

BOROONDARA

Bicycle Users Group

Newsletter March 2011

Boroondara BUG meetings are normally held on the 2nd Thursday of each month except January. Our next meeting is on Thursday 10th March. It will be held in the function room at the Elgin Inn, cnr Burwood Rd and Elgin St, Hawthorn (Melway 45 B10). Optional dinner at 6.30pm, meeting starts at 7.30pm.

The Boroondara BUG is a voluntary group working to promote the adoption of a safe and practical environment for utility and recreational cyclists in the City of Boroondara. We have close links with the City of Boroondara, Bicycle Victoria, 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

Warburton Bike Tour

Introduction

One of the most easily organised bike tours close to Melbourne is from Lilydale to Warburton, a pretty little town in the foothills of the Great Dividing Range. You can get to the start of the Lilydale - Warburton Rail Trail using the frequent Met train service that runs between Melbourne and Lilydale, or you can drive and leave your car in the Lilydale train station car park.

If you're a strong rider, it's possible to cover the whole 78km distance 'there and back' between Lilydale and Warburton in the same day, or you may prefer a more leisurely tour so stay for one or two nights in Warburton. There's plenty of accommodation in Warburton, ranging from the 5-star type of B&B, through motels, pub rooms, cabins, or BYO tent to pitch in the Warburton Caravan & Camping Park. This caravan park is scenically located in a bend of the river on the Woods Point Road about 1.5km from the town centre.

Eleven of us caught an early Lilydale line train that departed Flinders Street Station a little after 8am in late January. Five hardy souls rode the whole distance in the one day, three people opted to stay overnight in cabins at the caravan park, and the remaining three of us brought our camping gear on our bikes and pitched our tents in the caravan park on a pleasant, grassy site beside the river.

We were most fortunate in high summer to get three perfect, fine days in the mid 20's with no wind. In a previous year when we'd done a similar trip, we'd ridden in unpleasantly hot conditions with temperatures above 40 degrees! Autumn would be a good season for this trip as the weather is more likely to be fine and mild, although if you're camping out, the long daylight hours in January are a bonus.

We aimed to complete the day's riding by lunch time so as to have the afternoons for other activities including bush walking, swimming in the river, checking out the shops and cafes, or resting.

Day 1

An early start meant we did not have to rush and were cycling in the cooler part of the day. We headed off straight from Lilydale Station up the hill to Mt Evelyn before stopping for morning tea on the deck of a café conveniently located right beside the Lilydale – Warburton Trail.

There are now several good cafes beside the Trail and more in the towns through which the Trail passes, all offering much-needed sustenance for your journey.

The countryside had never looked better after the recent rains. The creeks were swiftly flowing, the trees and bush were green and smelling aromatic, and flowers beside the track were in bloom.

By lunchtime we were in Warburton so had lunch under the shade of the gums by the river in a town park. After farewelling our 5 day riding companions, 6 of us rode on to the caravan park on the outskirts of town to set up tents or book into cabins. Those of us in tents were allocated a site, and after some confusion on exactly which site, finally set up our tents beside the river with a shelter shed located near by. Having an undercover shelter with shade, tables and seating is most welcome when camping out.

In the afternoon a few of us did the La La Falls walk through cool, fern filled rainforest to a modest waterfall. Although only a short walk of a few kilometres, it's a steep uphill ride to get to the start of this walk. After returning to camp some of us jumped in the refreshingly cold water of the Yarra River to cool off.

A pub dinner seated on the deck of the Alpine Retreat Hotel followed where most of us ordered the amply-sized "Special Parma" of the day – a huge chicken parmigiana with chips and salad. At \$14 this was excellent value. It was a calm, warm evening so relaxing going to sleep in the tent hearing the sounds of the river and the bush.

Day 2

We brought our own breakfast food with us so had a BYO breakfast at camp. Three riders had to return to Melbourne today, so left shortly after breakfast. After packing our lunches, the remaining three of us rode the well-graded gravel section of the O'Shannassy Aqueduct Trail that goes between Yuonga Road in Warburton and Don Road that runs through the Don Valley to Launching Place.

The upgrading of the O'Shannassy Aqueduct Trail is a 'work in progress' and not all sections have yet been completed, so it's a good idea to download the latest version of the trail map and notes from the Parks Victoria website before riding this trail. When finished in a year or two's time, a trail suitable for bikes should extend as far as O'Shannassy Reservoir.

It was a steep 2km ride - or walk in my case - to get to the Trail. From Warburton you take the Acheron Way / Donna Buang Road that leaves the Warburton Highway near the caravan park, then veer left into Yuonga Road. Once on Yuonga Road you need to watch carefully for the small O'Shannassy Trail signs that indicate the trail.

The beauty experienced on the O'Shannassy Aqueduct Trail makes the effort of getting there really worthwhile. You ride along a gently sloping, gravel, well graded surface that goes through superb sections of native bush, the occasional pine forest, past waterfalls gushing water, with sweeping views out across the valley floor to the mountains beyond. We stopped for lunch by the side of the trail near the old aqueduct before walking our bikes down a short but steep track that intersects with Don Road. Once on the smooth, sealed surface of Don Road we had a wonderful downhill ride into Launching Place. After a quick drink at the pub, we rode on the Lilydale – Warburton Trail to return to Warburton.

The temperature was warming up by the time we got back to Warburton. A delicious afternoon tea was followed by a visit to the local toy shop. After much consultation with a young boy knowledgeable about such matters, I purchased a pink 'floatie' shaped like a car tyre's inner tube on which I 'shot the rapids' in the river back at the caravan park. I followed the lead of the local children in walking upstream, jumping onto the inflated tube in the river, and then riding it downstream back to our tent site. It was fun feeling the tube bumping over the rocks, being drawn along by the swiftly flowing current. After all the recent rains the river's current was quite strong so I had a quick trip back to camp!

A walk into town was followed by dinner at Wild Thyme, a favourite dinner haunt with both locals and tourists.

Day 3

One of our group was staying on for another few days, so after breakfast two of us rode back along the Lilydale – Warburton Trail to catch the train back to Melbourne.

We stopped for morning tea at the Carriage Café that's located close to the trail at Wandin. As its name suggests, this café is housed in an old converted country train carriage with a new verandah added for sitting outdoors. With a paddock and horse trough for those arriving on horseback, bike racks for cyclists, and a well stocked playground for children, - including a too real black rubber snake - this café has something for everyone. The food was very reasonably priced and tasty too.

Within minutes of arriving at Lilydale Station, we were on the train back to Melbourne. As we were returning to Melbourne on a Saturday, we were able to use a "Weekend Saver" ticket that represents quite a big saving for those under 60.

Thanks to Cathy Taylor for this account.

Trail Notes

Moonee Ponds Creek Shared Path

Part of Moonee Ponds Creek Shared Path near Strathmore Primary School will be closed from 21 February to end of May 2011 to improve the path.

The alternative route for walkers and cyclists will be the Strathnaver Reserve Access Road, Mascoma Street and Odin Street. Please refer to the attached Moonee Ponds Creek Shared Path Detour Route Map (PDF 233KB).

Please be advised this route is also shared with motorists and is busy at the start and end of the school day approximately 8:30 to 9 am and 3:15 to 3:45.

We understand there may be short periods when part of this path may be useable, but please do not enter the work areas when they are closed for construction.

Maribyrnong River Shared Path

Current Closures

The Lower Maribyrnong Trail from Brimbank Park to Canning Street is closed due to flood damage.

The River Trail from Keilor to Horseshoe Bend Farm is closed due to flood damage and tree risk.

The river crossing from Green Gully Road to Brimbank is closed, as is the crossing from Garden Ave to Brimbank.

Warning: Access to the Maribyrnong River is limited as surface water, debris and silt build up on trails is a risk to visitors.

This area has seen multiple inundations from high water flows which have led to significant path surface damage and dangerous conditions.

Thanks to Frank Kinnersley for passing on this message

Events

Snowy River Cycling (Advertisement)

Guided Tours coming up in Autumn and Spring 2011.

Snowgums to Seaweed: April 4 -9, November 20 – 25th. Six days of supported touring (approx 30 – 45 km/day on unsealed roads/ tracks) from alpine meadows through deep valleys, tall forest and pristine rivers to the coast. Includes accommodation, meals, transport, guide, support vehicle. \$1595 Mountain bike hire available.

Come on the April tour and arrive in East Gippsland a day early to take part in Cycle Pink – a breast cancer fundraiser sponsored by Snowy River Cycling.

Easter Day Rides: April 22 – 25th 2011. A choice collection of four half and full day rides over the Easter weekend, taking in some of the best rides around my area: quiet backroads beside the Snowy River, coastal forest and heathlands, rainforest and the widely varied forest of the foothills. Difficulty ranges from pretty easy (25 km mostly downhill) to more challenging (46 km - what goes down must also go up). Choose whether to ride just one day or do all four. Includes bike hire, support vehicle, morning tea or lunch, from \$65 for half day.

Lakes and Rail Trail. May 19 – 22. Spring dates TBC. Four days riding on the gentle gradients of the East Gippsland Rail Trail and exploring the surrounding lakes. 45 – 55 km per day. Includes accommodation, meals, lake cruise, return transport to start, guide, support vehicle. \$1090. Mountain bike hire available.

Ride Around the River. Oct 24 – 29th. A classic six day tour of 350 km starting at the rich farmland on the Snowy River floodplain, then riding up into the high and wild mountains that feed the river and its tributaries, crossing the River at its wildest on the legendary McKillops Bridge. Includes accommodation, meals, transport, guide, support vehicle. \$1545 Mountain bike hire available.

Find out more about these tours on: www.snowyrivercycling.com.au

And introducing **Self Guided Tours – East Gippsland Rail Trail.**

Explore one of Victoria’s longest rail trails at a time and pace to suit yourself.

We provide a

- good quality mountain bike (equipped with rack bag, spare tube, maps etc),
- organise your accommodation,
- transfer your luggage each day and
- take you back to the start when you have finished.

Jump onto www.snowyrivercycling.com.au and send us a booking form to organise your own adventure.

News from our Neighbours

Darebin Cycling Strategy Review

The Darebin Cycling Strategy is being reviewed and Darebin Council would like your feedback on improving facilities for cyclists. We are also seeking expressions of interest to be part of the Darebin Cycling Strategy Working Group (CSWG).

The new Darebin Cycling Strategy will build on the successes and learning of the past five years, and include recent Australian and international best practice. The Strategy will support the aims of the Principle Bike Network, recognizing the role that cycling plays in our transport system and the need to increase the number of people cycling for transport. This includes riding bicycles to work, to school, for shopping and visiting friends etc.

A comprehensive action plan will guide the construction and programs that are run over the life of the new Cycle Strategy. We are interested in your ideas as to the facilities and programs that you would like to see for people who ride bicycles. The Darebin Cycling Strategy Working Group (CSWG) will have detailed involvement in the development of the strategy and prioritising the items within the action plan.

For more information on the review of the Darebin Cycling Strategy, to make suggestions on improvements for cyclists, or for more information about the CSWG visit www.darebin.vic.gov.au/cycling or email Darebin’s Sustainable Transport Officer che.sutherland@darebin.vic.gov.au

Thanks to Graham Ellis for passing on this item

Boroondara News

Bicycle Advisory Committee Meetings

The next BAC meeting is scheduled for 9.30-12, Friday 18th March. Agendas and minutes for BAC meetings can be viewed at <http://boroondara.vic.gov.au/our-city/cycling-walking/cycling/bicycle-advisory-committee>

Minutes of Boroondara BUG Meeting, Monday 13th December 2010

Elgin Inn, Hawthorn

Attendance and Apologies

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

Apologies: Alister Huth, Malcolm Faul

Correspondence:

In

Letter from Council inviting us to participate in a Community OnBoard workshop in February

Out

1. Letter to all and sundry about the urgency of replacing Solway Bridge.
A response has been received from Cr Kevin Chow. While this somewhat overstated the progress that has been made with the replacement bridge it seems that Boroondara Council is aware of the importance of expediting this project. Glennys J queried whether the design for the new bridge meets the current standard. **Graeme S** agreed to check this with BV. Julia B mentioned that angling side railings outwards provides more effective space for cyclists.
2. Graeme S has written to thank Bob Stensholt for his good work on behalf of the BUG.

Matters Arising:

1. **Golfers Choice and Urban Bush Path:** John P noted that the Golfers Choice route had remained dry during the recent flooding rains. The Urban Bush Path has become more important with the Solway Bridge down.
2. **East Malvern Station Bridge:** Glennys J reported that timber edges along the path served well during recent rain. Although this is not a perfect solution this agenda item is now closed.
3. **Anniversary Trail at High St and Toorak Rd:** Glennys J reported that there have been no new developments. Yellow paint is needed to highlight the hump alongside the entrance to the path on the western side of the new building at High St.
4. **East – West link:** Peter C suggested that the Box Hill – Camberwell section should be developed first. This will be an agenda item for the March BAC meeting. Peter will also write to various people in support of this project. John P suggested that some minor works can be done at the other end, eg line marking on the shared path on the north side of Burwood Rd alongside St James Park Hawthorn.
5. **Stocklands Tooronga Village Development:** **Graeme S** will follow up on the issue of the access path on the eastern side of Tooronga Rd. However drainage problems will need to be resolved before this can be put in place.
6. **Woolworths Gasworks Site Redevelopment:** Graeme S met with Jim Hondrakis to discuss this and other issues. Jim said that although constrained by the hydraulics of the site Melbourne Water are willing to listen to his requirements for a wider path. Jim found Woolworths reps at the meeting quite helpful too. They are willing to have the path in the current location on their land.
7. **Anniversary Trail missing link at Camberwell High:** No progress had been made on this at the time of the last BAC meeting. **Graham E** agreed to email Jim H about this. This will be another agenda item for the March BAC meeting.
8. **Leos:** At the last BAC meeting Jim H reported that there were legal difficulties involved in allowing cyclists to ride both ways in the one way lane. There is still no bike parking. Glennys J reported that she would be participating in a walking tour round this activity centre. Trucks unloading in Somerset Rd are yet another problem for cyclists here.
9. **Ride to Work Day:** It was agreed that the velodrome on the Gardiners Creek Path is the preferred site for the 2011 community breakfast. Publicity will be crucial. **Julia B** agreed to communicate our views to Chris Hui and Anna Haygreen.
10. **Hays Paddock Plan:** Julia B reported that Jim H had attended the December meeting of the Steering Committee and had spelled out very clearly that a bike route through Hays Paddock is Council policy and non-negotiable. The Committee's final meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 22 February.
11. **Belford Rd Underpass:** Alister H indicated by email that there was nothing to report. It was agreed that **Alister and David L** should write to Andrew McIntosh, Member for Kew, Garry Liddle, CEO VicRoads, and Terry Mulder, Minister for Roads in support of this project. Banyule Councillor Tom Melican should be cc'd.

12. **Warrigal Rd Underpass:** Work has been proceeding on both the underpass and the new bridge on the Monash side. Concerns have been expressed about the bridge which is not as expected a diagonal bridge across the creek upstream from the road, but rather a spiral up to a bridge alongside the road bridge. Jim H has given assurances that the new design was necessary to solve newly identified problems, and that it is of adequate width and DDA compliant.
13. **BAC meeting Friday 17th December:** See individual agenda items.
14. **Possible Formation of Stonnington BUG:** BV is not willing to take the initiative on this though they can help with a mail out if we organise a public meeting. Jim H has agreed to invite Dale Walsh, the Stonnington staffer looking after the new bicycle strategy, to our next BAC meeting. **Julia B** undertook to remind Jim of this. **Hedley F** volunteered to arrange a public meeting to which Stonnington BV members would be invited. **Julia B** offered to send Hedley details of current Stonnington contacts and to help in any way she can.
15. **Meeting with Graham Watt, the new MLA for Burwood:** Graeme S has arranged a time for this meeting.
16. **Contact with Other State MPs:** Malcolm F and Julia B sent cards to local MPs. **Julia B** has yet to resend the original letter about trail naming and signage to the relevant new minister/s.

New Business

1. **Solway Bridge:** see Correspondence out.
2. **Stand in Newsletter Editor and Secretary for April-May:** Julia B pointed out that a volunteer is needed, at the minimum, to organise meetings in her absence. None was forthcoming. At least one and preferably two new moderators are also needed for the BUG Yahoo Group. Peter C and John P agreed to take this on. **Graeme S**, as owner of the Yahoo Group, will need to set this up.
3. **Combined BUGs Meeting:** It was agreed that this should go ahead on Wednesday 30th March. Julia B has booked the Rose Room at the Carringbush Hotel. Harry Barber, CEO of BV has agreed to attend. It was agreed that, if present, he should be asked to give a brief update on BV and that improving BV-BUG interaction should be an agenda item for the meeting. **Julia B** agreed to act quickly to alert other BUGs to this meeting and call for agenda items.
4. **Disposal of BUG Records:** As Graeme S is planning to move house he is unable to retain these. John P offered to store them on behalf of the BUG.
5. **Use of BUG Funds:** This item was deferred to the next meeting.
6. **Willsmere Rd Bike Lanes:** Jim H requested that the BUG provide feedback on the lanes which have been spotted out between Princess and Earl Sts asap.
7. **Revision of Boroondara Travelsmart Map:** Peter C asked that the East – West link be shown on the map as proposed. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting. All members need to note changes/additions needed.
8. **East – West Link Pamphlet:** Peter C foreshadowed this as an agenda item for the next meeting.
9. **Next meeting:** Thursday 10th March

Notes by Julia Blunden

Contacts for Rides

There are many BUGs, clubs and other organisations, several of them local, which organise rides. Below are some of their contact details. A separate supplement contains details of many of their forthcoming rides.

Ashburton Riders Club

Contacts:

Tony Landsell - email: tony@diacher.com

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

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

Banyule BUG

email: banyuleBug@yahoo.com.au

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

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

Boroondara Bushwalkers

contact Julia Blunden

phone: 9853 5095

email: jblunden@bigpond.com

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

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