

BOROONDARA

Bicycle Users Group

Newsletter June 2013

Boroondara BUG meetings are normally held on the 2nd Thursday of each month except January. Our next meeting is on Thursday 13th June. It will be held in the function room at the Elgin Inn, corner 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 Network Victoria, 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 details of our next meeting, and very occasional other 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 the Rides Supplement are embarked upon at your own risk.

Trail Notes

Flood Damage to Darebin Creek Trail Underpasses

Underpasses at both Darebin Rd and Heidelberg Rd have collected a large amount of debris after recent heavy rain. Some sections of the side railings have also collapsed on the Heidelberg Rd underpass as they are designed to do when litter builds up against them.

Until these underpasses have been cleared trail users will need to cross these roads at grade.

Detour on Darebin Creek Trail at Ring Road

When I rode the Darebin Creek Trail heading south from Epping on 9/5 there was a detour in place at McKimmies Rd due to works on the Metropolitan Ring Road. Pleasingly the detour was well signed with a map detailing a couple of options. My group took the excellent concrete path heading east along the north side of McKimmies Rd until we reached the roundabout. Here we turned right into Botanica Blvd and followed this south, continuing into a short stretch of parkland and then into Bramble Cr and Blau St. At the end we continued left into Josef Av, then at the T-junction turned right into Tasman Dr which took us under the Ring Rd. At the next T-junction we turned right into Greenhills Rd which took us to a footbridge over the creek and back onto our trail. An unusually satisfactory detour!

Detour on Federation Trail

When I rode the Federation Trail heading east from the Werribee River on 16/5 there was a completely unsigned detour in place at Sneydes Rd. There was no prior warning of this at Duncans Rd, the last opt out point, and there were no maps to tell you where the detour would take you. It was alongside the outfall sewer, in part a dirt track which promises to get very treacherous in wet weather. It brings you out on the Princes Hwy about five hundred metres east of the level crossing at Hoppers Crossing. My group opted to ride back along the busy highway to the pedestrian lights to get back onto the Federation Trail at Hoppers Crossing. The only other option would be a dash across the M1 and a leap across its metal barrier. Not at all satisfactory, but I understand that this detour was to be short-lived.

Blockage on Dandenong Creek Trail between Dandenong and Carrum

For the next month or so the Dandenong Creek Trail will be blocked a little south of the intersection with the Eastlink Trail due to works at Greens Rd. When I rode this trail heading southwards from Dandenong on 30/5 there was no detour in place, and very minimal signage to provide advance warning of the blockage.

Julia Blunden

Gardiners Creek Trail – Works to Widen Creek East of Toorong Rd

Melbourne Water's contractor will begin the creek widening project. The site will start setting up during June 2013, with actual works to begin in July 2013 and expected to continue until October. Planting works are proposed to happen late September through to the end of February 2014.

Key facts

Start March 2013

Finish October 2013

Cost \$6.456M

Impacts on usage

The shared pathway will remain open during the conduit and cable installation works. There may be times when the path will close temporarily for trucks to cross. Traffic management will be onsite to ensure safe passage for pedestrians and cyclists.

The Gardiners Creek shared path will close between July and October 2013 whilst creek widening works are carried out. Detours will be put in place. Extensive traffic safety signage will be in place to direct users of the shared path along the detour route. We will provide you with more information closer to the start of works.

http://www.melbournewater.com.au/content/current_projects/rivers_creeks_and_wetlands/gardiners_creek_widening/gardiners_creek_widening.asp?bhcp=1

Events

Snowy River Cycling Tours

Our ['Winter Weekend Warmer'](#) package. Bikes, beds and beer - what could be better? How about staying in a gorgeous freshly renovated cottage in the village of Bruthen with an open fire: spending a couple of cruisy days on our bikes exploring the East Gippsland Rail Trail, then heading down to the Bullant Brewery for an enormous hot food platter and beer tasting. And the price for two people over June, July and August is just \$345.00.

If you need the anticipation of some great riding over spring to get you through the winter, here is our itinerary of guided tours:

Lakes and Rail Trail

October 4th - 7th 2013.

Four days of cycling along the East Gippsland Rail Trail and quiet country roads. If you like your hills to be mild and manageable, and the idea of trying some of East Gippslands best eateries appeals, this could be the tour for you.

[More information.](#)

Snowgums to Seaweed.

Sunday November 10th to Friday 15th, 2013.

From high alpine meadows and yawning mountain valleys to lush rainforest and a wild coastline, this tour will have you riding some of Australia's most spectacular scenery. This is becoming our classic tour that takes in the wide spectrum of landscapes from mountains to sea that make East Gippsland so unique. If you are ready to raise a sweat and stretch your muscles a little to get to morning tea, you will enjoy this ride! [More information.](#)

Girls Own Bicycle Adventure!

Sunday December 8th to Friday 13th, 2013.

This ride is just for the girls, to have a chance to relax, enjoy the scenery, company and cycling knowing you are not the only one with a hairdryer in your luggage. As well as great cycling, we'll spend some time learning basic bike maintenance, before frocking up in the best gear we can find at the Orbost Op Shops. [More information.](#)

Self Guided Rail Trail tours.

Any time is a good time for a ride on a Rail Trail. In fact, a clear winters day (and we have many of them in East Gippy) can be one of the best times to ride the trail. No need for a lot of planning: just bring yourself, your clothes and a camera while we provide your bikes, maps and information, transport your luggage, book your accommodation and arrange your return transport. An excellent train service between Melbourne and Bairnsdale can make this a truly carbon neutral cycling getaway!
[More information.](#)

The cycling opportunities in East Gippsland are vast. If you'd like to talk about any of the above tours, or would just like some information inf planning your own trip, I'd love to hear from you.

Liz Mitchell

Snowy River Cycling.

m:185 Forest Rd, Orbost VIC 3888 AUS

ph:0428 556 088

e:snowyrivercycling@bigpond.com

w: www.snowyrivercycling.com.au

How to Restore a Bicycle Course

Bicycle Training Australia is adding a completely new course to its current short training course offers. "How to Restore a Bicycle", a 5-week Sunday afternoon course will run from Sunday August 25th to Sunday September 22nd at our dedicated training facility at Kensington. The course will cater to those more advanced recreational bicycle mechanics who are keen to restore, renovate or renew an old, antique or simply second-hand bicycle. Full particulars are on our website in the "Short Consumer Courses" section, including enrolment. We expect this course to be very popular, so don't miss out and sign up quickly!

Course dates for all our other short courses right through until December 2013 are now also on our site. You can enrol and pay online.

Philip Watts

<http://www.bicycletrainingaustralia.com.au>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Bicycle-Training-Australia/285068144944153>

General News

Jaywalkers and Cyclists Targeted

POLICE this month have launched a three-month operation to crack down on pedestrians and cyclists breaking road rules.

Acting Sergeant Mark Wickman said Operation Eastern would target jaywalkers and cyclists who ran red lights in Monash, Whitehorse, Boroondara and Manningham. Jaywalkers face a \$70 fine and red light offences for bike users carry a \$352 penalty.

"With the worsening weather conditions, the roads become more unsafe," Acting Sergeant Wickman said. "At busy intersections, the first person who jaywalks is usually concentrating, but it's the second person who sets off without thinking who gets hit."

Boroondara News

Minutes of Boroondara BUG Meeting, Thursday 9th May 2013

Elgin Inn, Hawthorn

Attendance and Apologies

Present: Gordon Macmillan, Julia Blunden, David Farrow, Glennys Jones, Peter Campbell, Phil Crohn (Chair), David Leong, Hank Van Apeldoorn, Mick Nolan, Alister Huth, Mal Faul, Graham Ellis

Apologies: Alan Tonkin, Jenny Henty, John Parker, Ken Parker

Correspondence:

In

- Letter from Inner Eastern Health offering help with promoting our healthy activities

- Email from David Brown re a new product on the Australian Market - RIDER Bifocal sports glasses.
- Letter from Seuna Byrne giving reasons for the refusal of the planning permit for the Darebin-Yarra link
- Email from Australian Bicycle Clothing re sale
- Sales brochure from Maxam Custom cycling Jerseys

Out

- Email to Inner Eastern Health explaining that we are an advocacy group
- Email to Matthew Guy urging him to act on the Darebin-Yarra Link
- Email to Josh Frydenberg asking him to express support for the Darebin-Yarra Link to the Premier
- Submission in response to Draft Domestic Animals Management Plan

Matters Arising:

1. **Hawthorn to Box Hill Trail:** Peter C and Mick N have met with MLA Andrew McIntosh and found him supportive of the project. Boroondara CEO Phillip Storer has proposed a \$200,000 study. There was discussion of whether this is needed or whether the \$200,000 would be better spent on the ground. There was agreement that the project needs to be in the Council Strategy, perhaps as an addendum, and also in the PBN. It also needs to be included as part of the fourth rail track project. **Alister H and Mick N** agreed to seek a meeting with Jason den Hollander, BNV to seek his support.
2. **Golfers Choice and Urban Bush Path:** Nil to report on Golfers Choice. Glennys reported that Whitehorse (Cyclists / COWBAC?) have expressed interest in the path alongside Warrigal Rd.
3. **Gasworks Site Redevelopment:** Glennys J reported that the bollards are still hampering cyclist access to the site from the Gardiners Creek Path but that Boroondara Council has given them the OK.
4. **Darebin-Yarra Link:** Boroondara Council has refused to extend the planning permit for the bridge into Willsmere Park. As yet it is unclear what the government intends to do about this. Various individuals and groups have written to Ministers Guy and Mulder urging them to act. Two BUG members are writing letters of complaint about the conduct of Cr Phillip Healey who chaired the meeting.
5. **Belford Rd Underpass:** David F reported that Jim Hondrakis has indicated that funding for this will be sought from VicRoads in September.
6. **Dights Falls Trail:** David F hasn't yet written to Matthew Guy. The cities of Boroondara, Yarra and Banyule are all supportive, as is VicRoads, but State Government funding will be needed. More letters of support can only help.
7. **Stonnington Matters:** Nil to report
8. **Proposed Changes to Local Laws re Riding through Parks:** Nil to report.
9. **Domestic Animals Management Plan:** Glennys J was thanked for her excellent submission on behalf of BBUG in response to Council's draft plan
10. **Invitations to Councillors to Attend BUG Meetings:** It was agreed that Cr Phillip Mallis be invited to the next BBUG meeting and that Cr Kevin Chow be invited at a later date.
11. **Council's Disability and Inclusion Plan:** Nil to report. Delete from agenda.
12. **Need to Collect Stats for Incidents on Shared Paths:** Julia B reported that she had raised this issue at a recent ITEANZ Cycling Forum. Dr Marilyn Richardson from the Amy Gillett Foundation referred to the Monash Injury Research Institute which collects and analyses information about on-road crashes/accidents for vehicles of all types. Their web address is <http://www.monash.edu.au/miri/index.html> Marcel Lema from Cycling Victoria also picked up on the issue. Julia reported that she has passed this information on to Alan who is currently in the UK.
13. **Bollards vs Post and Rail:** Glennys J reported that she has ascertained that the post and rail fences had been chosen as they were thought to be marginally cheaper. However if bollards are spaced a little more widely, eg at 1.8m, they could be cheaper while still effective at keeping cars out. Glennys has conveyed this information to Council and is waiting for a response.
14. **Jacka Trail (Gordon Barnard Reserve):** David F reported that a study of this has been included in the new 5-year Council Plan, so it is effectively on hold.
15. **New BUG Newsletter Editor Needed:** Still no offers.

16. **Treasurer's Report:** Mal Faul reported that the balance in the current account was \$1,336 on 31/3/13. We have a term deposit, now valued at \$3,071.75. It was agreed that this should be renewed for 6 months at 4.2% when it matures on 31/5. The BUG is still owed \$400 for Super Tuesday counts.

New Business

1. **Volunteer needed to do July newsletter and organize July meeting:** **Mal F** agreed to do this. **Peter C** agreed to take the minutes.
2. **BBAC:** Glennys J expressed concern that the BBAC is being rendered less effective by the participation of observers who are not contributing to the work of the committee. It was agreed that we should seek to have these meetings closed to the public in line with other working committees. **Julia B** agreed to draft a letter to go to the CEO Phillip Storer, Jim Hondrakis and Phillip Mallis to this effect. It was agreed that Julia B and John P would be the official BBUG representatives on the committee and that Glennys J would explore other options to join the committee.
3. **Agenda items for BBAC meeting Friday 21st June:** These will need to be sent in before our June BUG meeting.

Other Business:

1. **Harp Junction:** Alister H has spoken to VicTrack and to VicRoads. VicRoads own the section of the erstwhile Dunnings Woodyard abutting Harp Rd. It was earmarked for a left turn lane but there are no plans to construct this. **Alister** plans to put a proposal to Council to realign the Outer Circle Trail through this land so it connects to the pedestrian crossing directly rather than via the footpath. He intends seeking help from BNV to contact members in the area for support.

Next meeting: This is currently scheduled for Thursday 13th June.

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

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:

Malcolm Faul

Phone: 9853 1369

Email: malfaul@alphalink.com.au

Address: 38 Grove Rd, Hawthorn, 3122

Media Contact: Peter Campbell

Phone: 0409 417 504

Email: <http://greenlivingpedia.org>

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

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

Newsletter Editor & Minutes Secretary:

Julia Blunden

phone: 9853 5095

email: jblunden@bigpond.com

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 payment of \$15 per household which covers 3 years. Please send cheque (made out to Boroondara Bicycle Users Group) along with this form to:

Malcolm Faul

Phone: 9853 1369

Email: malfaul@alphalink.com.au

Address: 38 Grove Rd, Hawthorn, 3122