

BOROONDARA

Bicycle Users Group

Newsletter December 2012

Boroondara BUG meetings are normally held on the 2nd Thursday of each month except January. Our next meeting is on **Wednesday** 12th 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 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.

Features

Some Observations from the UK

We were in the UK for 6 weeks with our bikes (a fixie with dual rear hub – touring size cog on one-side and a general use cog on the other, and a Learsport Hybrid with a basket on the back), which we used for general transport around the cities of Portsmouth and London and for doing a wee bit of cycle touring on the Isle of Wight and in Hampshire.

My first observation when in the UK is always that how good it is to see all sorts of people, on all sorts of bike, using them for all sorts of purposes, especially the elderly going shopping and teenage girls hooning around the hood on BMXs. It seems to me that the lack of compulsory helmets makes it easy for folk just to hop on a bike. The bike seems to be a natural part of life. It also seems to me that, being treated as adults, folk tend to do their own risk assessment of the need for a helmet and the more serious commuting cyclists and recreational cyclists out in the country dressed in lycra, always seem to be helmeted.

And then when I am out and about in the UK riding my bike, my second observation is that I never feel under threat from other road users by daring to ride my bike on 'their' road like I do here in Oz. There seems to be a higher level of tolerance/respect/graciousness/patience between all road users than here in Oz. We were never once tooted at, yelled at, intimidated nor had things thrown at us, even when crawling up hills on narrow busy country lanes with trucks, buses and cars behind. In the chaos of central London, again, never felt unsafe with hundreds of other road users and pedestrians around us. In Oz we seem to concentrate on 'Shared Respect' between say Cars and Trucks or between Bikes and Cars. Not just 'Shared Respect' between all road users. It seems to me that this cultural lack of 'Shared Respect' on the roads (road rage) flows over onto Shared Paths where there is increasing intolerance between path users and where on some Shared Paths at commuter times there is even a lack of respect between cyclists themselves – the lycra clad TdF wannabee v the slower urban dressed shopper on a utility bike ☺

In London, the bike symbol painted on the road in the middle of the lane to depict a cycling route where there was no specific bike lane was not only an aid for me in navigating my way around, letting me know I was still on the bike route but also a reminder to other road users that they are using a bike route so expect to see bikes ☺ The equivalent here would be to have a bike symbol painted at regular intervals in the centre of the (inside) lane, where there is no bike lane, along the 'blue' roads

designated as Informal Bike Routes marked on our TravelSmart Maps. Such a treatment would be especially useful on road likes Prospect Hill Road where cyclists are forced to claim the lane through traffic calming squeeze points.

Bicycle Route signage around London was excellent for a stranger like me to find my way around, along with the series of Cycle Maps for London, which not only had the routes marked in Blue but also some routes marked in Yellow, which were routes that other cyclists had recommended as quieter roads to use where a 'formal' bike route did not exist. Another idea for our TravelSmart Maps.

On making the following observations I find they can be a bit fraught given the UK population density can magnify what is really happening when looking through Aussie eyes with a lower population density.

It seemed folk preferred to have their front light on steady rather than flash. Maybe this is related to the fact that TV programs and news items need to advise viewers if the program contains strobing or flash light photography, so there is some sort of consciousness in relation to the health effects of flashing lights. Whilst on the subject of lights, I do not recall seeing the high powered helmet lighted lights which seem to have become a trend here. Definitely never saw one being used.

Around London, the blue Barclay Bikes (Bike Share) seemed to be getting a lot of use. There also seemed to be a lot more fluoro being worn than here in Oz. Singlespeed/Fixies were plentiful in London but not so much in Portsmouth nor on rural roads

We used the train a number of times to transport our bikes and on the South West Line there were carriages with a specifically designed space/racks for 3 bikes. I gather not all of the rail providers have the same carriages or policies in relation to bikes on trains. Bikes on trains seemed quite common as were folding bikes being used for multi modal transport. In fact one year when I was in the UK during Bike Week there were events that promoted folding bikes and multi modal transport.

Alan Tonkin

Lilydale – Warburton Rail Trail Now Lives up to the Hype

The Lilydale – Warburton Rail Trail has long billed itself as 'Australia's best recreation trail'. At last, after a number of recent improvements, the title seems truly deserved.

One of the trail's biggest plusses is that, while it is truly rural in character, cyclists can reach it on Metro trains, which are relatively frequent and much more bike-friendly than most V/Line trains. Now, thanks to the splendid new bridge over the Maroondah Highway, they can ride off-road right from Lilydale station all the way to the Warburton town centre. The only downside to this first section is that, rather than following the old railway easement all the way, the trail diverts around Mt Lilydale Mercy College, necessitating a downhill swoop followed by an uphill slog. At least the problems with washaways on this seem to have been resolved now by means of extra concrete. But it's a shame that a rail trail with otherwise very gentle gradients begins with this slightly off-putting challenge.

Over the Sunday, Monday and Tuesday of the Cup weekend I rode the trail with my daughter, son-in-law and two grand-daughters aged 8 and 6. At around 40km each way, and with a very appealing destination, we thought this would be the ideal introduction to cycle touring for the girls, both of whom now ride 20" bikes with six gears. Eight year-old Tessa handled the whole ride, there and back, with great aplomb, but six year old Sophie, who had only just graduated to the new bike, found the going hard at times. Luckily her mother is good at providing a timely pull or push, and Grandpa was at hand with a sag-wagon to spare her the long haul up to Mt Evelyn on the return journey.

After the good rain we have had over the last couple of years the Yarra Valley was looking its very scenic best. The trail passes through a mix of forest and farmland, and both were in superb condition. Various different animals could be seen grazing in the lush green grass, with lots of young about at this time of year. Immaculate vineyards about the trail at some points. And a splendid back-drop of purple-blue hills completes these idyllic rural scenes.

Refreshment options along the trail are now so numerous that we were able to avoid doubling up at all. On the outward journey the Stationhouse Café at Mt Evelyn was our morning coffee stop, we left the trail to battle up to the Woori Yallock Bakery for lunch, and enjoyed icy-poles at the Millgrove general store before tackling the final leg to Warburton. On the return journey our morning break was at Yarra Junction where we took refreshments in a café and the girls tried out the playground, while lunch was in the delightful Carriage Café at Seville, where one can sit on the outdoor, but roofed platform, or in the compartments of an old railway carriage. The Cog Bike Café at Mt Evelyn and the pub at Launching Place are yet more options.

On a previous ride along the trail I had seen the pedestrian crossing at York Rd, Mt Evelyn nearing completion, thus removing the greatest danger point on the trail. How nice it was to actually press that button and all cross in good order. However I was anxious about the girls' safety at the next crossing – the Lilydale-Monbulk Rd. What a delight to find that here too there is now

a signalised crossing, and no need to watch anxiously and scoot across dodging the traffic. There are a few other road crossings where parents with children need to be vigilant, but nothing to compare with these two former horrors.

We planned our trip with a non-riding day in Warburton to give the girls a break from the bikes and to enjoy this very beautifully situated town more fully. Our first activity there was the River Walk, a circuit walk down one side of the Yarra and back the other. In the course of this we enjoyed watching four fluffy ducklings taking swimming lessons under the watchful eyes of their parents, as well as hardy humans white-water rafting in the no doubt frigid waters of the river on inflated mats. A detour to the town's Information Centre proved a winner for the girls. The shopkeepers are currently running a promotional scheme whereby children get passports stamped in the various shops in order to claim a prize, in their case two stuffed blue toy birds, destined for proud display at their next school 'show and share'. La La Falls are only a short drive or ride from the town, and Yarra Junction, 10km away along the trail, has a sports complex with various swimming pools for those who prefer their water still. The nearby O'Shanassy Aqueduct Trail offers more riding or walking for the energetic.

There are still a few improvements that could be made to the Lilydale-Warburton Rail Trail. A few more toilets wouldn't go amiss. But I doubt there is any trail in Australia more suitable for this sort of family bike tour. I highly recommend it.

Free maps of the trail are available from information centres. Bicycle Victoria has published an excellent folding map with lots of information included. The trail is also included in the Rail Trails Australia publication *Rail Trails of Victoria and South Australia*. For the latest information on this and other rail trails see the Rail Trails Australia web site at <http://www.railtrails.org.au/>

Trail Notes

Improvements in Boroondara

VicRoads Denmark St Bypass

An off-road bike path from where the bike lane ends in Wellington St Kew, round the corner and along Denmark St to the Stevenson St traffic lights, is currently under construction on VicRoads land. This section of track, though relatively short, will be very useful as it will enable cyclists to avoid joining Denmark St at all when doing the dogleg from Wellington St to Stevenson St or vice versa.

Gardiners Creek Trail Developments

Many cyclists will already have used the detour through the new Masters Hardware development at the old Gasworks site. This detour is in place to enable this section of the Gardiners Creek Trail to be brought up to the standard of the other Boroondara sections – eg 3m wide.

Work on the new bridge across Gardiners Creek at the eastern end of the HA Smith Reserve is due to start in February. This bridge will enable cyclists to avoid using both the very constricted footpath along Glenferrie Rd under the Monash Freeway and the loop down to the gantry linking to the Yarra Trail. Instead cyclists will cross at the new bridge and ride along the Stonnington side of the creek and straight under Glenferrie Rd.

Events and Activities

VicRoads Cycling Survey: Bike Rider Safety

VicRoads invites bike riders, the cycling community, and other road users to complete a short survey to tell us what you know about cycling safety programs and what information you would like to see available about cycling safety in the future.

VicRoads will use your feedback from the survey to improve the information and programs we provide about cycling safety.

Go to <http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/Home/SafetyAndRules/SaferRiders/BikeRiders/BikeRiderSafety.htm>

City of Stonnington's Free Cycling Skills Programs

Are you looking to develop your cycling skills or knowledge and improve your riding confidence during the summer period? Council's Free Defensive Cycling Skills Programs are designed for residents of all riding skills and are conducted by qualified and experienced cycling instructors.

Courses are categorised into different groups to cater for participants with similar cycling attributes. Content includes, but is not limited to:

- Basic bike handling and defensive riding skills
- Braking and using gears effectively

- Correctly setting up and adjusting your bike
- Maintenance and safety checks
- Rules and legal obligations from a riders point of view.

Courses are free but places are limited, so bookings are absolutely essential.

Courses to be conducted during the December 2012 – March 2013 period include:

All Ages Program (18+ Years)

Saturday 15 December 2012, 9.30am - 11.30am
Basil Reserve, Stanley Grose Drive, Glen Iris

Junior Riders Program (10+ Years)

Wednesday 23 January 2013, 10am - 12pm
Stanley Grose Reserve, Stanley Grose Drive, Glen Iris

Women's Program

Thursday 7 February 2013, 6pm – 8pm
Stanley Grose Reserve, Stanley Grose Drive, Glen Iris

All Ages Program (18+ Years)

Wednesday 13 February 2013, 6pm – 8pm
Stanley Grose Reserve, Stanley Grose Drive, Glen Iris

Bicycle Maintenance Program**

March 2013
Further details to be confirmed

Participants are responsible for providing their own working bicycle and necessary safety equipment.

Further Information

For further information or to register your attendance, please contact:
Leon Calvert, Recreation Programs Officer, City of Stonnington
P: (03) 8290 1333
F: (03) 8290 1198
E: lcalvert@stonnington.vic.gov.au

Phoenix Park Skate Park Jam on Saturday 8 December 2012.

Free Entry, BBQ and Arcade Games!

Click here to register: www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/gwusportrec

Boroondara News

Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) Review – Help Needed

BBUG understands that there will be a Review of the City of Boroondara's Domestic Animal Management Plan in the new year and is currently putting together a submission in preparation for it. BBUG would like to see changes in the Local Laws to require all dogs to be on a short leash within 5 metres of all Shared Paths, even those Shared Paths passing through designated Dog Off Leash areas.

BBUG has found it difficult to get data on incidents in relation to cyclists and dogs not under effective control on Shared Paths. If you have had a serious incident in the last year please feel free to e-mail brief details (when, where, what and outcome) to boroondarabug@gmail.com to help us build the case.

Also, please keep an eye out for announcements in regard to the DAMP Review and take the time to make your own personal submission and if you are a resident in the City of Boroondara, to speak with your local Councillor.

In due course our submission will be on our web site at <http://boroondarabug.org/wiki/Documents>

Alan Tonkin

Minutes of Boroondara BUG Meeting, Thursday 8th November 2012

Elgin Inn, Hawthorn

Attendance and Apologies

Present: Peter Campbell (Chair), John Parker, Alister Huth, Julia Blunden, David Farrow, Glennys Jones, Graham Ellis, Gordon Macmillan, Ken Morrison, David Leong, Hedley Finger, Hank van Apeldoorn, Jenny Henty, Mick Nolan, Ken Parker, Miff Parker

Apologies: Malcolm Faul, Carolyn Ingvarson (Lighter Footprints)

Correspondence:

In

- Email from Velogear re special Christmas offers for BUG members
- Email from Jeremy Burge praising the Boroondara RTW breakfast
- Email from Dayna Branagan at Swinburne re Sydney's new Treetop Adventure Park
- Email from Damian Parker offering us 2 free entries to The Wiggle Bendigo Belter
- Email from Australian Bicycle Clothing re sale
- Email from Frank Kinnerseely with Moonee Valley BUG news
- Email from Swinburne journalism student requesting interview re Glenferrie Rd bike lanes

Out

Matters Arising:

1. **Hawthorn to Box Hill Trail:** Mick N brought along the letter to go to councillors and relevant council officers inviting them to a meeting and tour designed to brief them on this project on Wednesday 28/11. Julia B signed it on behalf of BBUG. Adam Hall, Manager of Environment and Sustainable Living at Boroondara Council, has agreed to organise a room for the meeting and the bus for the tour. **Hank V** will have a brochure ready to distribute at the meeting. **Glennys J** agreed to send a map for inclusion in this. BUG and LF members attending will be **Peter C, Jenny H, John P and Carolyn I, with Mick N** available as an emergency. An article has appeared in the *Boroondara Review*.
2. **Golfers Choice and Urban Bush Path:** Two new Greens councillors have been elected in Stonnington. It was agreed that they need to be approached to seek their support for these projects.
3. **Gasworks Site Redevelopment:** Glennys J reported that work on the ring road is a bit behind schedule and no detour was in place. (An email was received from Jim Hondrakis the day after the meeting notifying that the detour is now in place and that this and the GCT reconstruction will be monitored.)
4. **Darebin – Yarra Link:** Julia B reported that there have been two major new developments since the last meeting. Firstly, as reported in *In the Loop*, six mayors have written to Ryan Smith, Minister for Sustainability and Environment, urging him to make funding available to complete the project. BNV are asking all supporters to use the link provided to email various members of the government and express their support for the link. Secondly the Community Coalition for the link has received a letter from the DSE indicating that they have submitted applications to the three relevant councils to extend the expired planning permits for the link. It was agreed that **Julia B** should contact Greg Barber and suggest that his question in parliament should relate to funding and a start and finish date for the project.
5. **Belford Rd Underpass:** nil to report
6. **Dights Falls Commuter Trail:** Alister H and David F met with BNV's Jason den Hollander. Jason suggested that the 'commuter' aspect should not be emphasised and that statistics are needed to support the project. In fact Boroondara has not been recording great increases in riding to work, and Alister has observed that very few women use the relevant section of the Yarra trail. The next steps are: 1. talk to Alistair Cummings at VicRoads, and 2. try to engage Yarra BUG. **Julia B** agreed to send contact information for Yarra BUG to Alister and David.
7. **Stonnington Matters:** John P has received a response to his letter regarding counter flow lanes in Prahran. Sam Hibbins who attended one of our meetings has been elected. **John P** agreed to write a letter to the new councillors pointing out needed improvements to bike infrastructure in Stonnington
8. **Proposed Changes to Local Laws re Riding through Parks:** Julia B reported that a Hays Paddock Advisory Committee is being formed. **Mick N** indicated his intention to nominate for this.
9. **Anniversary Trail Pedestrian Refuge at Prospect Hill Rd:** Alan T was not present. Graham E reported that Jim H has made some further changes to the right of way through the school. The proposed land swap is still under consideration. Graham E agreed to raise this with Heinz Kreutz, the ward councillor.

10. **Incorporation:** **Hank V** is investigating whether it will be possible to conduct the vote on this online. The new model rules will be published later this month and we will need to look at these.
11. **Domestic Animals Management Plan Review:** Alan T is still working on a BUG submission. **Julia B** agreed to contact her new councillor, Steve Hurd, re issues with guide dogs and other dogs off-lead, with a view to including something on this in the submission.
12. **Ride to Work Day:** Those present reported that the Boroondara community breakfast at the velodrome had once again been very successful. Coral Ross was the only councillor present.
13. **Super Sunday Bike Count:** Julia B and David F will be counting, with their payments going to BBUG.
14. **Council Elections:** It was agreed that all the new councillors should be invited to attend BBUG meetings next year, starting with Jane Addis in Maling Ward. Jack Wegman, who has not yet attended one of our meetings should also be invited. Then the new Stonnington councillors should also be invited. **Julia B** agreed to draft a letter to go to all the new councillors outlining the nature of BBUG and its aims.
15. **Treasurer's Report:** Malcolm F was not present to report.

New Business

1. **BNV BiXe BUGs Briefing, Tuesday 13th November 6pm:** Julia B had received an invitation to this and had indicated her intention to attend. Ken P indicated that he was also interested.
2. **CPF Cycling Achievement Awards, nominations now open:** There were no suggestions for nominees.
3. **Discussion Paper, Melbourne, *Let's talk about the future*:** **David F** offered to prepare a BBUG submission to this. Individuals can also respond in various ways. Go to <http://www.planmelbourne.vic.gov.au/>

Other Business:

1. **Boroondara Disability Plan:** Glennys J reported that the Boroondara Disability Plan is currently being revised. This is very relevant for BBUG. Not only are there many disabled users of bikes such as recumbents, but disabled access and bike access often go together, eg the Leonda link.
2. **Blackspot App:** This app has been developed by the Greens to report hazards on bike paths. It was agreed that it would be useful if we could be informed about reports relating to issues in Boroondara. **Julia B** agreed to ask Greg Barber if this can happen.
3. **Next meeting:** This is currently scheduled for **Wednesday** 12/12, however there is a distinct possibility that the function room may not be available, in which case alternative arrangements may be necessary.

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