. He said Vic Roads would fund a majority of this large infrastructure project over the 2006/07 and 2007/08 financial years.

The Age, 23/10/06; p.18: Living in the City

A hundred years ago, Melbourne was one of the world's great Victorian cities, with grand public buildings, rolling parks, high-density cottages, and a comprehensive rail network. By the mid-20th century, it started to morph into one of the world's most sprawling, car-dominated, US-style metropolises.

Moynes Gazette 19 October 2006, page MOY 1 Rail trail boost \$850,000 funding injection for track

THE long awaited Port Fairy to Warrnambool rail trail is expected to be operational within three years, following last week's Mr Rundell said a committee of VicRoads staff and representatives from Moyne Shire and the Koroit Railway Station restoration group planned to meet in coming weeks.

Werribee Banner, 18 October 2006, page 11 Cyclists' Federation Trail to finally open

WYNDHAM cyclists, runners and walkers will get their first taste of the new 23-kilometre Federation Trail this Sunday when the path is opened. The \$12.5 million off-road shared path was announced in 1999 as part of the Geelong Road upgrade, then a group of stakeholders considered a number of options before a final route was announced in 2001. After a lengthy planning process, VicRoads submitted a planning application to Wyndham Council in April last year.

Mordialloc Chelsea Leader, 18 October 2006, page 11: Most reject cliff-top bike path

A SURVEY of more than 2000 residents shows three in four people reject the idea of a cliff top bike path on the Kingston foreshore. The council was now discussing the idea with VicRoads.

The Age, 16/10/2006, page 7: Record celebration of bay pedal power takes its toll

A RECORD 14,277 cyclists took pedal power to Port Phillip Bay in yesterday's annual Around the Bay in a Day Ride.

Bayside Leader, 16 October 2006, page 19: Cyclist back on roads?

Half a year after Kathy Watt cycled to silver in the Commonwealth Games individual cycling time trials, stencils of her name painted on the road for motivation are still there. But someone has added some alterations recently - signs in Sandringham and Black Rock now read "Watt the?" and "Guess Watt?" In July a VicRoads spokesperson told the Leader because the wording was not offensive and did not pose a safety risk, the agency would be happy to let it fade away (Bayside Leader, July 11).

From the Minister for Transport. Tuesday 10 October, 2006: Derrimut Road Duplication A Big Community Win

In a major win for the Hoppers Crossing community, Transport Minister Peter Batchelor today announced \$14.7 million to duplicate Derrimut Road. Mr Batchelor said by improving the safety, access and efficiency of the road network the duplication met the commitments made by the Bracks Government in its \$10.5 billion Meeting Our Transport Challenges plan.

"This project will provide for four lanes of divided road between Hogans Road and Sayers Road, and will also include off-road shared bike and pedestrian path facilities," Mr Batchelor said. He said Derrimut Road also provided access to the Hogans Corner Shopping Centre and also to various food outlets on the north east corner of the Hogans Road Derrimut Road intersection. The current traffic volume on Derrimut Road, between Hogans Rd and Sycamore Street, is 16,700 vehicles per day.

"It is expected that by 2030, traffic volumes will approach 37,000 per day," Mr Batchelor said. "The project will encourage more pedestrian and bicycle activity with safe access to the Hogans Corner Shopping Centre, Werribee Plaza, St James Primary School, The Grange College and public transport.

ABC 774 Melbourne (Melbourne) Breakfast - 04/10/2006 - 06:36

AM Compere says he will be at the Spiegeltent next Friday night. Compere mentions Ride to Work Day. Compere announces that the West Gate Punt will be in operation for cyclists participating in Ride to Work Day. Presley explains that funding for the punt was cut in June and it has not been running since. Symons says the operators should have increased the fare price. Presley says the punt is operating today as a means by which to boost its profile and encourage councils, VicRoads and the Department of Infrastructure to consider funding the punt. Presley and compere discuss the barbeque being held on the punt. Presley says using the punt is quicker than using the train and probably the car.

Thanks to Graeme Stone for supplying the above items

Boroondara News

Developers Rule

In the Planning Report on the Tooronga Village proposal the Panel stated that they "do not support VicRoads view that the proponent should further increase the reservation width to cater for shared bicycle lanes along Toorak Rd or the need to ...realign Toorak Rd...for safety". (The Panel fails to make specific reference to Tooronga Rd on-road bike lanes and the PBN).

The Panel goes on to say that "If VicRoads require any further widening then they should as a matter of urgency, determine requirements and apply to amend the Public Acquisitions Overlay so that Property owner is eligible for compensation".

Gone are the days of actions for the public good it seems when developers were more forgiving and unfortunately the Panel didn't have the courage to push for a better outcome for the community.

Graeme Stone

Glenferrie Road Activity Centre Structure Plan

Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn has been identified as a Major Activity Centre under the State Government's *Melbourne 2030* planning policy. This policy identifies Glenferrie Road as a suitable location for additional future residential and commercial development, for which Council is required to prepare a Structure Plan. The Structure Plan will set out guidelines for the height, bulk, size and character of any future development, whilst also taking into consideration movement and accessibility conditions.

The Glenferrie Activity Centre area is located along Glenferrie Road, generally between Barkers Road to the north and Oxley Road to the south. Glenferrie Road is a centre of regional significance and, according to research conducted by Council, approximately 10 per cent of Boroondara residents cite Glenferrie Road as their most frequently visited shopping centre.

The Glenferrie Structure Plan project will provide the opportunity for the Boroondara community to work with Council to form a vision for the future of the area. Council will ensure a variety of opportunities exist for the community to provide input and feedback. The first Stakeholders and Community workshops have already been held. The 'Glenferrie: Planning for the Heart of Hawthorn' Community Update No. 1, which provides an overview of the structure planning process for Glenferrie, can be downloaded from the Boroondara Council web site at <http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au> A 'Feedback Sheet', that gives you the opportunity to tell Council your ideas about Glenferrie Road can also be downloaded and posted back to Council or it can be filled in on-line.

For further information about the Glenferrie Structure Plan, join the Glenferrie Structure Plan Mailing List via the link provided or contact Tom Harrington, Senior Project Planner at glenferrie@boroondara.vic.gov.au or by telephone on 9278 4819.

All cyclists who ride to or through the Glenferrie Shopping Strip or who use Glenferrie Station are urged to complete the feedback sheet and ask for improvements to bike lanes and for more bike parking rails in the area. The deadline for returning the sheet is 7th November.

Julia Blunden

Have Your Say: Kew Junction Structure Plan

Any Kew cyclists out there who would like to add to the community feedback on a Structure Plan for Kew Junction? An *Emerging Directions Report* has been prepared addressing four themes: access, spaces, buildings and activities. Council is seeking to test the ideas in the report. Boroondara BUG has received an invitation to participate in "theme based discussions" at one of the workshops:

Workshop 1: Tuesday 28 November 12pm – 2pm, GPO Bar and Bistro, 186 High St Kew.

Workshop 2: Wednesday 29 November 7pm – 9pm, Holy Trinity Anglican Church, cnr High and Pakington Kew.

To register contact Christine Renkin on 9278 4534. See www.boroondara.vic.gov.au for details of the Kew Structure Plan. Could any BorBUG members who intend going please let Graeme Stone know. The cycling issues may not be apparent in the initial report but who knows, there may be opportunities not yet thought of as! "Kew Junction is a car-based centre" says the report which is peppered with the words 'car access, car parking, pedestrians, public transport' and finally on the last page 'cyclist' gets a mention! " and have cyclist facilities such as bike parking and showers...in new buildings". I think BorBUG needs to be represented!!

Graeme Stone

Rosemary West has already put in a submission and will be attending the meeting on 28th November. Ed.

Solway Bridge Delay

The Solway pedestrian bridge was assessed as potentially unsafe and has been closed since April 2006. Boroondara and Stonnington Councils are working in partnership to replace it. The new bridge will be built 10m upstream of the existing bridge. Unfortunately this project has taken longer than expected and the new bridge is now expected to be complete in mid February 2007.

The nearest creek crossing is that near Winton Street. Due to the delay with the new bridge a review is being undertaken which may result in additional signage and line marking on Winton Rd to make the alternative route safer for cyclists.

New BUG Member – Welcome

We are very pleased to welcome David Arnold as a new Boroondara BUG member. It is great to have the support of Boroondara cyclists in our representations to Council, VicRoads, Planning Panels and others. Improving the lot of cyclists in our city is ongoing so it is good to know that our collective efforts have local backing. All Boroondara cyclists are more than welcome at the meetings at Swinburne or to put your viewpoint across in this Newsletter.

Minutes of Boroondara BUG Meeting 7.30pm Wednesday 11th October 2006

Held at Swinburne, Hawthorn Campus, Room TD 244

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

Cycloviva: GS reported that he had spoken to Evan Boloutis at BCC about this. Burke Rd had been raised as a possible venue but traders were not enthusiastic. It was agreed that there are other municipalities with more suitable streets than Boroondara and that we should wait a while to see how it goes elsewhere before pursuing the idea further here.

VicRoads and the PBN: GS is investigating procedures currently in place at VicRoads and it was agreed to postpone a decision on sending a letter to the VR CEO until the next meeting.

Leightons Development on Gasworks site: GS reported that the Leightons representative at this meeting was receptive to looking again at whether the bike path needs to be moved from its present position. If the boardwalk goes ahead it will be of a high standard. JD reported that BV was opposed to a reduction in bike parking provision at the site.

Bicycle Advisory Committee: JH has indicated that Council approval for this is imminent and our next meeting with him on 27/10 may even be the inaugural BAC meeting. We still don't have details of the structure and composition proposed for this body. JB agreed to forward her email, previously sent to Dick Menting and Jim Hondrakis regarding this, to all Boroondara Councillors.

Leonda Link: JB reported that she and Don Glasson had a site meeting with Jim Hondrakis, Mark Brennan and Cr Coral Ross. Melbourne Water plans for shoring up the river bank adjacent to the site do not permit the construction of a path along the river. JH indicated that due to public liability risks he could not countenance any formalization of the current goat track without also providing a separate route for cyclists around the car park. He will be looking at the different options for doing this and will get back to us with some plans.

Hawthorn Bridge Shared Paths: JB reported that she had heard from Richard Smithers that VicRoads had ruled out shared paths on the bridge on the grounds that the balustrades are not quite high enough. At Richard's suggestion she had emailed the VR manager concerned to protest against this decision.

Bicycling Australia Show and BFA: Phil Crohn will attend the BFA meeting being held in conjunction with the Bicycling Australia Show 14-15 October. One of the issues to be discussed is the membership fee structure. PC agreed to write a short report on the meeting for the next BUG newsletter. JB, GE and AH will be staffing the BUG stall at the show on Saturday 14/10.

Boroondara TravelSmart Map: The map is about to go to the printers but unfortunately will not be available for distribution at the Bicycling Australia Show.

Next Meeting with Jim Hondrakis: A meeting has been arranged for 3-5pm on Friday 27/10 at Camberwell, in a room still to be confirmed. JD, GE and JB agreed to attend as BUG representatives. Various topics were suggested for discussion. JB agreed to draft and circulate an agenda for the meeting.

Gardiners Creek Issues: GS drew attention to Jim H's advice re an upgrade of 380m of the Gardiners Creek Trail between the hockey field and Toorak Road. Path width and condition is relatively poor. Trail is to be upgraded to 3m with concrete edging. Three trees are to be removed and alignment improved. The aim is to start works mid October 2006.

PC noted a problem with the farmers market held in Auburn Road. People parking cars and attending the market tend to spill onto the shared path in large numbers due to their need to get round a fence. A gap in the fence would solve the problem.
ACTION: Raise at JH meeting.

JD reported that the Warrigal Rd underpass is being investigated. BCC will pay for the design and are in discussions with VR regarding funding for construction.

JH is also planning to construct the link from the Anniversary Trail to Warrigal Road.

November Meeting: It was agreed that JB should invite Cr Meredith Butler to the next BUG meeting. If she is unable to attend Cr Jack Wegman should be invited.

December Meeting: JD offered to host the break up barbecue at his home, subject to his wife's approval.

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; web site: www.keypoint.com.au/~bbwinc

Hawthorn Cycle Tours: contact Hawthorn Aquatic and Leisure Centre, phone: 9815 0988; e-mail: 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 or COTA, phone: 9654 4443.

Knox Bicycle Touring Club Incorporated, email: Email: Mikeaatleisure@aol.com Web site: home.vicnet.net.au/~knoxbike

Manningham BUG: e-mail: seball@netlink.com.au, H.Edwards@bom.gov.au; web site: 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/

Whitehorse Cyclists: e-mail: ejhopper@vicnet.net.au; web site: <http://www.whitehorsecyclists.org.au/>

Banyule BUG: email: 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 Download the [Darebin BUG rides flyer](#), with details of rides. (Word doc); web site: www.darebinbug.org.au

YHA: contacts: Claire, phone: 9726 5142 or Jane, phone: 9525 6462; e-mail: 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 (Note that this e-mail address doesn't get checked every day - so don't expect an immediate response!) Web site: mbtc.org.au

Boroondara BUG Contacts:

Membership Secretary & Treasurer:
Graeme Stone, 16 Jervis Street, Camberwell VIC 3124.
e-mail: graeme_stone@optusnet.com.au

Newsletter Editor & Minutes Secretary:
Julia Blunden, phone: 9853 5095
e-mail: jblunden@bigpond.com

Additional Contact:
David Leong: leongd@anz.com

Media Contact & Webmaster:
Jason den Hollander, phone: 0407 11 88 91
email: fdutch@gmail.com

Meeting Chair:
Phil Crohn: 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