

BOROONDARA

Bicycle Users Group

Newsletter December 2011

Boroondara BUG meetings are normally held on the 2nd Thursday of each month except January. Our next meeting is on Thursday 8th December. 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 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.

Feature

Moseying around Maryborough

For years I'd had in mind that Maryborough would be a good base for a Cup Weekend cycling tour, if only there were a train. My delight at the announcement of the resumption of the Maryborough train service was somewhat diminished when it transpired that the only two services leave Maryborough in the early morning and return late afternoon; great for the locals visiting Melbourne for the day, but not much use for visitors. As she so often does my friend Cathy came up with the solution. We could catch the train to Castlemaine and ride to Mary borough and back again at the end of our stay. Fortuitously there are two different routes, both near enough to 50km, a very suitable distance for a day's ride in my view.

To my great satisfaction, when eight of us arrived with our laden bikes at Southern Cross Station on the Saturday morning to catch the 8.15am Swan Hill train, the requested D-van was already attached. As so often happens we were not the only cyclists travelling; two others shared the D-van with us. One let down was the absence of canteen service on this train but the coffee bar at Castlemaine Station was open when we arrived so we were able to satisfy caffeine cravings without losing too much time. A few additional group members were waiting here for us and some of us off-loaded our heavier luggage into their partners' cars.

By about 10.30am we were ready to start riding. Our route to Maryborough was very straightforward. After dodging through some back roads to avoid Castlemaine's main street we soon joined the Pyrenees Hwy and followed it all the way to Maryborough. Our first stop was for an early lunch at Newstead. As most of us had brought cut lunches we looked for a park and found a very suitable one right beside the Highway complete with picnic tables, and shade sails in case of the sudden deluge which threatened but did not eventuate. Stop number two was at Carisbrook where we failed to locate the main shopping street but found quite acceptable coffee at the roadhouse on the highway. There's an off-road path on the north side of the highway between Carisbrook and Maryborough. Some of us used bits of it, but it's of variable quality and has rather more ups and downs than the highway and no-one bothered to use it on the return journey three days later.

On arrival in Maryborough one group member found his B&B on the approach to the town, but the rest of us had to ride through and out the other side to our caravan park. I'd chosen the Golden Country Motel (or Car-o-tel as the roadside sign

styled it) as it offered motel units, cabins and camp sites. The Maryborough Caravan Park, rather closer to town, would probably have been a better choice, but our accommodation, mostly cabins, was quite satisfactory. Fortunately we had enough drivers to transport everyone to dinner in the very grand old railway station building, now a café and antiques emporium. Since I had made the original booking some months earlier the café had changed hands and no longer opens for dinner unless there's a minimum number of diners. At sixteen, our group was just large enough, and there was a sprinkling of other diners.

Avoca, about 26km from Maryborough along the Pyrenees Hwy, was our destination on Sunday. Unfortunately the day was somewhat bleak, with a brisk wind that seemed always in front or to the side and never behind us, although we did not have rain like many other parts of the state. So long as we pedalled briskly all was well, but there was no temptation to linger out of doors. A venturesome few did a quick turn around the historic town but no-one opted to pedal the extra kilometres to visit any of the various wineries in this Pyrenees wine region, or the special foodie event at the Turf Club. Instead we sought out cosy cafes for protracted lunches. For the return journey we used a very scenic but unsealed back route through forest for the first half of the ride before returning to the Pyrenees Hwy and hurrying back to hot showers and indoor comfort. For dinner most of the group accepted with great alacrity an invitation to eat home-delivered pizzas in the gracious and cosy surroundings of the B&B two of our group were staying in.

On Monday, with the weather looking much more promising and the wind behind us, we positively whizzed north to Dunolly along the delightfully traffic-free Timor Rd. The hoped for general store at Timor looked long closed, but a large flock of sheep being herded along the road provided the excuse to linger here. Once they were past us, we sped on to reach Dunolly well ahead of schedule. One of our group had arranged that we would visit a friend of hers who owns historic Cumberland House part way back to Maryborough for afternoon tea. A quick call changed this to a BYO lunch. So we were able to take advantage of the very superior Dunolly Bakery both for morning coffee, with which many of us consumed the most delicious bee-stings I've ever tasted, and to purchase our lunches. Despite instructions that sounded very straightforward finding Cumberland House proved a bit of a challenge and finally Ian, the owner, rode out to the intersection where we had lost the plot to guide us. Thank goodness for mobile phones! After a tour of the very interesting old house and garden we ate lunch out of doors, with the sun finally making an appearance. Thanks to an excellent map (see below for further details) lent to us by Ian, we were able to ride back to Maryborough mainly on forest tracks, without getting lost once. The signage on these tracks seems to have improved dramatically since my previous attempt to ride around Dunolly many years ago.

Tuesday saw us getting a slightly earlier start for what would be our most challenging ride of the weekend, back to Castlemaine via Maldon. First we followed the Pyrenees Hwy back to Carisbrook. This time we managed to locate the historic precinct including the shops but sadly they were all closed, probably due to its being Cup Day. Shortly past Carisbrook we turned north towards Baringhup and Maldon. This route, which looked a little complicated on my map turned out to be very straightforward and well-signed, but pleasingly free of traffic. The going was quite easy as far as Baringhup where there is a caravan park and a shop, but no coffee. Here we heard the bad news: 'it's uphill all the way from Baringhup to Maldon, and you'll need very low gears!' In fact this is not quite the case but there certainly were some quite challenging hills and no-one was sorry to reach Maldon. Here we all scattered in different directions to select food for lunch from the various options available. Many of us ended up eating in the very pleasant town park in the welcome sunshine. At 1pm we gathered ready for the last stretch to Castlemaine which proved very much easier than we were expecting, with lots of downhill, and without the strong head wind we had anticipated. Some of the group caught an earlier train but most of us waited for the train from Swan Hill. There was the D-van once again and we were relieved that we managed to get it open and stow our bikes, without any assistance from station staff, and get on board the train before it departed. By 5.30pm we were back at Southern Cross, along with lots of Cup goers looking a little the worse for wear.

Maps

For planning our routes I mainly used an old RACV map. The current series of RACV maps are at once much bulkier and less detailed than their predecessors. This area unfortunately straddles 3 corners of the maps in the VicRoads Country Directory, my other main source of maps of country Victoria, so could not easily be copied.

The map that Ian lent us was a free map called 'Cycle Central Goldfields'; it was first published in 2003, and reprinted in 2008, produced by Dunolly Community Action Group. When I contacted the Central Goldfields Visitor Information Centre, email: visitorinfo@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au, phone: 1800 356 511, I was assured that they had it and would send me a copy. However when this arrived in the post it was the same 'Dunolly Cycle Tracks' map that I already had, without the Maryborough tracks shown on the back like Ian's map. However the email also included this hopeful message: 'We have the Maryborough equivalent due for release shortly'. So I plan to follow this up. If you're planning to cycle in this area this new map would definitely be worth obtaining.

Julia Blunden

Opinion

Bicycle Network (Victoria) 2011 Annual General Meeting

The Bicycle Network (Victoria) 2011 Annual General Meeting was held on Monday 14th November 2011 at 7:00 pm in the Yarra Room of the Melbourne Town Hall.

As has increasingly become the trend in recent years, attendance at the AGM is dominated by BN(V) staff, with the wider membership (many of whom don't live in Melbourne) largely absent. (Given this, perhaps it is overdue for voting on Special Resolutions to follow the existing system used for voting for board members, which would more easily enable the wider membership to democratically express their view on these important matters.)

A number of volunteers were recognised for their efforts by board member Rick Barry, including Boroondara BUG's Glennys Jones, who again was acknowledged for her extensive voluntary work with BN(V).

The Board Member Election results were announced and it was no surprise that Helen Millicer had been re-elected, nor was it surprising that Simon Crone (President & serving his 9th year on the board) had also been re-elected.

The 3rd successful candidate was newcomer David Smith.

It was announced that Ruth Paterson and Eytan Lenko had decided to vacate their positions on the board and as a result, their positions are to be filled by existing board member Jeremy Brand and newcomer Geoff Schomnburgk, who received the 4th & 5th highest number of votes respectively.

Ruth Paterson spoke on behalf of the Board with respect to the Special Resolution, which proposed to replace the current membership elected 9 board members with 6 member elected board members and up to 3 members co-opted by the existing board, of which these 3 members have no limit to the number of times that they can be re co-opted. The board can also choose not to co-opt any members, which can lead to a minimum board of only 6 members. The rationale for co-opting board members is to allow for the option of acquiring members with specific skills.

Ruth Paterson advised that normally it was preferred that the Board contain at least some members that were lawyers and accountants. (The 2012 membership elected board contains 2 lawyers and 2 members with CPA accounting qualifications.) She also mentioned that it would be good for instance if the organisation had the opportunity to co-opt say the young Australian of the Year (in 2011, this was Queensland solo sailor Jessica Watson).

Ruth Paterson said that with 9 board members and senior staff at board meetings, this was already a significant number and therefore it was not considered desirable to add an additional 3 co-opted members to a 9 member membership elected board (*i.e. total of 12*).

Ruth Paterson advised that having the option of by-passing the membership election process meant that it would be easier to encourage sought after candidates to consider taking up a co-opted positions on the BN(V) board.

On the question of maintaining or increasing the level of diversity on the board, Ruth Paterson said with all due respect to the existing board, she did not feel that it was particularly diverse, for instance, most board members tended to reside in Melbourne, there was only one female candidate in the current elections (in 2011, the gender balance on the membership elected board was 4 females and 5 males). She also mentioned the low number of members that voted and the lack of youth on the board, notwithstanding she was elected onto the board at age 29.

The special resolution was successfully passed with around 70 votes in favour and only 7 votes against.

Special resolution aside, there were only two general questions asked:

(1) BN(V) new tax status? The President advised that the tax exemption as a charity is now confirmed, however, they are still working on donations being tax deductible, which is expected to still be at least 2 years away.

(2) Numbers and revenue on rides being down? The President advised that this was largely due to the increased competition with more operators now organising rides.

The AGM concluded just prior to 7:45 pm.

Thanks to David Leong for this account

Trail Notes

Western Ring Road Trail Closures

SUP closure between Merlynston Creek and Sydney Road

The closure of the SUP at this location has been postponed until early 2012 to allow the path to be used over the Christmas break. The detour route for this path closure was confirmed after consulting with Bicycle User Groups earlier in 2011 and then later approved by Moreland City Council.

Pedestrians will follow a detour route via Camp Road and cyclists will be detoured through the local streets in Glenroy. The Alliance has worked closely with Moreland City Council to improve path conditions on a section of the detour on Box Forest Road. The footpath at the eastern end of Box Forest Road has been upgraded to allow for a safer journey for path users.

The shared user path between Merlynston Creek and Sydney Road will be closed in the New Year for approximately eight months as widening works take place on the M80 Ring Road Altona bound. The detour will be clearly signed with maps and reflector tape marking the route. Stakeholders will be notified of the exact date of the closure closer to the time.

SUP under Merlynston Creek Bridge

The SUP under Merlynston Creek bridge that connects Glenroy residents to Jack Roper Reserve in Broadmeadows has reopened. The Alliance still has a site compound at Jack Roper Reserve with restricted vehicle access to the shared user path. Minor maintenance works still need to be done around the Merlynston Creek area. Stakeholders will be notified in advance should vehicle access be required on the SUP. Spotters will be on site to watch out for path users.

SUP closure between Sydney Road and Kathryn Street pedestrian bridge

Upgrade works are due to start on the south eastern side of the M80 Ring Road / Sydney Road interchange, Fawkner. To ensure the safety of path users during construction works, a small section of the shared user path between Sydney Road and Kathryn Street pedestrian bridge will be temporarily closed for a six month period. A short detour route will be available via Hedley Street and Eva Court. Access to the pedestrian bridge will still be available. Details are currently being finalised with Moreland Council and stakeholders will notified when a date for the closure has been confirmed.

Yarra Trail Closure

The Yarra Trail between Dights Falls and Turner Street, Abbotsford (Melway Map 2D Ref A6) will be closed from Monday 28 November, for about four weeks; open before Christmas.

The closure is related to landscape works on an unstable slope above the path and the City of Yarra will use the closure to construct a retaining wall to further secure the slope in preparation for future path re-construction works.

If at all possible, the path will be open on weekends and at other times when safe. The path closure will require pedestrians and bike riders to detour along Trenerry Crescent.

If you have any queries, or need further information, contact Mark Donnellan on 9205 5724 or email mark.donnellan@yarracity.vic.gov.au For detour map see <http://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/Environment/Parks-and-reserves/Yarra-River/Main-Yarra-Trail/>

Events

French Cycling Tour Offer (Advertisement)

Get a group of 5 friends together to join you on a cycling trip of a lifetime and we will fly you to France for free* with Singapore Airlines, a saving of over \$2500.00 on your cycling holiday.

We have 2 small group fully escorted fully inclusive France cycling tours on offer for 2012 both include a week in the Alps and a week in the Pyrenees, both tours are all about the riding. The first tour "Taste of the Tour De France" happens during "Tour De France" time and the second tour "Ride the Hills of the Tour" takes place after the Tour taking advantage of the lesser crowds.

The Fly to France Free offer is available on the "Ride the Hills of the Tour" package only.

First in best dressed, more information at <http://cycleries.com.au/tour2012.html>

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Andy Willis, Managing Director, Cycleries Australia , 02 6499 0646

* Free flights available to organiser of a group of a minimum of 5 bookings on "Ride the Hills of the Tour" tour only, offer for one return economy airfare only, departing ex Sydney, Melbourne or Brisbane, subject to availability at time of booking, offer redeemable upon full payment of the group booking. Offer available to first group to book and deposit.

General News

New Monash City Cycling Network

Richard Adams has set up a new website for cyclists in the City of Monash at <http://bikemonash.com/about>

The first entry in Richard's own blog, which forms part of the site, provides details of a new free app for smart phones called 'Snap, Send, Solve', which finds your position through the GPS, selects the appropriate Council, then enables you to take a photo, make comments and email it through to a council email. Great for reporting issues with cycling infrastructure as you notice them.

Minutes of Boroondara BUG Meeting, Wednesday 9th November 2011

Elgin Inn, Hawthorn

MINUTES

Attendance and Apologies

Present: Gordon Macmillan, Julia Blunden, John Parker, David Leong, Graeme Stone, Glennys Jones, Peter Campbell (Chair), Malcolm Faul, Graham Ellis

Apologies: Ken Morrison

Correspondence:

In

Email notification of the launch of the Camberwell Professionals Association (not relevant)

Invitation to Council's Community OnBoard workshop on Social Media, Wednesday 30/11, 10am-12.30pm (possibly a good opportunity for one of our members)

Email inviting us to be involved in the Sustainable Living Festival 11-26 February 2012 (there may be an issue of public liability insurance; note that this is not a Council event)

Gazelle Bicycle E-newsletter (not relevant)

Email from Balwyn Cycles and Multisport asking how they can help support BBUG (reply re options for sharing of information via newsletter and business cards)

Email from Age journalist Liza Power wanting help with an article on cyclist safety in Boroondara (**Peter C** agreed to do this, **Julia B** to send email)

Out

Letter to Terry Mulder, Minister for Roads re VicRoads site (no reply as yet)

Letter to Josh Frydenberg, MHR for Kooyong, re need for funding for cycling infrastructure projects in Boroondara (no reply as yet)

Matters Arising:

1. **Malvern Valley Golf Course:** **John P** is still to write to Stonnington Council about this, and to ask for a reference number so it doesn't disappear without a trace. The Stonnington Bicycle Strategy will provide an opportunity for a submission on this and other matters.
2. **East – West link:** **Peter C** asked if anyone in the BUG has expertise in graphic design to help with the preparation of a flyer. **Julia B** agreed to email her list of active members to enquire.
3. **Stockland Tooronga Village Development:** **Glennys J** is still to write to Bianca Carmona at the *Progress Leader* and suggest that she look into this with a view to getting a story in the PL.
4. **Gasworks Site Redevelopment:** Much of the site is still under water at present.

5. **Belford Rd Underpass:** nothing to report
6. **Possible Formation of Stonnington BUG:** Hedley F was not present at the meeting and had not sent a report.
7. **Darebin – Yarra Link:** **Julia B** reported that the Community Coalition is very concerned about funding for the completion of the link. They have prepared a flyer and stickers and will be seeking public support at an event in Darebin Parklands on Sunday 13th November. More comments are needed on the website at <http://www.darebin-yarralink.org/>
8. **New Membership Rules:** **Malcolm F** has plans to phone around with information about the new requirement for a membership subscription to be paid every five years.
9. **Ride to Work Day Community Breakfast:** There was general agreement that this was a very successful event and that the new venue was extremely suitable. **John P** agreed to write to Council congratulating them.
10. **Gardiners Creek Trail, High St Underpass:** The Stonnington Bikescope Survey (<http://www.bv.com.au/general/bike-futures/90837/>) offers a good opportunity to press for improvements to this and other problem spots on the Gardiners Creek Trail.
11. **Kooyongkoot Rd issues:** John P reported that this is in hand.
12. **Solway Bridge:** Glennys J reported that there is a question about the crossing at Ryburne Av. A zebra crossing has been proposed but a crossing that gives right of way to cyclists and does not require them to dismount like the one south of Alamein Station would be preferable. Work on the bridge appears to be progressing well.
13. **Anniversary Trail Audit:** Glennys J reported that this has been completed as far as Hartwell Station and is to be completed next week.

New Business

1. **PBN:** Julia B reported that she had been informed at a meeting at BNV that the revised PBN has been signed off by all councils except Boroondara and that this is because of BUG pressure regarding the East West link. Those present were unaware of any direct BUG involvement in this matter. Despite indicating our willingness to provide input to the PBN none of us has seen it. We do support the East – West link and hope to see it included in the revised document. **Peter C** agreed to ring Jim Hondrakis to enquire about this.
2. **Roundabouts:** John P wrote a piece for the November newsletter on the way the Dutch manage cycling through roundabouts. Those present agreed to read this and consider whether there are any roundabouts in Boroondara that could be improved.
3. **Hays Paddock:** Julia B reported that the final plan was made available to the public late last week, though not in a very user friendly format. It was planned that Council would consider its adoption at the Services Special on Monday 7th November but this has been deferred until Monday 21st November. As far as the bike route through the park is concerned the plan is acceptable in its current form. However as there will be large numbers of residents and anti-bike crusaders at the meeting it is important that the BUG is represented there too. **Julia B** and **John P** indicated their intention to attend.
4. **BNV BUG workshop Wednesday 23rd November:** Jason den Hollander who is organizing the workshop has suggested a maximum of two from each BUG attend. **Julia B and John P** agreed to represent BBUG.

Other Business

5. **Boroondara Council Carbon Footprint Reduction:** Peter C suggested that Council can do more. He mentioned the organisations Lighter Footprints and the Boroondara Sustainable Living Network. He suggested that Council should set up an Energy Fund so that funds are available for good projects. Integrated transport solutions, car-free zones around schools and a network of safe bike routes are all needed. Glennys cited the The Hub on Batesford Road in the City of Monash as an example of public buildings which Boroondara could emulate, eg in the proposed replacement of the Ashburton Community Centre.
6. **Council Budget:** Peter C pointed out that the next Council budget is currently being finalized and that any submissions need to go in by the end of this month.
7. **BAC meeting, Friday 16th December:** **Julia B** said she would call for agenda items via email. The Council budget was one suggested item.
8. **Invitation to Ted Baillieu:** John P suggested that we invite Ted Baillieu to a meeting but it was agreed that December is not a good time.
9. **Next meeting:** This is currently scheduled for Thursday 8th December. However this is dependent on availability of the Elgin Inn function room and may need to change as the room is in high demand at this time of year.

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