

BOROONDARA

Bicycle Users Group

Newsletter April 2012

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

Opinion

Speech made by John Parker on the occasion of the official opening of the new Solway Bridge

Mayors, Councillors, Members of Parliament - Ladies & Gentlemen - local residents!!!!

As I remember it, back in the 70's and 80's, the Anniversary trail was a place where people dumped their old mattresses and broken down couches. You can imagine the conversations at Camberwell City Council -- Irate ratepayers have been calling the Mayor. A Council director is barking at his staff - "the Outer Circle line is a filthy mess again - GET IT CLEANED UP."

One of the Council officers sees her opportunity - she starts spruiking her ideas to her director. "We should turn it into a park -- a sort of TRAIL - give the community some ownership over the old line - far less likely it will be used as a rubbish dump that way".

Straight away - a NAYSAYER - no doubt thinking of all the work involved, chimes in - "How are we going to sort that out with the MMBW, the Country Roads Board and Vic Rail. What about ... what about (pregnant pause) .. the COST." "No problem" she says. "Put some gravel down, plant a few trees and apply for a grant - we just need to get STARTED."

Many years and many grants later Boroondara Council now has one of the finest trails in Melbourne The amenity it provides is patently obvious. And at no COST - why - because it's actually a good investment. Any real estate agent will tell you that a home nearby this trail can command a premium. You are now receiving a return on your taxation dollars.

We CONGRATULATE these people of the past for their VISION - such vision is now required MORE THAN EVER. --- Potential trails; such as the old Outer Circle line, abound all over Melbourne - certainly in Whitehorse, in Monash, in Stonnington and still in Boroondara. We need to realise the intrinsic worth of these dormant assets for the benefit of the community. When the naysayers whisper NAY in our ears, we will just say --- let's get STARTED.

I could talk about all the many other trails that coalesce in this area and where they lead ---- the playgrounds, the schools, the unis, the ovals, the parks - the swim facilities. I could also talk about the health and environmental benefits --- But let's concentrate on what's important - in 35 minutes you can be sampling delicate dim sum at Glen Waverley ---- in 15 minutes the delicious baclava at Oakleigh in Monash, or in five minutes you can be licking some of the best ice-cream in Melbourne from the Dairy Bell Ice-cream parlour in Stonnington.

All facilitated by this new Solway bridge --- financed by the Federal Government - and absolutely FANTASTIC for the whole community.

In this case the DOERS got STARTED and built this bridge --- not only on TIME ---- but on BUDGET. Please join me in an expression of thanks - three cheers for the three Councils involved in the Gardiners Creek Project. hip hip

Trail Notes

Yea to Molesworth Rail Trail

During the January holidays we (husband and 16 yo son) explored the Yea to Molesworth section of the Goulburn River High Country rail trail (17km each way).

We visited one of Yea's bakeries and picked up supplies for lunch to have along the way. The way finding for the first 500m from the Yea Railway Station was a bit challenging but we basically just headed in the general direction and found the trail at the road crossing.

One of the attractions of this ride is the Cheviot Tunnel, about 9kms from Yea. I'd recommend you take a torch or detachable bike light because it is worth taking the time to appreciate the workmanship of the brick vaulted tunnel.

The Cheviot tunnel is sealed with a smooth finish through the tunnel and just outside on the Molesworth side then returns to gravel. When we visited there was a stretch on the approach from the Yea side that contained the old large rail ballast gravel which the local council worker assured us was going also going to be sealed (a bit challenging when your eyes haven't adjusted to the light). For those who have ridden the Mansfield – Bonnie Doone stretch, the trail finish of that section had a seal over the gravel, and is suitable for all bikes, whereas Yea to Molesworth is gravel (Lilydale toppings?) and although my son and I were on road bikes, something with a touring tyre or wider would have been more comfortable. Recent rain caused some eroded ruts across some sections of the track. Council did indicate they were going to do some repairs, but be mindful not to tear down the hills at full bore as the camber of the trail in some sections lends itself to these "washouts".

On the Molesworth side of the tunnel there is a steep scramble up the side of the embankment with a bull wire guide line. We climbed it to the top of the bridge, however I wouldn't recommend this if it's wet or you are wearing cleats – we resorted to using the wire guide on the decent.

Other riders we met recommended the caravan park in Molesworth as a pleasant spot for lunch. Being a fairly hot day and with little shade at Molesworth, we took up this recommendation, it is located just across the road from the trail, via the entrance road which leads to the picnic/ bbq shelter beside the river within the caravan park. Whilst we didn't get a view of the river whilst we ate, it was shady and far enough away from the road that we weren't bothered by the sounds of traffic whilst we enjoyed our lunch. We didn't get a sense that there was much available to eat in Molesworth, but admit we didn't try the pub and as the trail becomes more popular they may start to cater more for cyclists.

When we got back to Yea we decided to treat ourselves with an ice-cream from "Station 7" which is located about 50 meters from the Yea Station on the opposite side of the road. (7 Station Street, Yea) The owner is very keen to encourage cyclists into Yea and is very excited about the new rail trail. Whilst there aren't any bike racks out the front (he asked council but it hasn't happened), they have a lock up garage out the back and the owner said he is happy to lock up bikes if riders want to take a wander around the town. He suggested that you bring your own lock as well because others may be using it too. He is trying to develop a bit of a court yard out the back as well. He also owns a nearby alpaca farm and some were about to have babies when we visited so there are probably some cute little ones by now. He said that he sometimes takes groups to see them. Whilst they sell ice-creams they also make coffee and toasted sandwiches and the like but he doesn't do readymade, preferring to make them fresh. If you are planning on taking a group you could call ahead to check arrangements, his number is (03) 5797-2270

Hope this is helpful for your visit.

Thanks to Glennys Jones for these notes

Events and Activities

Degani Arthurs Seat Bay2Bay Ride, Sunday, April 29 2012

I would like to invite you to enter a team in the upcoming **Degani Arthurs Seat Bay2Bay Ride**, being held on Sunday, April 29 2012. This is a brilliant ride and John Trevorrow of Cycling Events Downunder is offering the prize of a lunch with me next summer for the fastest team up Arthurs Seat and the team that raises the most for the **Epilepsy Foundation of Victoria**, a wonderful cause.

Unfortunately I can't join you on the ride as I will be heading to the US for the Tour of California but I will certainly be with you in spirit. Team entry is **free** but you do have to register as an individual, then select your team name. Entry is just **\$99.00** per person, but you do receive a **free** pair of Briko sunglasses that retail for \$99.00 plus a few other incentives.

You can select from either the **65km** or **113km** rides, with the timed section being up the challenging slopes of Arthurs Seat which will be closed to vehicles for the duration of the ride. Teams are a minimum of 5 with a suggested maximum of 10. So why not make up two teams and race each other?

For more information log on to www.arthursseatride.com.au.

Yours in cycling, Phil Liggett

Great Macedon Ranges Challenge, Sunday 29 April 2012

This is the fifth year we have operated the event and as previous participants will attest, it's a good one!

The Rotary Club of Gisborne is holding the **GREAT Macedon Ranges Challenge** again this year on **Sunday 29 April**, starting from just off the Calder Hwy at New Gisborne. We are raising money for our major program to help find a cure for Multiple Sclerosis and to support other Rotary community programs such as our emergency services, the SES & CFA, and important programs abroad such as the final push to globally eradicate Polio.

This year, we have added a 15km run for those who prefer to run than ride. There are also three great cycling options of 75km, 115km and 130km all on good sealed roads.

You can find more details including maps and register on our website www.gisbornerotary.org.au

We are hoping for a good turnout to achieve our fundraising objectives. All profits will go to community/charitable programs. Please help us do good in the world. If you know of any other riders or runners who might be interested in participating, please spread the word by forwarding this information on to them. 😊

Barry Wills, Event marketing co-ordinator, Rotary Club of Gisborne, For the GREAT Macedon Ranges Challenge Committee

Help Needed

Volunteers Needed for Freedom Wheels Program

We at TADVIC believe that all children should have an opportunity to enjoy the thrill of riding a bike! If you are interested in assisting us please read on....

We are looking for volunteers to assist with our bike clinics and bike assembly. Perhaps there are some bike enthusiasts who have some mechanical skills and spare time who could assist us for half a day a few times per month, (usually on a Tues-Wed)?

What does a volunteer do at bike clinics?

They assist our Occupational Therapist (OT) in customising a bike to suit the needs of a child (or young adult). Under the supervision of the OT, they change parts, e.g. handle bars, foot pedals, support bars etc. until the bike is suitable and safe for the child. The details of the bike are then recorded, ready to be made up at a later date. Most times the clinics are on site at Kew, although we do travel to schools in the metropolitan and regional areas.

What does a volunteer do at assembly clinics?

They work with one or 2 other volunteers and make up the individual bikes for the children that were assessed at the clinics. This is done on site at our workshop.

If you are interested in hearing more about volunteering opportunities with Freedom Wheels, I would love to hear from you, also have a look at our website www.tadvic.asn.au if you would like to find out more or contact me on the email or number below.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Jenny Stephen, HR and Volunteer Coordinator, TADVIC- Technology for Independent Living
1 Yarra Blvd, Kew VIC 3101
T: 03 9853 8655 or 1300 663243
F: 03 9853 8098
E: jenny@tadvic.asn.au
W: www.tadvic.asn.au
Days of work Monday to Wednesday

General News

Call for submissions for the Inquiry into the Road Safety Amendment (Car Doors) Bill 2012

The Parliament of Victoria's Economy and Infrastructure Legislation Committee is conducting an Inquiry into the Road Safety Amendment (Car Doors) Bill 2012. The Committee is seeking submissions from a range of groups and individuals that address whether:

- the increased penalties for the offence of 'car dooring' proposed in the Bill are appropriate; and
- the legislative and regulatory changes contained in the Bill are the most effective mechanism to implement the increased penalties.

The Committee has produced an information guide for preparing a submission, which outlines the main issues the Committee is considering – see below. The closing date for receiving submissions is Friday 27 April 2012.

A copy of the Road Safety Amendment (Car Doors) Bill 2012 can be found at the Committee's website <http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/standing-committee-on-economyand-infrastructure/legislation-committee> .

Should you require any assistance, please contact the Committee's Secretary, Mr Robert McDonald on 03 8682 2817 or by email, robert.mcdonald@parliament.vic.gov.au .

Road Safety Amendment (Car Doors) Bill 2012: Information for preparing a submission

Background

The Road Safety Amendment (Car Doors) Bill 2012 was introduced by Mr Greg Barber, MLC into the Legislative Council on 8 February 2012. The Bill was further debated on the 29 February 2012. On 13 March 2012, the Legislative Council referred the Road Safety Amendment (Car Doors) Bill 2012 to the Economy and Infrastructure Legislation Committee for inquiry, consideration and report.

'Car dooring' in Victoria

'Car dooring' is currently an offence under the Road Safety Road Rules 2009. Subsection 269(3) states: A person must not cause a hazard to any person or vehicle by opening by opening a door of a vehicle, leaving a door of a vehicle open, or getting off, or out of, a vehicle. Penalty: 3 penalty units.

Penalties and demerit points

Although 3 penalty units is the current maximum under the Road Rules, the Road Safety Regulations 2009 set an infringement penalty of 1 penalty unit. 1 penalty unit is equal to \$122.14 in 2011-12. Most offences are dealt with through an infringement notice, that is an on the spot fine of \$122.14.

The Bill proposes to increase this penalty to 10 penalty units and a loss of three demerit points. The Committee seeks input on whether it is appropriate to:

- increase the penalty from 3 penalty units to 10 penalty units; and
- attach demerit points to the offence of 'car dooring'.

Legislation versus Regulation and Enforcement

The offence of 'car dooring' is currently contained in the Road Safety Road Rules 2009, which are regulations made under the *Road Safety Act 1994*. The Bill proposes to create an offence of 'car dooring' within the *Road Safety Act 1994* itself. This would mean that the offence and penalty would now be set by legislation.

Under the regulations, the offence of 'car dooring' is currently a lodgeable infringement offence.¹ The infringements process allows an authorised person to issue an infringement notice (fine) to the offender. Under the current regulations, the specified infringement penalty for 'car dooring' is 1 penalty unit (\$122.14). Unless further changes are made to the regulations, the new offence proposed by the Bill will not be an infringement offence and therefore not be able to be dealt with by way of an infringement notice. The offence will be a summary offence and an authorised person will be required to take the matter to the Magistrates' Court for determination.

1 Road Safety (General) Regulations 2009, Schedule 7 and Infringements (General) Regulations 2006, Schedule 3

Boroondara News

Minutes of Boroondara BUG Meeting, Thursday 8th March 2012

Elgin Inn, Hawthorn

MINUTES

Attendance and Apologies

Present: Ken Morrison (Chair), John Parker, Peter Campbell, David Leong, Glennys Jones, Malcolm Faul, Hedley Finger, Alister Huth, Gordon Macmillan

Apologies: Julia Blunden, Graeme Stone

Correspondence:

In

Copy of email from John Martin to Council re unsatisfactory nature of bike lanes in Mont Albert Rd and the practice of residents parking cars in crossovers where they protrude into the bike lane

Copy of email to Council from Steven Sheppard about the Kooyongkoot Rd connection to the GCT and the congestion on the GCT at Glenferrie Rd

Out

BBUG submission to Draft Boroondara Open Spaces Strategy

Matters Arising:

1. **Urban Bush Path:** The link to Homes Glen TAFE along Warrigal Rd from the Gardner's Creek Trail (GCT) underpass will need support from Stonnington Council. Project funding would have to be sought from Vicroads
2. **East – West link:** Peter C is to finalise the pamphlet promoting the link. Peter C reported that the Victorian Cycling Network site has been established as a site for combined BUGs and their issues. The introduction of a link on the Boroondara BUG website is to be established (<http://www.victorian-cycling-network.org/>).
3. **Stockland Tooronga Village Development – Access from GCT:** Glennys J reported that work is expected to be completed by Easter
4. **Gasworks Site Redevelopment and Toorak Rd Underpass:** Glennys J reported that construction work continues but without impact on the GCT as yet.
5. **Belford Rd Underpass:** Alister H is to write to Minister for Public Transport, Terry Mulder and Parliamentary Secretary for Transport, Edward O'Donohoe
6. **Possible Formation of Stonnington BUG:** No report.
7. **Darebin – Yarra Link:** This is being promoted in all meetings with politicians, but it was observed that there had been no sign of progress recently and the planning permit is about to expire.
8. **New membership rules and payment methods.** The meeting agreed that membership be set at \$5 per annum payable once every 3 years, which will now agree with the amount currently appearing on membership forms, the website, etc. Malcolm F will now send follow up e-mails to those who have indicated that they will become financial members. Such e-mail will include details of how to pay, which will preferably be either by cheque or EFT.
9. **Kooyongkoot Rd issues:** John P reported that he and Glennys J assessed the work done, There are deficiencies in the work done. The matter is to be raised at the BAC meeting
10. **Solway Bridge:** Official Opening of the Solway Street Bridge will be held on Saturday 24 March from 11.30am to 1.00pm on site near the Boroondara end of the Solway Street Bridge. The steps from Solway St to the bridge approach

have been completed, but the channel for wheeling bikes adjacent to the steps has been installed underneath the handrail and is thus unuseable. A channel on the other side now needs to be installed.

11. **Anniversary Trail Audit:** The audit of the northern end of the Outer Circle Shared Path (from Burke Road to the Yarra River) was conducted on Monday 5th March. Glennys J has asked council for access to the draft report to submit comments prior to the report being finalised.
12. **BUG participation at the Ashburton Festival 26th February 2012:** A vote of thanks to those involved was carried.
13. **Meeting with Kooyong MHR (Josh Frydenberg).** Julia B, Peter C, John P and Glennys J met with him. Issues discussed included the East West link, Darebin bridge, Belford Rd underpass and bicycle infrastructure in general. As an indicator of his prima facie support for cycling, he drafted a letter re the three main issues on the spot.
14. **Bicycle Network Victoria workshop.** Bicycle user groups have been invited to a workshop to be held at BNV office on 14th March at 7pm. Hedley F (for Stonnington BUG) and Alistair H (for Boroondara BUG) plan to go to the meeting as representatives.

New Business

1. **Boroondara Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting, Friday 23/3** Agenda items are to be forwarded to Anna Haygreen. Ideas for items to discuss can be sent to Glennys J.
2. **Combined BUGs Meeting, Wed 28/3** Items for the meeting will be safe cycling, separating bikes and pedestrians, the East West link, Mont Albert Rd and the Darebin Bridge
3. **Mont Albert Rd approaching Balwyn Road.** This is to be an item for the BAC. It was agreed that the current bike lane is unsatisfactory. One solution discussed was a shared footpath up this steep hill.
4. **Meeting with Prahran MLA Clem Newton-Brown** Julia B and John P discussed Chapel St (in particular bluestones in the gutter at the north west end near Alexandra Ave) and the Sandringham Rail Trail (a great opportunity recently tainted by a poorly thought-out footbridge over the railway line near South Yarra station)
5. **Frog Hollow** Glennys J reported that a street crossing on the shared path had been constructed in bluestone blocks. Following her complaint, she has a commitment from Council that this will be changed to cement.
6. **Footpath, High St, Ashburton.** This had been a shared path from the Anniversary trail to the pedestrian lights. Signs have now been removed and this path is no longer a shared path.

Next meeting: This is currently scheduled for Thursday 12th April

Notes by Malcolm Faul

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