

BOROONDARA

Bicycle Users Group

Newsletter May 2008

Boroondara BUG meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, except January. The Next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 14th May, at the Swinburne Hawthorn Campus in room TD244. The TD building is between Park and Wakefield Streets. All welcome.

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.

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

An Ovens Valley Odyssey

Just before I broke my arm I had completed plans for a four-day bike tour in the Ovens Valley. Although I had ridden in this area on several occasions I had never ridden the whole Murray to the Mountains Rail Trail since its completion, and this was the main aim of the exercise. The tour was scheduled to begin six weeks to the day from my accident. Nine other riders were ready to go, accommodation was booked, and for the very first time I had arranged for the elusive D-van to transport our bikes on the train. What to do? My husband Ralph came to the rescue by agreeing to act as a support vehicle. I would be able to ride if fit, or sag as necessary.

Five weeks after my accident, with the OK from my orthopaedic surgeon, I got back on the bike. Ouch! Mounting and dismounting, and braking, all proved extremely painful. Short rides around the local park were all I could face for the next week. However I had been pedalling hard on my hired exercise bike and doing lots of walking so I was confident that I had maintained my usual, very modest level of fitness.

Keen to see how the D-van worked out I travelled to Wangaratta by train with the other nine riders. In fact we got a power van, which was most satisfactory and could have carried twice as many bikes if necessary. The ride from Wangaratta to Everton is flat and easy and I managed the 25km distance without too much difficulty. Then I got a lift with Ralph while the others tackled the 16km climb to Beechworth. I had ridden this section before and remembered it as a steady but gradual pull, and the others confirmed that it wasn't too taxing. Our accommodation in Beechworth was at the Old Priory which turned out to be most suitable for a group such as ours, with a variety of room types and lots of communal space, both inside and outdoors.

Next morning, while the others took the road through the Buckland Gap, I got a lift down to Gapstead Winery, where I sat waiting for them on a deck in the sun, sipping coffee and admiring the beautiful surrounds. From here it was an easy 36km along the rail trail to Bright with a lunch stop at a gourmet café, the Plump Harvest, in Myrtleford, which abounds in such

places. At Bright we stayed in the Pioneer Garden Cottages, another good choice with extensive, established gardens for the group to gather in.

Our destination next day was Milawa. I took a lift back to Myrtleford so that I could ride the section of the rail trail between Myrtleford and Everton that we had not yet covered. After morning coffee at the old Butter Factory we pedalled off, back past Gapstead, up and over Taylors Gap, and on to Everton, for a late lunch at the friendly General Store there. From here we took to the roads for 12km to reach Milawa. There's not much choice of accommodation here and we stayed in the only motel, the Milawa Lodge Motel, which is very pleasant indeed.

The plan for the last day was to explore the various gourmet establishments surrounding Milawa before riding the short distance back to Wangaratta and catching the late afternoon train. As my arm was feeling a bit sore I opted to travel home by car from Milawa. Thanks to an early start the rest of the group found themselves back in Wangaratta in time for the early afternoon train. Fortunately they were able to change their tickets and arrange for the power van to be attached to this. Full marks to V/Line for flexibility on this occasion!

The Murray to the Mountains Rail Trail is still Victoria's very best. It's sealed for its entire 97km, and the only significant climb is the one up to Beechworth, which is a side trip. The scenery is stunning, with mountain ranges as a backdrop and a great variety of picturesque agricultural activity alongside the trail itself. The towns are at convenient intervals and offer all manner of opportunities for tasting wines and sampling and stocking up on other local produce. If you want to ride one way only there are a couple of businesses that transport riders and their bikes, or, to extend the tour, there are several interesting detours. And if you are ever recuperating after an accident you couldn't find a safer place for your first nervous ride!

For further details check it out on the Rail Trails Australia web site at <http://www.railtrails.org.au/states/trails.php3?action=trail&trail=22> or get hold of the excellent free brochure, available from information centres.

PS More recently I have had further success with the D-van, arranging for it to be attached to the Swan Hill train (loco driven) to transport a group of cyclists from Southern Cross to Woodend, returning from Gisborne (on the same train) later the same day. The person to contact is Anthony Coxon, Group Travel Co-ordinator, phone 9619 2338. I'm not sure how many people you need to qualify but I said seven on this occasion though we ended up with ten. It seems that the Bin the Bike Ban campaign has helped to bring about a more positive attitude to bikes on V/Line trains. Hooray!

Julia Blunden

Trail Notes

Gardiners Creek Trail Detour

I saw to-day that there are now two illuminated signs set up on the Gardiners Creek trail. One just east of Burke Rd, ie just where the trail does the little S bend and the signs are all hidden in the bushes. And another just west of Great Valley Rd. Signs say: "Bike path temp detour, Mon 2nd June to May 2009" Yes that's right 2009!

Thanks to John Parker for this information

Plenty River Trail – Problem Section

I have been campaigning to get the short steep section of the Plenty River Trail from Martins Lane to the new bridge (opened last year) surfaced with concrete. Every time it rains heavily the trail is washed away and becomes very dangerous. Parks Victoria repaired it after heavy rain earlier in the year but have left it with lots of pools of loose gravel. The Parks Victoria person responsible has dug his toes in and will not budge. I have had a few items in the local papers and a couple of good photos but still always 'no - go away'. With loss of life in recent memory on the Diamond Creek Trail I thought they might have been more responsive.

New Greensborough – Heidelberg Route

I have been in contact with the supervisor of the construction of the new trail in Greensborough Road (in front of the army camp) and I have assisted in getting the expansion and cracking control joints constructed as per the specs (Austroads Pt 14). It is now possible to ride from Civic Drive north of Greensborough to Heidelberg using the new trails, with a section between Grimshaw St and Yallambie Road traversed using minimal traffic back streets running parallel to the main road. The surface of the new trail is very good.

Eastlink Bumps

I went for a ride recently along a section of the new trail along Eastlink that is now open to cyclists and was very disappointed. The expansion and cracking control joints were as per spec but the surface was very uneven. It was horrible. Again people supervising/constructing trails that don't know a thing about riding bikes!

Thanks to Maurie Abbott, Banyule BUG, for these notes

PROPOSAL TO COMPLETE THE CAMBERWELL TO FAIRFIELD RAIL TRAIL



This map shows a proposal (coloured pink) to extend the existing bike path (coloured yellow) from Camberwell Station to Fairfield Station along the railway reserve which exists through the Amcor site and the siding leading to Fairfield Station (both coloured orange on the map above).

The Amcor site is due to be sold in 2011 and the siding is currently serving no purpose as the rails have been removed. There is a possibility that the siding may be sold off for redevelopment. Whether or not this occurs, it is highly desirable to maintain a pedestrian and bicycle path easement through this land, both as the completion of the current bike path, and as access from the Amcor site to Fairfield shops.

The proposal lies within Boroondara, Yarra and Darebin municipal areas, and involves Vicroads, Connex and a number of Government departments.

The proposal has been put forward by bicycle users and local residents in Alphington. We welcome support and involvement from anyone interested to try to make this happen.

Information regarding the progress of the proposal may be obtained by contacting Simon Thornton on 9486 3197 or 0424 052 249 or simonthornton@smartchat.net.au

Thanks to Simon Thornton for this information

Events

Boroondara Discovery Ride, Sunday 11 May

You and your family and friends are invited to join a combined Melbourne Bicycle Touring Club/Boroondara BUG ride on Sunday 11th May. Yes we know it's Mother's Day, and mothers are most welcome to join us!

Why?

To discover where the major gaps are in Boroondara's shared paths and what needs to be done to fix them.

This will be a short (<30km) easy ride with lots of stops and lots of talk. The three main gaps we will look at are:

- Gardiners Creek Path between Solway Bridge and Warrigal Rd
- Outer Circle (Anniversary) Trail at Camberwell High
- Darebin Creek - Yarra Trail missing link

Other problems and recent improvements in our shared paths will be highlighted along the way.

Who?

Phil Crohn, MBTC and BBUG member, will lead the ride, assisted by several other BBUG members.

Please ring Phil on 9836 3329 to let him know if you intend coming.

For problems on the day ring Julia Blunden on 0408 501 082.

Where and when?

Meet at Ashburton Station, west (city) side car park at 9am to register.

Then join us for a **FREE** coffee at Milano Espresso Bar, 170 High St Asburton. If our numbers are large we may also patronise Para's Gourmet Deli a few doors down at 186 High St.

The ride will depart from High St at 9.45am heading for Markham Reserve via Alamein Station.

Lunch will be at Town and Country in Whitehorse Rd or BYO in the park opposite.

Community Forum: Sustaining Our Environment

Dear Resident,

Do you have ideas on how to counter climate change, how we can better manage our water, concerns about how to protect local biodiversity or a view on waste management in our community?

Join local Councillors and a panel of environmental experts and have your voice heard at the inaugural City of Boroondara Community Forum. The forum, which will focus on Sustaining our Environment, will be held from 7pm to 10pm on Monday 12 May at the Camberwell Centre, 340 Camberwell Road, Camberwell. The four speakers, who will kick off the forum, are experts on the issues that Council has identified as priorities - climate change, biodiversity, water and waste management.

Following the success of Council's innovative Living for our Future environment program, this 'think tank' is an opportunity for residents to consider a range of solutions and voice an opinion that will impact on Council policy.

Please RSVP for the forum by calling the Governance Department on 9278 4473 before Wednesday 7 May.

Boroondara News

Darebin Creek – Yarra Trail Link

Boroondara Council will be making their decision on whether to issue the Planning Permit for the long awaited bridge at the Special Urban Planning Meeting, 8pm Monday 2nd June. The Community Coalition for the link will be seeking permission for selected members to speak. The more of us who can attend the meeting to support them the better.

Bicycle Advisory Committee

The next meeting of the Boroondara Bicycle Advisory Committee will be held on Friday 30th May, 3-5pm, at the Council Offices in Inglesby Rd Camberwell. Observers are welcome but please notify Sustainable Transport Officer Julia Smith on 92784542 so she can ensure that sufficient seating is provided.

Recent Shared Path Audits in Boroondara

Continuing on from the 2007 audit of the Gardiners Creek Trail, Boroondara Council has recently undertaken audits along the sections of the Yarra Trail and Koonung Creek Trail that are located in Boroondara, with the current exception of the Walmer St to Gipps St section. This may be done at a later date.

While the audit of the Gardiners Creek trail was in progress, it is alleged that Stonnington Council was asked if they were interested in having their section of the creek audited at the same time - they were not interested. It is useful to compare the new works on the Boroondara side of the creek with the inactivity and decay on the Stonnington side. Please note that the new section of path from June Crescent to Dunlop St is in Boroondara, this being the only part of the trail south of the creek that is in Boroondara.

This is just another example illustrating the need for a dedicated cycling agency within Government, as suggested in the Eddington report, page 80.

"The EWLNA recommends that cycling be treated as a separate, distinct traffic category, with a coordinated, whole of government approach adopted to planning and financing cycling initiatives."

The Boroondara Council considers the shared path audits as important and this has been highlighted more recently by an accident on the Diamond Creek path, where a cyclist broke his neck and subsequently died. The coroner was critical of the council:

<http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun/story/0,21985,23519906-2862,00.html>

Representatives from Boroondara BUG, Boroondara Council, VicRoads and the consultants: "Trafficworks", walked the routes as part of the auditing process. It was clear that cycling was taken seriously by all, but it becomes abundantly clear that there needs to be more money and more political willpower at the top to get more done. Boroondara BUG, besides pointing out the lack of signage, path obstacles, etc, ie the usual stuff that causes problems, also took the opportunity to spruik the need for changes at the Chandler Hwy/pipebridge section and the completion of the Darebin Bridge and the need to name and sign the trails in a more consistent manner.

The needs of tandem, tag along and recumbent owners were also mentioned, in relationship to access at chicanes and bollards. It is clear that some disabled individuals, can only access the shared paths we all enjoy, with the aid of hand cranked recumbents.

The weather was perfect for the two days out and we were pleased to find that Boroondara Council has already planned for a toilet in an area, where we all found one was sorely missing, in the Koonung Creek Reserve, cnr Wandeen and Gardenia. Thanks to all who contributed to the auditing process, and we are confident improvements will occur, once the wheels grind on a little further.

Thanks to John Parker for this report

Bicycle Victoria and Boroondara's Super Tuesday

The Super Tuesday project aims to establish a reliable annual benchmark for bicycle commuting to allow those providing for bike riding to base their judgements on accurate, relevant and up to date information. The Super Tuesday count is a commuter count conducted simultaneously across Council boundaries. The project aims to answer two questions:

- How many riders are there?
- Which routes are riders using?

It was great that BV had enough volunteers this year to cover 320 sites across 14 councils for the 7am to 9am peak hour bicycle counts around inner and middle Melbourne. In 2007 90 sites were counted across 4 councils. Fortunately it was a cool to mild morning and only onerous for some who had to be on full alert on busy intersections. Thanks to the 10 Boroondara BUG members and associates who jointly contributed \$500 to BoroondaraBUG funds as reward for their work. The BoroondaraBUG people involved were - Alister Huth, Dawn Kneen, Julia Blunden, Graeme Stone, Malcolm Faul, Nicola Nye, Don Glasson, Pam Evans, Alan Tonkin, and Betty Weeks.

Many thanks to these keen people. The information gained has been compiled at BV and is being distributed to the contributing councils. Next issue we will have some final figures for Boroondara for you to ponder!

Thanks to Graeme Stone for this report

Minutes of Boroondara BUG Meeting Wednesday 9th April 2008

Held at Swinburne, Hawthorn Campus, Room TD244

Present: Jason den Hollander, Graeme Stone, Phil Crohn, Julia Blunden, John Parker, Alister Huth, Betty Davis, Roy Lilley, Don Glasson

Apologies: Graham Ellis, Peter Campbell, Betty Weeks, Cr Heinz Kreutz

1. **Darebin Creek – Main Yarra Trail Link:** JB reported that the next meeting of the Community Coalition is on Monday 21/4. An information day is being held in the Darebin Parklands on Sunday 20/4, 11am-4pm in conjunction with the Darebin Park Association's annual picnic races (12 – 3pm). Parks Victoria staff and Community Coalition members will be there to answer questions about the link. It was agreed that JB would send a special message to the Yahoo group about this.
2. **Bike Strategy:** JB reported that Jim Hondrakis has not responded to our queries about this as yet.
3. **Gardiners Creek Path Missing Link:** There were no new developments to report.
4. **Eastern Rail Trail/East-West Trail:** JB reported that Jim Hondrakis has not yet responded to our suggestion that this project be scoped. It was agreed that this should be an item on the agenda for the next Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting.
5. **Web Site copyright/licensing issues:** JP agreed to circulate a draft copyright/licensing statement by email for consideration at our next meeting.
6. **Discovery ride to attract new members:** This is now definitely scheduled for Sunday May 11. A notice with details of the ride will be included in the next call for contributions due to go out on Wednesday 30/4. Participants will be asked to RSVP to PC by phone. PC will have an MBTC attendance sheet.

It was confirmed that free coffees will be provided. We will depart from the meeting point at Ashburton Station at 9am, then from the coffee shop at 9.45am. JB agreed to research coffee shops in High St, Ashburton. JB also agreed to prepare a detailed plan for the organizers, and an A4 information sheet for participants with a map of the route on the back, as well as a letter for participants to sign and send to Council after the ride. These will all be circulated to the ride organizers asap. AH agreed to put the route up on Bikely.

7. **Trail names:** JP agreed to email all those present with the link to the page on the BUG web site that deals with this issue. It was agreed that a subcommittee consisting of JP and PC should devise a list of proposed names for as yet unnamed trails within Boroondara, which can then be put to Jim Hondrakis for adoption by COB. It was also agreed that a proposal should be put to VicRoads regarding the naming of inter-municipal trails
8. **BUG response to the Eddington Report:** It was agreed that the BUG response should focus on routes within Boroondara and from Boroondara to the CBD. JP agreed to rework his draft response in the light of this decision and to circulate a fresh draft prior to the next meeting when we will hopefully finalise and endorse it. It was also agreed that JP would send a brief email to various COB officers to alert them to the possible implications of the report for various concept plans currently being formulated.
9. **Promotion of the BUG:** JD agreed to prepare a design for a business card for us to consider at the next meeting. It was also agreed that the BUG should seek to become involved in the COB activities on Ride to Work Day and to expand the scope of these. This will be another item for the next BAC agenda.
10. **Membership fees:** JP queried the current membership fee which is a once only payment. The figure currently agreed on is \$15 and this may need to be corrected in some places on our web site. Various changes including three yearly renewals were suggested. However as the BUG currently has adequate funds to meet any foreseen expenses it was agreed that the real issue is to devise ways of involving those people who have paid to join but remain inactive. This will be an agenda item for our next meeting.
11. **Archive of PL articles about the BUG:** PC and GS both have extensive, but non-electronic, collections of such material. No further action to be taken at present.
12. **GVBR sponsorship:** Various approaches were suggested. GS will follow up with his contact at Hawthorn Secondary College. BD suggested that the Boroondara Foundation could provide a lead. JB suggested that a list from BV of schools in our area which plan to participate this year if available, or which have participated in the past, would be

useful. JD suggested that when we have identified a suitable candidate we could challenge Council to match our sponsorship.

13. **Alternative dinner venues:** JP reported that his research continues.
14. **Meeting review:** As first time attendees BD and RL were asked for their view of the meeting. They characterized it as 'combative'!

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: murphj@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

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

Finbar Neighbourhood House Rides

Contact Deb in the office on 9428 7668 or 0403 028 200

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

Whitehorse Cyclists

email: ejhopper@vicnet.net.au

website: <http://www.whitehorsecyclists.org.au/>

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 Graeme Stone) along with this form to:

Graeme Stone
16 Jervis St
Camberwell
Vic, 3124