

BOROONDARA

Bicycle Users Group

Newsletter March 2010

Boroondara BUG meetings are normally held on the 2nd Thursday of each month except January. Our next meeting is on Thursday 11th March. It will be held in the function room at the Elgin Inn, cnr Burwood Rd and Elgin St, Hawthorn (Melway 45 B10). Optional dinner at 6.30pm, meeting starts at 7.30pm.

The Boroondara BUG is a voluntary group working to promote the adoption of a safe and practical environment for utility 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. Two of the positions on the Boroondara Bicycle Advisory Committee, which meets quarterly, are assigned to Boroondara BUG members.

Boroondara BUG has a website at <http://www.boroondarabug.org> that contains interesting material related to cycling, links to other cycle groups, recent Boroondara BUG Newsletters and breaking news. Our email address for communications to the BUG is boroondarabug@gmail.com

We also have a Yahoo Group: Send a blank email to: BoroondaraBug-subscribe@yahoogroups.com to receive notification when the latest monthly newsletter and rides supplement have been placed on the web site and very occasional important messages.

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

Bellarine Peninsula Gourmet Bike Tour

With many of our cycling friends away during January, a group of 5 of us decided to do a short 3-day bike tour of the Bellarine Peninsula.

A quick trip to the Federation Square underground information centre yielded three useful maps of the Bellarine Peninsula:-

1. Official Touring Map - The Bellarine [The Bellarine Taste Trail] which in addition to an appropriately scaled map for cyclists, included town maps of Portarlington, Queenscliff, Ocean Grove and Barwon Heads. The Bellarine Rail Trail and secondary roads are clearly marked on this map so made it the most useful for our cycling tour.
2. Geelong Wineries: from our hands to yours [Geelong Wine Region] indicated many Geelong and Bellarine Peninsula wineries including a short description of opening hours and meal availability.
3. Geelong town map in format closely resembles an enlarged map from the Melways. This map was useful in finding a suitable route out of Geelong CBD onto The Bellarine Rail Trail.

Some of the group wanted to ride the rail trail whilst others preferred quiet coastal roads. None of us wanted to ride on the busier roads such as the highways even though these are usually the most direct and shortest route. Our tour used sections of the Bellarine Rail Trail and, wherever possible, incorporated the quiet coastal roads around the edge of the peninsula.

As parts of the Bellarine Rail Trail and some of the quiet back roads are unsealed, this ride is best suited to touring/hybrid and mountain bikes. We used 'budget' undercover accommodation and stayed at the historic, spacious and excellent value-for-money Queenscliff Inn YHA located in the centre of Queenscliff township.

Friday 29/1/10 - Geelong to Queenscliff via Portarlington and St Leonards (73km)

We met on the Southern Cross platform at 7.30am in good time to catch the 7.47am Warrnambool train to travel to Geelong Station. This train has a little guards van able to carry up to 3 or 4 bikes. There is another Geelong train that leaves Southern

Cross from a different platform at 7.54am, so if you're a larger group it would be possible to split the group and for a few more to travel on this train. Both groups would arrive within minutes of each other in Geelong.

Today's calm, cool, overcast weather was perfect for cycling so we decided to put in a big day exploring the northern and eastern sides of the Bellarine Peninsula. Rather than riding on the busy Geelong-Portarlington Road, we decided to take the Rail Trail from south Geelong to Drysdale where we stopped for an early lunch / morning tea at a charming little café with a pretty cottage garden.

After Drysdale we left the rail trail and rode on the Geelong-Portarlington Road so headed north-east to the coast at Portarlington. The sea views near Portarlington are some of the best on this ride. Some bought a picnic lunch at the well-stocked Portarlington bakery to eat in one of the foreshore picnic areas. There were many scenic coastal picnic areas so it was difficult to choose where to stop. You're always left with the feeling that no matter where you stop, there will be somewhere even more inviting just around the corner.

After Portarlington we rode on the coastal Esplanade to Indented Heads and St Leonards. From St Leonards we rode on Bluff Road, a quiet secondary road that initially heads south and then turns west for a few kilometres. You have to keep a careful watch for a small, rather insignificant unsealed road called Manifold Road that veers left and runs south west to Andersons Road. Riding on Manifold Road avoids having to use the much busier Murradoc Road.

At Andersons Road we turned right and rode in a westerly direction along an unsealed road to Lighthouse Olive grove with a well-stocked shop selling delicious locally produced olive oils eg Ruby Grapefruit olive oil and Lime and Lemon flavoured olive oils and other gourmet treats such as berry jams, dried fruits and hand-made soaps. Free samples of the wide range of olive oils and other produce sold are available for tasting.

Above the Lighthouse Olive Shop is the recently-opened Loam restaurant that has received several highly favourable reviews in "The Age" and "Australian" newspapers. The chef at Loam incorporates seasonally fresh fish and indigenous foods like Samphire, an edible coastal plant of this area. Loam doesn't really cater for afternoon teas as it aims at the gourmet restaurant market, but our group managed to obtain a quick afternoon cuppa in a corner of the café there. Next we continued west for a short distance along Andersons Road before turning left into Banks Road until it intersected with the Bellarine Rail Trail half way between the farming localities of Mannerim and Marcus Hill.

At the rail trail we turned left and headed south-east to ride into Queenscliff, thus avoiding riding on the busy Bellarine Highway. We stayed in a 6-person 'mixed-share dorm' room at the Queenscliff Inn YHA. After a shower in the newly-renovated and quite glamorous bathrooms, we went to dinner with some friends at the excellent Courtyard Café in the Queenscliff Hotel that has an extensive menu and wine list at very reasonable prices.

Saturday 30/1/10 - Queenscliff to Barwon Heads and back via Point Lonsdale (40km)

Today the sun shone strongly so we could tell it was going to be considerably warmer than yesterday. After a DIY breakfast of bananas, cereal and locally-made yoghurt in the YHA kitchen, we packed our bathers and rode out of Queenscliff on the Bellarine Rail Trail and rode to the outskirts of Point Lonsdale.

We decided to by-pass the township of Point Lonsdale as we would visit this in the afternoon so tackled Shell Road that skirts Lake Victoria just to the west of Point Lonsdale. After a short ride we came to Ocean Grove, but decided to ride on to the more scenic Barwon Heads, the town made famous by the TV series "Sea Change". The once sleepy Barwon Heads now has many well-stocked cafes and a Saturday market where some of our group bought artistically coloured metal fish and owl garden sculptures.

At Annie's Café we had one of the best brunches I've ever eaten including freshly-baked blueberry tarts with marzipan filling, raspberry and chocolate muffins. Alongside the locally made chutneys, jams and honeys, this café shelves were laden with olive and fruit breads, tasty biscuits and many other treats artistically displayed and packaged. After lunch we all felt too full and tired to continue riding to Breamlea, so instead strolled to the coastal lookout with views along Thirteenth Beach, a surf beach, and back along the Barwon River.

By the time we rode back to Point Lonsdale it was time for afternoon tea at Kelp, another gourmet treat café that overlooks the Point Lonsdale foreshore. After this a late-afternoon swim in the beach opposite with its sheltered waters was followed by a refreshing cold shower before we rode back to Queenscliff for fish and chips on the upper balcony of the YHA whilst watching the sun set over the water.

Sunday 31/1/10 – Queenscliff to Mornington Peninsula (should have been to Frankston!)

Today we were up by 6.30am to catch the 8am ferry from Queenscliff to Sorrento. Even by 7am a strong, hot northerly wind was blowing and the temperature was in the mid 20's with high 30's forecast for later in the day. We'd intended to ride along the coastal road to Frankston via Mornington and catch the Met train back to Melbourne, but due to the strong northerlies and high temperatures, we discussed shortening our ride and possible 'bail-outs' along the way.

The sea at Queenscliff was very rough and choppy as we set out on the ferry. Some caught glimpses of dolphins' black dorsal fins in the waves whilst others saw them 'porpoising' in the water, following in the wake of the ferry. By 8am in Sorrento the temperature was already so warm we didn't stop for coffee but instead rode straight through to McCrae for a swim in the sea that was rough enough to enjoy surfing on a body-board we found abandoned beside a rubbish bin in the picnic area.

One of our group who had to get home early was collected up by her husband in McCrae whilst the rest of us rode on to Dromana then rode up the hill to Heronswood, an old bluestone house and home of the Diggers' Club, renowned for their high quality plants and seeds, for sale at reduced prices to members. There is also a high standard, recently-built, thatched roof "Fork to Fork" restaurant where bookings are recommended and a small, low-key café with take-away food for sale. We opted for the latter and had a sustaining lunch of roasted vegetable foccacias and Devonshire teas whilst sitting on a garden bench overlooking the beautiful Heronswood garden.

After lunch the temperature had climbed into the mid 30's so most of the group accepted a lift home by car. I rode on to Mt Eliza where I too gratefully accepted a lift home in my husband's car.

Trail Notes

Yarra Trail Closure, Rear Melbourne Girls College

The bike path at the rear of Melbourne Girls' College is currently closed due to the construction of a boatshed by the College, and the upgrading of the path by the City of Yarra. The upgrading of the path will be completed some time before the boatshed is at a stage where it would be safe for use of the path to be resumed. Consequently the section of the path alongside the construction zone will remain fenced off for some time. At this stage we are not sure how long this closure will be maintained, but it will be opened at the earliest possible time.

Melbourne Girls' College will erect signs, warning of the closure on the pathway at points where members of the public can easily access the path that runs along the front of the College in Yarra Boulevard. I am sorry that the construction has caused this inconvenience to members of the public.

Judy Crowe, Principal, Melbourne Girls' College

Events

Best MAD Ride Ever Coming in 2010

Australia's friendliest and longest-running recreational bicycle ride introduces three new routes for a fun-packed day that caters for road and mountain bike riders. The Melbourne Autumn Day Tour, better known as the MAD Ride, is gearing up for its 27th annual event on Sunday, 28th March.

The 2010 event will now take riders to Kyneton and beyond for the first time. The start/finish point remains at Woodend, easily accessible by freeway and rail. MAD Ride entrants now have a choice of slightly longer 65km and 120km Road Rides.

The 65km road loop visits Kyneton, Lauriston and Carlsruhe over superb but mildly challenging back roads. The more challenging 120km road loop extends to Carlsruhe, Lancefield, Baynton, Kyneton and Lauriston. The quiet rural roads are undulating with one or two hills and spectacular views as they swoop through the open country north of the Macedon Ranges and the Kyneton district. The 60km Mountain Bike Ride, already a big favourite with mountain bike riders in the past, will also be more challenging with an all new route.

Entry before 6th March is \$30.00.

For general MAD Ride and entry information, visit www.mbtc.org.au

MAD Ride Coordinator David Brunt: 9690 5547.

Vintage Cycle Club: Sellers invited for Swap Meet, Saturday 10 April 2010

Interested sellers should register with Charlie Farren:- farren@onedaysoon.net or tel 9827 4453 (NB you won't hear anything between 1 - 24 Feb we're away)

Hosted by Vintage Cycle Club of Vic, Saturday 10 April 2010 (it's the weekend after Easter)

BRING, BUY, SWAP, SELL precious bicycle stuff, 9 am - 1pm, rear of Abbotsford Cycles, 27 Swan St, Richmond (under the station)

SELLERS SET UP 8 - 9 am \$10 fee
BROWSERS & BUYERS 9 - 1 pm \$ gold coin donation
a few trestle tables will be available on first come first served basis, but if pos BYO.

Please circulate this information

Charlie Farren,
Please note changed email address as of 1.1.2010, farren@onedaysoon.net

Ballarat Autumn Day Ride

When: 02 May 2010, 10:00 AM

Where: Pleasant Street Primary School, Cnr Pleasant and Mair St , Ballarat, VIC

Very popular fully supported bicycle tours of 30, 60 or 100 kilometres. Suitable for all levels of ability. Set routes, 60 & 100 rides start and finish at Pleasant St Primary School. 30 route starts and finishes in Snake Valley Lunch in Snake Valley. Approx 800 - 1000 riders. Prior registrations or on the day. Early entry prizes.

For more information : Tel: 03 5331 4606; Email: r.kemp@ncable.net.au; Web: www.ballarat.com/bushwalking

Help Needed

Bike Parking Rails at Tram Stops

One of our readers has suggested that bike parking hoops are needed at the 48 North Balwyn tram terminus as she has observed a number of bikes chained to posts there, presumably by people combining bike and tram travel. Perhaps there are other tram stops in Boroondara where this happens too. If any other readers have observed tram stops where bikes are regularly parked the BUG would like to know about them. We'll pass this information on to the Council staff responsible for installing bike parking hoops.

General News

And Now for Something Completely Different

Some of you may like to check out this impressive New Zealand invention, the Yike Bike.
<http://www.yikebike.com/site/gallery/video/yikebike-discovery-channel>

Boroondara News

Boroondara Bicycle Advisory Committee Meetings 2010

BBAC meeting dates for 2010 are:

Friday 26 March;
Friday 18 June;
Friday 17 September; and
Friday 17 December.

Meetings are from 9.30am to approximately 12 noon and usually take place in the Acacia Room at the Inglesby Rd Council Offices.

Currently the BBUG representatives on the BBAC are Graeme Stone, Julia Blunden and John Parker. Other BUG members are welcome to suggest agenda items for these meetings and to attend as observers. If you intend coming to a meeting as an observer please let Sustainable Transport Officer Julia Smith, phone: 9278 4542, email: Julia.Smith@boroondara.vic.gov.au know in advance to ensure that there is adequate seating.

Minutes of Boroondara BUG Meeting, Thursday 11th February 2010

Elgin Inn, Hawthorn

Attendance and Apologies

Present: John Parker, Julia Blunden, Graeme Stone, Gordon Macmillan, Graham Ellis (Chair), Ken Morrison, Malcolm Faul, Betty Weeks, Peter Campbell

Apologies: Glennys Jones, David Leong, Alister Huth, Linda Rohrs, Phil Crohn, Hedley Finger

Correspondence:

1. Email from Chris McNamara thanking Glennys J and Boroondara BUG for information on availability of bikes to be serviced and provided to refugees.
2. Email from Filipina Moore praising our web site and pointing out the need for bike parking at the North Balwyn tram terminus.
See New Business for response.
3. Email from COB asking whether Boroondara BUG would like to participate in the Living for our Future Sustainability Expo on Saturday 20 March, 2010, 8am-1pm. There is a fee of \$60 for booking a table and you have to have public liability insurance.
Julia B to respond with request that the BUG be covered by Council's insurance.
4. Invitation for a BUG representative to attend a Lighter Footprints community forum on climate change issues and challenges, Thursday 18 February 2010, 6.00pm – 9.00pm, Chandelier Room, Hawthorn Town Hall.
Malcolm F to attend as BUG representative.
5. Email from Julia Smith inviting BBUG to share a stall at the Ashburton Festival, Sunday 28th February.
Julia B and possibly **Graham E** to attend.

Matters Arising:

1. **M1 Widening and Golfers Choice Shared Path** – John P reported that Monash Alliance have almost completed their work and that they have made some improvements to shared paths. The unsealed vehicular track alongside the freeway between the East Malvern Station Bridge remains so the Golfers Choice Path remains a future possibility. Glennys J has been pursuing the issue of line-marking on the Gardiners Creek Trail near Great Valley Pde.
2. **East Malvern Station Bridge:** Glennys J sent word that she will be counting at the bridge on Super Tuesday. She has not had any response from Monash Alliance about problems at the southern end of the bridge and is drafting a letter to the Minister.
3. **Anniversary Trail at High Street:** Glennys J sent word that shops have not been let at this stage, possibly due to the unfinished appearance of the building. She believes it is worth pursuing an alternative alignment for the Anniversary Trail that would avoid the doorway onto the path, the likely cafe and also the hazardous dip at the Ashburton Railway crossing.
4. **Web Site Copyright/Licensing Issues:** John P has implemented a Creative Commons style solution.
5. **Display Boards for Use at Events:** **Julia B** reported that she was waiting on art work from Jason Den Hollander before she can place an order for a whiteboard A-frame with the BUG logo.
6. **Actions from combined BUGs meeting:** **Julia B** reported that she has contacted Chris Star of Yarra BUG asking if she is willing to organise the next combined BUG meeting in May. The response has been positive but no details have been agreed yet.
Peter C said that he has drafted a letter regarding off-road signage and posted this to the Geenlivingpedia web site. He agreed to send a link to the site to Julia B to be forwarded to all those present at the November combined BUGs meeting.
7. **Invitations to BUG meetings:** It was agreed that in view of Cr Phillip Healey's expressed intention to attend Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) meetings this year he should be our first invitee, with Crs Meggs and Wegman to be invited to later meetings.

8. **Yarra Bend:** Glennys J sent word that the BUG submission has been sent and acknowledged. Alistair ? forwarded additional comments re a possible BMX park, also acknowledged.

New Business

1. **Bike Parking at Tram Terminuses and Stops:** It was agreed that this is an idea worthy of investigation, and of inclusion on the agenda for the next BAC meeting. A piece will be included in the next BUG newsletter asking for suggestions for locations, and we can all keep a lookout for bikes parked at tram stops, noting stop numbers for ready identification. **John P** will prepare a google map showing stops where parking rails are needed.
2. **New Development, cnr Toorak and Summerhill Rds:** It was agreed that this should go on the agenda for the next BAC meeting. The possibility of re-routing the Anniversary Trail up Summerhill Rd and along the back lane should be considered.
3. **Warrigal Rd Underpass:** Julia B reported that concern has been expressed at the delay in constructing this underpass and Boroondara Council has been blamed. Betty W reported that the path between the Anniversary Trail and Warrigal Rd continues to progress. It was agreed that **Julia B** should seek clarification from Jim Hondrakis about the reason for the delay and about overall responsibility for the project, which crosses into the City of Monash. Jim should be asked to cc his reply to the representative of Whitehorse Cyclists who passed on the concerns.
4. **Darebin Bridge:** Alister H asked for an update on this. **Julia B** agreed to contact Graeme Martin, Convenor of the Community Coalition, to ask whether Parks Victoria have appointed a project officer and when we can expect to see further progress.
5. **New members:** Graeme S reported that two new members had subscribed over the holiday period. It was agreed that we should stop offering the option of delivery of a hard copy of the BUG newsletter.
6. **Off-road Signage in Boroondara:** The BUG submission on the consultants' report has been sent and acknowledged.
7. **Opportunity for New Shared Path along Warrigal Rd:** John P proposed that the BUG push for a new 'urban bush path' along the eastern edge of Malvern Valley Golf Course between Victory Bvd and Holmesglen TAFE. The footpath here is narrow but the amount of pedestrian traffic is quite high. There was agreement that this idea has merit but Stonnington Council will have to be persuaded.
8. **Eastern Rail Trail:** Peter C announced that he is forming a committee to advance the project of a bike path alongside the rail line from Mitcham to Richmond. He needs representatives from the municipalities of Whitehorse, Boroondara, and Richmond. Ken M volunteered as a Boroondara representative. John P mentioned that the Bicycle Victoria web page on this link needs updating.
9. **Disappearing Bike Lanes:** Ken M raised the issue of bike lanes that disappear on the approaches to intersections. He said this is a particular problem when cycling uphill, eg on Mont Albert Rd approaching Balwyn Rd heading citywards, and can completely negate the value of bike lanes. Julia B suggested that the solution could be a pram ramp guiding cyclists onto the footpath as the bike lane ends, cyclists using the pedestrian crossing and returning to the road via another pram ramp. She also suggested this as an agenda item for the next combined BUGs meeting.

Next meeting: Thursday 11th March.

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. A separate supplement contains details of many of their forthcoming rides.

Ashburton Riders Club

Contacts:

Tony Landsell - email: tony@diacher.com

Justin Murphy - email: murphjj@au1.ibm.com

website: <http://www.ashburtonridersclub.asn.au/>

Banyule BUG

email: banyuleBug@yahoo.com.au

website: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~banylbug/>

contacts: Richard phone: 9459 8648, or Les phone: 9459 2701

Boroondara Bushwalkers

contact Julia Blunden

phone: 9853 5095

email: jblunden@bigpond.com

website: www.keypoint.com.au/~bbwinc

Camberwell Downhill Gourmet Bike Riders

contact Elva Parker, phone: 9836 6392

Email David & Geraldine Powell: dgpowell@internode.on.net

Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre Bike Riding Group

Contact: Robin Kendrick, phone: 9853 3126

Council on the Ageing (COTA) Cycling Group

contact Janet Bennett

email: janpeter@bigpond.net.au or COTA,

phone: 9654 4443

website:

http://www.cotavic.org.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/1006/cota_cycling_brochure_jul-dec_2007.pdf

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)

website: www.darebinbug.org.au

Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre

Phone: 9890 2467

Email: info@surreyhillsnc.org.au

Website: www.surreyhillsnc.org.au

Boroondara BUG Contacts

Membership Secretary & Treasurer:

Graeme Stone

16 Jervis Street, Camberwell, Vic 3124

email: graeme_stone@optusnet.com.au

Newsletter Editor & Minutes Secretary:

Julia Blunden

phone: 9853 5095

email: jblunden@bigpond.com

Hawthorn Cycle Tours

contact Hawthorn Aquatic and Leisure Centre

phone: 9815 0988

email: lexbishop@bikerider.com

website: <http://www.geocities.com/perften/Hct.html>

Knox Bicycle Touring Club Incorporated

email: Mikeaatleisure@aol.com

website: home.vicnet.net.au/~knoxbike

Manningham BUG

email: seball@netlink.com.au, H.Edwards@bom.gov.au

website: 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

website: home.vicnet.net.au/~mbush/

Melbourne Bicycle Touring Club

contact Touring Secretary, Dave Cash, phone: 9817 3269

or email info@mbtc.org.au (Note that this email address doesn't get checked every day - so don't expect an immediate response!) website: mbtc.org.au

Whitehorse Cyclists

email: ejhopper@vicnet.net.au

website: <http://www.whitehorsecyclists.org.au/>

Finbar Neighbourhood House Rides

Contact Deb in the office on 9428 7668 or 0403 028 200

YHA

contacts: Ride Co-Ordinator Kathy

rides@yhacycling.org.au or mobile 0425-792 574

or Secretary Voula on secretary@yhacycling.org.au

website: www.yhacycling.org.au has free registration

Meeting Chair:

Phil Crohn

email: philcrohn@ozemail.com.au

Boroondara Bicycle Users Group

Membership Application Form

Name _____

Address & Postcode _____

Phone (H) _____

Phone (M) _____

Phone (W) _____

Email _____

Member of Bicycle Victoria? Please circle: Yes / No

Membership requires a one-off payment of \$15 per household. There is an additional charge of \$10 per annum for delivery of a hardcopy newsletter. Please send cheque (made out to Boroondara Bicycle Users Group) along with this form to:

Graeme Stone
16 Jervis St
Camberwell
Vic, 3124