

BOROONDARA

Bicycle Users Group

Newsletter March 2009

Boroondara BUG meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Our next meeting, on Thursday 12th March 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 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, Bicycle Federation of Australia 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. We also have two Yahoo Groups:

1. 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.
2. Send a blank email to: BoroondaraBugDiscussion-subscribe@yahoogroups.com to monitor or join in an ongoing discussion of bike related issues both local and general.

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 this newsletter are embarked upon at your own risk.

Features

Wangaratta Base Camp

Having started and finished many a bike tour at Wangaratta over the years I decided it was high time to spend some time in this very pleasant town. I also wanted to try out some of the 22 day rides detailed in the excellent booklet published by Wangaratta BUG, with the help of a government grant, back in 1999. Fortunately I was able to interest 15 other cyclists in a base camp in late October 2008. The Cup weekend which I had originally targeted is Jazz Festival weekend in Wangaratta and accommodation is at a premium.

On the advice of one of our group, and John Myles from the Wangaratta BUG, we settled on the Painters Island Caravan Park as our base. It turned out to be an excellent choice. It is located within easy riding distance of the station and walking distance of the main shopping centre, has a range of cabins and camping sites, lots of grass and shady trees, and a pool. It also boasts a wonderful camp kitchen – a semi enclosed building divided into two sections each with a large fireplace, well supplied with firewood, as well as an electric barbecue, fridge, microwave, stainless steel sinks and benches and a big table with lots of seating. This proved ideal for a group barbecue though sadly the weather was too warm for a fire.

Some of our group chose to drive for various reasons, but seven of us travelled to Wangaratta by train with our bikes stowed in the free, pre-booked D-van. Unfortunately this will not be possible for the foreseeable future, due to the conversion of the broad gauge line to standard gauge. The only option currently available is to use the XPT interstate train, on which a small number of bikes can be booked at a price.

On Thursday afternoon, having checked into our cabins and unloaded our panniers, we headed off on the 'Ned Kelly Ride' to Glenrowan. As I had hoped this was not too demanding, being only 36km and involving only a gentle climb up to Glenrowan. From the numerous coffee shops in the main street we selected one with sufficient outdoor seating for our group and settled in for a leisurely afternoon break. The ride back along the old Hume Hwy was a breeze, with a smooth surface, a tail wind, a gentle downhill slope, and practically no cars until we reached the freeway off-ramp. Dinner that night was at the Pinsent

Hotel, which seems to be regarded as the best of the town's pubs, and most of us were well satisfied with our meals, especially as the cost was considerably reduced by vouchers supplied at the caravan park.

Friday was forecast to be relatively cool, and all our group members had arrived, so this was the day for a big ride. A group of three decided to tackle the climb to Beechworth but the rest of us, being not so fond of hills, opted for 'Around the Warby Ranges' instead. This was 68km, with a few undulations but nothing too taxing. It was mainly on sealed roads, but about 5km was unsealed, and on one quite rough section we had our only serious mishap. One of the group fell and cut her knee quite deeply, through her lycra leggings which remained unscathed. Our route took us around the outer edges of the Warby Ranges so we missed out on the more interesting vegetation to be found in the ranges themselves, but the abundant bird life made its presence felt, and one sharp-eyed rider spotted an echidna. We conveniently fetched up at Glenrowan right on afternoon tea time again, and were able to revisit our coffee shop where we were becoming quite well-known. Dinner this time was at Hollywood, a café which turned out to offer a large secluded table not visible from the street. Again most found the food very satisfactory.

The forecast for Saturday was for strong winds and 30 plus temperatures so we settled on the 'Great Gourmet Ride' that takes in Oxley and Milawa and is only 41km. The plan was to take our time, enjoy the various gourmet delights on offer, and buy a few delicacies for our dinner in the camp kitchen. After morning coffee in Oxley, Brown Brothers was our next stop and some found the cool tasting room, the range of interesting wines, and the helpful and informative staff so appealing that it was hard to tear them away. Some of us ate sandwiches in the beautiful gardens at Brown Brothers, while others moved on to the Cheese Factory which has much more to offer than its name suggests – an extensive lunch menu, a bakery and a chocolate shop to name a few. Some of the group opted to extend the ride by returning via Tarrawingee and the rail trail and ended up riding about 70km, while others took the short route and headed for the Painters Island pool. Dinner in the camp kitchen was a leisurely affair, with far too much food, but the left-overs found their way into Sunday's lunches and dinners.

Sunday was warm and windy once again. We packed up our gear and stowed most of it in the large shed where we had also been able to store our bikes each night. Most of us headed into town to buy food for the train journey home, as we knew that the offerings on board would be very limited. As our train was not departing until 5.30pm we still had time for a decent ride. This time, rather than doing one of the rides from the BUG booklet, we rode out along the rail trail then turned off to visit Eldorado and the Cox Dredge, an enormous piece of rusty iron machinery that sits in a lake of its own creation just outside the town. Eldorado has a single hospitality establishment, where coffee comes in two types, white or black. However other refreshments are available, and we sat and ate our lunch on the veranda there. We rode back via Tarrawingee Station site then retraced our route along the rail trail, stopping off at the historic Vine Hotel for a welcome beer and a look at the extensive and cool underground cellar, now a museum.

Some of the group had been canny enough to plan for a shower and change of clothes when we got back to the caravan park. Others less organised like me just travelled home in our sweaty cycle gear. Our D-van was well-used on the return journey with a couple of individual cyclists and another big group arriving at the station after us. Perhaps they were all seizing the day before the V/Line trains to Wangaratta stopped running on 8th November, to be replaced by buses on which carriage of bikes was initially banned and is still very uncertain.

Julia Blunden

Trail Notes

Resurfacing of Gardiners Creek Trail

Stonnington Council has taken advantage of the closure of the East Malvern Station Bridge to resurface the Gardiners Creek Trail between the Solway bridge crossing and the next bridge crossing towards the CBD. Unfortunately the new path has not been done to the current Boroondara standard – 3m of bitumen with concrete edging. However it is good to see Stonnington making improvements to their portion of this very important trail.

Events

National Ride2School Day - Wednesday 25 March 2009.

Get set for National Ride2School Day 2009! Be sure your child's school is on the list to join in Australia's biggest celebration of students walking and riding to school on Wednesday 25 March. Schools can register for the free promotional kit today.

Ride2School Day is an opportunity for students to combine exercise with getting to school. Parents and teachers are urged to leave the car at home and get students walking, riding, skating or scooting to school. Ride2School day is not just about the children participating as active commuters, walking scooting, skating and riding, it is also about the parents realising the children can do it and that it's good for the children's health, good for the environment, good for the families budget and it's

fun. Each year Ride 2 Work day converts a percentage of first time riders to becoming regular commuters, hopefully Ride2School can enjoy similar success.

This year schools in Knox, Moorland and Geelong will be trialling “Partway is Ok”, aimed at encouraging parents, teachers and students to participate if the distance is initially too far.

For further information please contact Mary Akiki, Events and Communication Manager, Ride2School, BV on 03 8636 8859

<http://www.bv.com.au/join-in/125/>

Glennys Jones

General News

VCAT Hearing into Darebin Creek – Yarra Trail link

The VCAT hearing, which began on Monday 16th of February, has been adjourned for at least a month.

Right at the beginning of the hearing, Parks Victoria’s lawyer signalled that they were engaged in last minute negotiations with Latrobe Golf Club and would like to defer consideration at least of the Yarra section of the trail. After several brief adjournments Deputy President Helen Gibson, who is conducting the hearing, decided it would go ahead. So PV opened their case. After an introductory submission detailing the many policies and plans of both the State Government and the relevant local councils which support the continuing development of such links in the metropolitan off-road network, PV called their first expert witness, Landscape Designer Johanna Thompson. She provided a very clear and detailed account of the various stages of the link still to be completed, explaining the proposed solutions to the many and varied problems.

On Tuesday 17th February the various parties to the hearing were led by Johanna on 6 site visits, working from north to south, which were very interesting. Three sites were on, or involved passing through, private property so I had never seen them before, and until I followed the route on the ground I had certainly never fully appreciated the complexity of this relatively short section of trail – less than 3km in all. Apart from the issue of crossing private properties, there is the heritage bridge at Heidelberg Rd with its relatively narrow span to be passed under, various changes of grade and creek crossings, issues of flooding and track crossings, and the need to minimise damage to vegetation to be considered.

I wasn’t able to attend on Wednesday 18th and nor was my original substitute and fellow Community Coalition member David Hall, but Graeme Stone from Boroondara BUG kindly agreed to go. He rang me shortly after midday to report that the hearing has been postponed, it seems probably for several weeks at least. A Practice Day hearing will be held on March 13th to decide on procedural matters. Deputy President Helen Gibson has indicated that Melbourne Water may need to be represented at the hearing, as they are the final arbiters on many matters relating to bridges and flooding.

While it is frustrating to have to wait even longer to learn the outcome of this hearing, the reason for the adjournment is very much to be celebrated. PV have apparently reached an agreement with the Latrobe Golf Club that should ensure that the path proceeds smoothly as least as far as the northern bank of the Yarra, along an alignment that the golf club and PV, and all other relevant parties are happy with.

Julia Blunden

Cycling Promotion Fund Video Clips

The Cycling Promotion Fund and the Amy Gillett Foundation have launched a series of video clips designed to improve road safety on the big screen at Federation Square, Friday 20th February as part of the Sustainable Living Festival.

The dramatic increase in bicycle rider numbers over recent years has led to large numbers of relatively inexperienced bicycle riders. These video clips provide bicycle riders and would be riders with practical tips on how to avoid some common hazards when riding in traffic. There are four clips:

- Dealing with Intersections
- Heavy Vehicles and Cyclists
- Dealing with Car doors
- Cyclist Visibility

To view the four clips follow the links below:

Cycling Promotion Fund: Promotional Resources - Cycling Safety Tips Videos:

<http://www.cyclingpromotion.com.au/content/view/384/147/>

or

Cycling Promotion Fund YouTube channel:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/cyclingpromotionfund>

Sydney Rd Street Party, Sunday 1st March 2009

This event was held from 1pm by closing off almost 1km of Sydney Rd Brunswick between about Weston St and Victoria St. This was a complete closure including trams and enabled much promenading along the centre of Sydney Rd on the tracks. Mostly conditions were fairly crowded such that no-one tried to ride a bike along the street even though a large number of people came by bike.

There were quite a number of food, clothing and gift stalls which were placed at the edge of the roadway to sell to people passing along the centre of the road. Five music venues provided a range of entertainment. I am advised that shop owners wanted to have the footpaths kept clear to encourage access to their shops. This left the footpaths under-used.

In discussion with the Mayor of Moreland I suggested that Council look at using some footpath width to partly accommodate the street stalls. This should give them the option to permit trams to continue the normal service but say at 10km/h maximum speed. Council would have paid thousands of dollars for a bus replacement, signs for which were completely absent. Lack of trams would have been a problem for many people attending.

Some years ago a Cyclovia closure occurred in Sydney Rd with trams gliding down between the walkers. This is similar to the situation in many European cities. Novelty bikes such as Penny Farthings were prominent and the street party was very pleasant and friendly. Trams are needed. They are part of the way to make Sydney Rd work during parties and on normal days.

Graham Ellis

Travels by Bike

If any of you are planning to cycle in Asia, or even if you're not, you may be interested in the following. Chris and Margo are a couple from Vancouver who are riding from Bangkok to London over the next 12 months. The plan for their trip can be found at www.triumf.ca/people/oram/cycling

Their fascinating travel blog can be found at www.candmwanderings.blogspot.com

Thanks to Bruce Dite for this information. Bruce and his group of Whitehorse Cyclists met this couple while cycle touring in Thailand.

Boroondara News

Glenferrie Oval, Grace Park & LE Bray Reserve Draft Concept Master Plan

Boroondara Council is seeking feedback on this plan by Friday 13th March. The plan is of relevance not only to local residents but also to all cyclists who ride through Hawthorn, as there is currently a shared path running through Grace Park which has the potential to become part of an East- West link through Boroondara.

The plan can be viewed on the Council web site at

http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/planning/planning_projects_and_strategies/glenferrie-grace-lebray-draft or at Council libraries and Council offices in Camberwell and Hawthorn.

There is a questionnaire on the web site which you can complete or you can send an email to haveyoursay@boroondara.vic.gov.au

Thanks to Malcolm Faul for this information

Minutes of Boroondara BUG Meeting Thursday 12th February 2009

Elgin Inn, Hawthorn

Present: Julia Blunden, Gordon Macmillan, Phil Crohn, John Bales, Glennys Jones, Graeme Stone, Don Glasson, Betty Weeks, Malcolm Faul

Guest: David Hall, Community Coalition for the Darebin Link

Apologies: John Parker, Alister Huth, Graham Ellis, Peter Stafford

Correspondence:

- Julia B received a letter from Johann Rajaratnam, Manager Strategic Planning regarding the Boroondara Open Space Strategy. Phil C said he would attend the first focus group, Environment & Response to Climate Change, and Don G said he would attend the second, Linkages and Corridors. It was agreed that John P would be asked to prepare a written submission and circulate it to BUG members.
- Graeme S received an invitation from the City of Banyule to the opening of the Darebin Rd underpass. This was addressed to Julia B at his address! Julia B said she would accept the invitation.
- Glennys J received a non-committal letter from her MP Michael O'Brien in response to her letter about the East Malvern Station bridge.
- Graeme S received a letter from Stonnington Council regarding their plans to formulate a Sustainable Transport Policy.

Matters Arising:

1. **Darebin Creek – Main Yarra Trail Link:** David H outlined the current status of this project in the run up to the VCAT hearing, starting on Monday 16th February. Graeme S reported that David Farrow has prepared a very thorough submission in favour of alternative route E to cross the river upstream of Willsmere Park, however it is not clear if VCAT will be able to consider this submission. Julia B said she would be attending most days of the hearing other than the Wednesday, which David H would cover. Members of the public can attend the hearing, but not the site visits planned for Tuesday 17th February.
2. **Gardiners Creek Missing Link, M1 Widening and East Malvern Station Bridge:** John P intends lobbying the golfers about the possible shared path alongside the M1 from the East Malvern Station Footbridge to Argyll St. Graeme S will assist him with this. It was also felt that a count of cyclists riding through the golf course would be helpful, though this should be separate from Super Tuesday.

Julia B reported that she had still received no reply to her email to Bruce Gidley, regarding the bridge surface, the need for lighting, stencils indicating shared use path, and centre line, and visibility through balustrades.

Glennys J reported that Malvern Primary School may be involved in the re-opening of the footbridge and that if so she hopes to be present with them.

3. **Web Site Copyright/Licensing Issues:** John P has not yet implemented this.
4. **Trail Names:** John P is still to circulate his proposed list to BUG members.
5. **Promotion of the BUG:**
Business Cards: These have still not been forthcoming. Julia B to follow up with Jason D and Peter C.
6. **Anniversary Trail at High Street:** Glennys J reported that there has been no change since the last meeting.
7. **Meeting Venues 2009:** It was agreed that the Elgin Inn function room appears to be satisfactory and that we will continue using it for the time being. If in any particular month we find our meeting is in conflict with a function we can move our meeting back to the 2nd Wednesday as a one off. Julia B thanked Malcolm F for his assistance in this matter.
8. **BAC meetings:** As we have not had any communication from Jim H as yet about these, and as Julia Smith is currently on leave of absence, Julia B agreed to email Jim asking for dates for 2009.
9. **New Councilors:** It was agreed that the newly elected councilors, including Cr Phil Meggs, will be invited to attend BUG meetings beginning with Solway Ward's Cr Kevin Chow. Glennys J agreed to contact Cr Chow and sound him out on this. Don G agreed to sound out Cr Brad Miles.
10. **Sustainable Living Festival, 20-22 February:** It appears that there may be two stalls at this festival where the BUG could be represented, one the CPF's and the other BCC Sustainable Living Network's. It was agreed that Boroondara TravelSmart maps should be distributed at both. Julia B agreed to check on the BCC stall and organise a roster of BUG members for this. Those offering their time included Graham E, Graeme S and Betty Weeks.
11. **Ashburton Festival, 22nd February:** Glennys J agreed to check that TravelSmart maps will be distributed at this.
12. **Kew Festival, 14th March:** The BUG has been invited to participate in the parade, but we decided against this as not relevant to our core purpose. Graeme S agreed to let the organisers know our decision and to point out to the new Sustainable Transport Officer the opportunity to distribute TravelSmart maps at the festival.

13. **Chicanes:** Jim H wants a list of the 10 worst on-road chicanes in Boroondara so that he can plan modifications to them. Graeme S is collecting nominations. Modification of the notorious chicane in Welfare Pd Ashburton is already in train.
14. **Stonnington TravelSmart Map:** Matt Barbetta at Stonnington has asked for input from BBUG, especially regarding informal cycling routes. Those present put forward names of members and others who may be able to help. Graeme will send the names of Stonnington residents to Matt. He will also try to obtain a large printout of the draft map from Matt and call a meeting to work on this. It was agreed that the Department of Transport needs to do more to coordinate the production of TravelSmart maps as a coherent set of maps.
15. **PBN Changes:** Tony Barton at VicRoads is proposing a revision of the PBN to delete Whitehorse Rd and substitute a route along Mont Albert Rd, Sackville St, Wellington St, and Stevenson St, connecting through to Barkers Rd. The first steps in implementing this route will be some form of improvement to the intersection of Burke Rd and Sackville St.
16. **Super Tuesday:** Graeme S reported that few BUG members had registered for this. Some members present queried whether their registrations had gone astray.
17. **The Well Shopping Centre:** Glennys J reported a very frustrating experience relating to the lack of safely accessible bike parking at this shopping centre.

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

Camberwell Downhill Gourmet Bike Riders

contact Elva Parker, phone: 9836 6392

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

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

contact Touring Secretary, Dave Cash, phone: 9817 3269

or 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

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

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

Boroondara BUG Contacts

Membership Secretary & Treasurer:
 Graeme Stone
 16 Jervis Street, Camberwell, Vic 3124
 email: graeme_stone@optusnet.com.au

Newsletter Editor & Minutes Secretary:
 Julia Blunden
 phone: 9853 5095
 email: jblunden@bigpond.com

Media Contact & Webmaster:
 Jason den Hollander
 phone: 0407 118 891
 email: fdutch@gmail.com

Meeting Chair:
 Phil Crohn
 email: philcrohn@ozemail.com.au

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. There is an additional charge of \$10 per annum for delivery of a hardcopy newsletter. Please send cheque (made out to Boroondara Bicycle Users Group) along with this form to:

Graeme Stone
 16 Jervis St
 Camberwell
 Vic, 3124