

BOROONDARA

Bicycle Users Group

Newsletter December 2010

Boroondara BUG meetings are normally held on the 2nd Thursday of each month except January. However our next meeting is on Monday 13th December. 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, 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 the Rides Supplement are embarked upon at your own risk.

Features

Merrily Down the Murray – Cycling from Swan Hill to Echuca

Cathy, Chris and I were heading up north to the Murray and I had insisted that September was the best time for this. However as the cold, wet, wintry weather dragged on I was assailed by doubts. My last several tours had been cursed with bad weather along with various other problems, most serious of these being three cornered jacks and the consequent punctures. Happily, this tour was to be quite different – four days of glorious spring sunshine and favourable winds, and not a single puncture. And after this winter's exceptional rain the country was looking wonderful – green and lush, with a glory of golden weeds along every roadside verge.

The early morning train to Swan Hill was loco driven, with a good-sized luggage compartment. This was fortunate as we were not the only cyclists travelling on it, but there was no real difficulty stowing all the bikes. Then we could sit back and relax for our four and a quarter hour journey. As there was a kiosk on board we could also enjoy refreshments of various sorts. Towards the end of the journey we ate lunch so we'd be ready to head off on a ride as soon as we arrived.

We were able to check in early at our motel, as we were at both our other lodgings along the way, enabling us to jettison our luggage before heading off on a 44km loop ride to the northwest. Sadly several of the tourist attractions on this route have closed. However it was a relief to see that at least some of Swan Hill's orchards have survived the drought, and these were bursting into blossom before our eyes. Coming alongside the Murray on the latter part of this ride we were able to view the now brimming river at close quarters. One of the few other cyclists we saw on our tour was a disgruntled yabby fisherman returning along the riverside road with his catch – not a good one as conditions were too muddy. A long, but very satisfying day was capped off with dinner at a Southeast Asian restaurant, *Java Spice*, which had been recommended to me on a previous visit and had maintained its excellent standard.

The next day's riding was the least pleasant of the tour. There was no alternative to riding on the Murray Valley Highway, B400, to our next stop, Kerang. Where there's a sealed shoulder it's fine, but on the sections where the shoulder disappears the large freight vehicles overtaking us at intervals were often uncomfortably close. Lake Boga made a good mid-morning stop. It was wonderful to see the lake full again; on my previous visit it had been sadly shrunken. We visited the museum there which

explicates the role of the lake and township as a base for repair of flying boats during World War Two. We also viewed the Catalina, once out in the open but now covered by a huge steel shed, and undergoing much needed restoration. Lastly we called in to the general store where we bought coffees from a dispensing machine and a package of apple pastries to fuel us for the rest of our ride.

After close to 60km of riding it was a relief to reach Kerang and escape from the trucks on the highway. The caravan park where we were staying was just off the highway as we approached the town and alongside the Loddon River, which like the Murray was brimming. Our cabin was very satisfactory and we had a very pleasant evening meal at the nearest of Kerang's hotels. We were a little surprised at the lack of patronage on a Friday night. I had ruled out staying there because of my expectation that it would be very noisy. But the locals had deserted it in favour of some outdoor event relating to the AFL Grand Final and involving fireworks. We were the pub's only patrons by the time we left.

Our next day's destination was Gunbower. There was the option of using a minor sealed road south of the highway for a good part of the 60 odd kilometre distance. However, whether because it was Saturday, or because a lot of the traffic turns south off the B400 towards Bendigo shortly out of Kerang, the highway now made for very pleasant riding. We decided to stay on it so we could enjoy a refreshment stop at Cohuna, which we had been correctly informed is a very pleasant little town. A pub in the main street has taken advantage of its strategic position to offer coffee and a rather nice selection of cakes on the wide pavement looking across to parkland. We were only too happy to accept this offer.

So favourable were the riding conditions, with a now quite brisk tailwind, that we reached Gunbower by lunchtime. Having taken possession of our cabin and lunched there in comfort we had both time and energy for another visit to the Murray. Following directions from the caravan park proprietor we rode across Gunbower Island to take another look at the swollen river, and to enjoy the forest and its abundant bird life. Before heading off we took the precaution of booking for dinner at the town's only eating establishment, the pub. Just as well, as it didn't accommodate a large number and the food there was very superior.

Our last leg, from Gunbower to Echuca, was shorter than the others at only 45km or so. On Sunday the B400 continued to provide pleasant riding conditions and, even with a refreshment stop in the service station at Torrumbarry, we were in Echuca by midday. We ate a picnic lunch, took an hour-long cruise on the paddle steamer Canberra, and had a wander around the port before heading to the station.

It was as well we were there early as the train was of the three carriage VLocity variety. We were the first to get our bikes stowed but by the time the train departed there were ten bikes, packed into the two available spots like sardines by a very efficient guard. Bikes were got on and off at various stations along the way, and by the time we departed from Bendigo the train was packed. No refreshment kiosk this time, so all told a less enjoyable journey than the outward one. As we disembarked at Southern Cross the guard warned us that next time we might not be able to get our bikes on. He said the business of Vline was transporting people, despite agreeing that many cyclists would be happy to pay to transport their bikes. So much for the theory of supply and demand! Moral: always plan a bike tour so that you're boarding at the start of the line and arrive at the station early.

Trail Notes

Ring Road Path Realignment, Airport West

Due to works on the Ring Rd there is to be a realignment of the Shared User Path, located adjacent to Airport Drive and M80 Ring Road Altona bound, Airport West. Works on the SUP are expected to be completed late December 2010.

During the works on the new realigned shared user path, access to the existing shared user path will be maintained at all times. Fencing is also being installed next to the works area, to ensure a safe environment is maintained for pedestrians and cyclists during works.

For further information contact Vanessa Williams | Community Relations Officer, Tulla Sydney Alliance, Ph: 1300 297 090; Email: community@tullasydney.com.au

New Maps

Latest TravelSmart map to be released is for Greater Dandenong. Hardcopy maps are available from City of Greater Dandenong, phone: 03 9239 5100; email: council@cgd.vic.gov.au . If you'd like to view the map online go to <http://www.greaterdandenong.com/Resources/SiteDocuments/doc92914.pdf>

Stonnington News

Bike Parking Survey

Stonnington Council is undertaking a Bicycle Parking Survey to confirm the findings and recommendations of the report of an audit that has been carried out of bicycle parking availability and demand in shopping strips across the municipality. Council is seeking feedback on the findings including the priority locations and the preferred style of parking facilities

To view the full report or to participate in the survey go to <http://www.asr5.com/Community/se.ashx?s=10ADC3840F60321F> or to www.stonnington.vic.gov.au and search 'Bicycle Parking Survey'

Survey participants will have an opportunity to win a \$200 prize to spend in a local bike shop.

For further information contact Council's Transport Planner Lisa Stafford, City of Stonnington, Ph 8290 1172; M 0409 012 895; Fax 8290 1198; lstaffor@stonnington.vic.gov.au

Boroondara News

Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting

The final BAC meeting for 2010 will be held on Friday 17th December, 9.30am – 12 noon in the Acacia Room at 8 Inglesby Rd, Camberwell. Observers are welcome but should let Sustainable Transport Officer Anna Haygreen know they are coming prior to the meeting if possible.

Camberwell Downhill Gourmet Bike Riders Wind Up

After over twenty years of introducing people to the pleasures of gentle recreational riding the Camberwell Downhill Gourmet Bike Riders are disbanding. Elva Parker who has been the group's convenor in recent years has decided that she no longer has the time to carry out this role, and the keener cyclists in the group have all found other clubs and groups to ride with. Many thanks are owed to Elva for her work in co-ordinating the monthly rides for the group, and organising the twice yearly dinners which so many of us have enjoyed. Thanks also to Geraldine Powell for preparing and disseminating the group's newsletter.

Minutes of Boroondara BUG Meeting, Thursday 11th November 2010

Elgin Inn, Hawthorn

MINUTES

Attendance and Apologies

Present: John Parker, Glennys Jones, Julia Blunden, Graeme Stone, Ken Morrison, Peter Campbell (Chair), Graham Ellis, David Leong, Gordon Macmillan, Linda Rohrs

Apologies: none

Correspondence:

In

- Email from Brad Miles in response to Belford Rd underpass submission
- Email from Whitehorse Cyclists re Coalition backing for Box Hill to Ringwood Rail Trail
- Email from Council with Planning Permit for Gasworks site.
- Email from Banyule BUG re Darebin – Yarra link and Banyule Council letter of support for Belford Rd underpass
- Letter from Boroondara CEO, Catherine Dale, thanking BBUG for participation in RTW breakfast

Out

- Submission to VicRoads re Chandler Highway options

Matters Arising:

1. **Golfers Choice and Urban Bush Path:** nothing to report on GC; after meeting with Stonnington, see new business, **John P** will resubmit Urban Bush Path proposal.
2. **East Malvern Station Bridge:** nothing to report

3. **Anniversary Trail at High St and Toorak Rd:** nothing to report at High St; Glennys J reported that signs are now up in Summerhill Rd warning of changed traffic conditions at Toorak Rd, and shared paths are now signed along both sides of Toorak Rd.
4. **East – west link:** Peter C reported that he is about to submit his proposal to Council that they adopt this as a project.
5. **Honeywell development:** Glennys J reported that this has been approved by VCAT, but with some concessions to cyclists. The City of Yarra Council will remain the Responsible Authority. No further action possible.
6. **Stocklands Tooronga Village development:** The drainage issues on the Gardiners Creek Trail are largely resolved. Graeme S received an email from the Coles Workplace BUG about the lack of access to the Stocklands site from the GCT. **Graeme** will write to Stocklands on their behalf, and cc the Planning Department and Jim H. He will also suggest that the Coles BUG write separately, and make contact with some of the major shopkeepers on the site. **Julia B** will write a letter to the PL.
7. **Woolworths Gasworks site redevelopment:** Glennys J reported that a Planning Permit has been issued but with conditions. The number of showers has been increased from 1 to 3, a small win for cyclists and the Developer will have to widen the trail “at grade” along the entire southern boundary to current standards. BBUG pushed for both these conditions. Melbourne Water has placed 27 conditions on the development, both because of the Gardiners Creek and also because the major sewer line runs along the southern boundary. Boroondara Council will be the Responsible Authority which is a much better outcome than the Planning Panels (Minister for Planning) being the Responsible Authority. The Planning Permit still contains a contradictory clause that could allow the developer to relocate 65m of the trail onto boardwalks. **Glennys** agreed to write a letter on behalf of BBUG spelling out the standard, Austroads 6A, required for the Gardiners Creek Path and that timber is not an acceptable material for construction of the GC Shared path. This letter will be sent to Jim Hondrakis and cc’d to Minister Pallas, Melbourne Water and VicRoads.
8. **Anniversary Trail missing link at Camberwell High:** **Graham E** reported that he has not had any response to his email to Jim H. He will follow up, and this will be an agenda item for the next BAC meeting.
9. **Leos:** nothing to report
10. **Ride to Work Day:** **Graeme S** reported that he and Glennys J would be meeting with Anna Haygreen to debrief over coffee.
11. **Hays Paddock Plan:** Julia B reminded those present that the meeting scheduled for Saturday 20th November would be a site meeting with Jim H present to look at issues of particular concern to cyclists such as Glass Creek crossings and paths. Note that this meeting has now been deferred to 15th December at 6.30pm. The meeting on 20th November will consider the playground, informal use and ovals. Council staff in attendance will be Kirsty Reid (Sportsground Development Coordinator) and Janice McMurtrie (Environment Coordinator).
12. **Belford Rd Underpass:** nothing new to report except that John P received an acknowledgement of an email on this subject from Cr Brad Miles.
13. **Combined BUGs meeting, Wednesday 27th October:** Glennys J reported that BV’s Mike Williamson indicated his willingness to attend the next meeting. Julia B suggested that the June date agreed for the next meeting will not work well. If we are to have two of these meetings each year then autumn and spring will work best. It was agreed that we will promote 30th March as a better option.

New Business

1. **Meeting with Stonnington:** John P reported that he, Glennys J, Julia B and Mike Wellard, President of Whitehorse Cyclists and a Stonnington resident, had met with Stonnington staff Daniel Freer, Manager, Leisure and Libraries and Dale Welsh, position?, the previous day. Stonnington is intending to revise their bike strategy and will welcome input from BBUG and other stakeholders. The meeting provided a good opportunity to strengthen BBUG relations with both Stonnington and Whitehorse Cyclists.
2. **Flood reports for cyclists:** David L expressed interest in having online access to up-to-date information on problems with bike paths such as flooding. Bicycle Victoria seems to be the most obvious/hopeful host for such a service. Various possible vehicles for such a service were suggested. It was agreed that **David** should write to BV’s Gary Brennan asking for suggestions as to how such a service might be implemented.
3. **Yarra Trail developments:** David L has been in communication with Parks Victoria about the proposed new path between the Pipe Bridge and the Chandler Hwy. It was agreed that nothing is likely to be resolved until after the State election. BV’s Jason den Hollander is to meet with VicRoads about the Chandler Hwy.
4. **Warrigal Rd Underpass:** Glennys J reported that construction is underway and even has a mention in *In the Loop*. Innovative construction methods mean that the path will sit on the top of a C-shaped structure and appear to be cantilevered from the side. Gradients will meet current standards and be no more than 14%. The expected completion date is March 2011.
5. **Bicycle Victoria AGM:** this will be held on Monday 15th November. Questions may be submitted prior to the meeting.

6. **BAC meeting Friday 17th December:** the following agenda items were suggested:

- a. Gasworks site update
- b. Anniversary Trail missing link at Camberwell High
- c. Next year's Council budget
- d. Possible re-routing of Anniversary Trail behind shops both sides of Toorak Rd
- e. East-West Link – use of the railway easement
- f. Possible re-routing of Ferndale Trail at Glen Iris Rd
- g. Repair of post and wire fences alongside Anniversary Trail opposite Ashburton Station
- h. Re-routing of Anniversary Trail at Ashburton Station – progress report
- i. HA Smith Reserve bridge – progress report
- j. Belford Rd underpass – progress report
- k. Chandler Hwy underpass and VicRoad options
- l. Re-routing of Yarra Trail between the Pipe Bridge and Chandler Hwy
- m. Hyde Park – update on new path
- n. Hays Paddock plan
- o. Bluestone policy
- p. On road traffic calming devices – Highfield Rd and which other one did Peter want to raise?
- q. Grace Park bridge

Any other suggestions to be emailed to Julia B by Friday 3rd December

7. **Bike Parking:** It was agreed that we need to follow up on the PL article. All those present to contribute to PL online discussion or write letters to PL.
8. **Invitations to attend meetings:** Josh McDougall, Environment and Sustainable Living Rep on the BAC, is to be invited to a meeting. However the December meeting may not be possible as we may not get the function room.
9. **Bike Lanes in Studley Park Rd:** these have been re-marked in part. **David L** is to check before and after changes on Nearmap to make sure changes made are correct.
10. **Greythorn Rd:** Ken M reported that this road is dangerous for cyclists due to a series of crests and car parking which leaves no room for manoeuvre. The wide nature strip on the west side offers the option of reconstructing the road to provide more space for cyclists.
11. **Next meeting:** Thursday 9th December

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: murphji@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:

Graeme Stone

16 Jervis Street, Camberwell, Vic 3124

email: graeme_stone@optusnet.com.au

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 one-off payment of \$15 per household. Please send cheque (made out to Boroondara Bicycle Users Group) along with this form to:

Graeme Stone
16 Jervis St
Camberwell
Vic, 3124