

BOROONDARA

Bicycle Users Group

Newsletter May 2014

Boroondara BUG meetings are normally held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month except January. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 14th May. It will be held in the upstairs function room of the Elgin Inn, cnr Burwood Rd and Elgin St Hawthorn (Melway 45 B10). The meeting starts at 7.00pm. Some of us arrive around 6.30pm for a meal at the Elgin Inn before the meeting.

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 Council's 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 Facebook page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/boroondarabug>. 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.

My Favourite Shimmy

Darebin - Kew Shimmy

Until the Darebin Bridge is built, there are limited bike friendly means of Boroondara residents crossing the Yarra.

The following shimmy is bike friendly, minimises hill climbing, is a fairly direct route from Kew Junction and avoids the Princess St hill, most of the hilly roundabout route of the Boulevard, and has the added benefit of being scenic. (It takes in the best high view of Melbourne, Willsmere main building and Kew's best streets, amongst others) People heading to Alphington station or along the Darebin Trail will find this useful, especially on the return journey.

Head north along Barry Street, Kew. Left at the end (Wills St). Turn right at the end through the car park and follow the path (great views to the city) along the contour to the lockable gate (which is always unlocked), go through the gate marked Private Property (which it isn't), cross to the road and head across in front of the main Willsmere building. Follow this road until it meets the Boulevard at the bridge over the freeway. Turn right on the Boulevard, then left at Chandler Highway and, cross the river on the pedestrian/cyclist path. At the end of the bridge, a short uphill rough path is the shortcut to Rex St through a car park (It can be muddy – you could follow the footpath to Rex Av.). Rex becomes Coate Av., which takes you to Heidelberg Rd.

Although there is a narrow bike path on the very busy Grange Road, I prefer quiet Coate Av to approach Heidelberg Rd. With patience there will be a gap in the traffic on Heidelberg Rd. There is also a traffic island in the centre of the road. Proceed up the street next to the former Jika Motel (Perry St). Turn first left and first right (you return to Perry St north of the railway). At the end of the street, bear right, cross the dip on the earthen path and cross the railway line on the far side of the Interact disabled facility. At this point, you can turn right along Wingrove St or continue north along Perry St to Separation St, which heads east to the start bottom of the Darebin Trail.

There's even greater benefit heading south, with easy navigation crossing the railway, access to the bike path on Chandler Bridge and a shorter hill up the Willsmere access road (Wiltshire Dr). Further, there is no southbound bike lane over the bridge.

I suggest you try it first heading north, to see whether you like it. Although possibly slower and slightly further than Princess St., the lack of traffic and stop lights makes this a winner in my book.

Thanks to Mal Faul for sharing this great little route

News from our Neighbours

Stonnington Draft Cycling Strategy up for Comment

The City of Stonnington has invited the community to comment on its draft cycling strategy. Should you cycle through the area you may have an interest in providing feedback directly yourself. Submissions are required **by the 2 June**.

Alternatively should you have insight of value to a submission by the City of Boroondara, particularly how the strategy may be integrated with Boroondara, please email or call Hywel Rowlands, Strategic Transport Planner, City of Boroondara - Traffic and Transport, phone: (03) 9278 4891; email: Hywel.Rowlands@boroondara.vic.gov.au **by the 16 May**.

The draft strategy and how to provide feedback is found under the following link.

<http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/connect-with-us/draft-cycling-strategy-/>

Boroondara News

Minutes of Boroondara BUG Meeting, Wednesday 9th April 2014

Elgin Inn, Hawthorn

Attendance and Apologies

Present: Ken Parker, Gordon Macmillan, John Parker, David Farrow, Julia Blunden, Glennys Jones (Chair), Peter Campbell, David Hall, John Piesse, Mal Faul

Apologies: Alister Huth, David Leong, Peter Carter, Hank van Apeldoorn, Phil Crohn

Correspondence:

In

- Numerous emails re timetable for LMA East-West Link hearings
- Sundry commercial offers
- Invitation to ride the Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit Saturday 19 & 26 April, 10.00 am – 12 noon

Out

- Card to Evan Bolutis thanking him for his support for cycling infrastructure
- Letters of thanks to both Melbourne Water and Coles for the Gardiners Creek Detour

Matters Arising:

1. **Hawthorn to Box Hill Trail:** Peter Campbell reported that he had received between twenty and thirty responses to his letters to MPs regarding his recent collision with a car in Burwood Rd. However he is still waiting on a response from Transport Minister Terry Mulder. Jim Hondrakis has applied for a government grant to do a more thorough feasibility study.
2. **Golfers Choice and Urban Bush Path:** Nil to report.
3. **Darebin-Yarra Link:** Julia B reported that she attended a Community Coalition meeting with the VicRoads team on 31/3. Plans for Stage 1, the northern section of the link, were explained in detail at this meeting. Advertising for tenders for this section was expected to happen within a couple of weeks. The tender is expected to be let in late July. There has also been some progress with Stage 2. VR has negotiated with Melbourne Water to keep the height of the bridge over the Yarra to that specified by Boroondara Council in its planning permit. Negotiations over details of the path route through the golf course are continuing. Alphington Primary School children are planning to meet with Latrobe Golf Club to advocate for access to the trail from Alphington.
4. **Belford Rd Underpass:** Nil to report.

5. **North East Bicycle Corridor:** The BBUG presentation to the LMA panel went according to plan and appeared to be well received. There were four questions from the panel, and the possibility of discussions with the E-W Link bidders was raised. Introductions to the three bidders are now being sought. There was a short but generally accurate report on the proposal in the next day's *Age*.

Peter Campbell has prepared a list of FAQs to deal with some of the questions and criticisms that have arisen from the presentation. These have been posted at <http://www.victorian-cycling-network.org/bicycle-routes/north-east-bicycle-corridor> Peter stressed that he is the primary media contact, and during his absence from 12/4 to 27/4 Peter Carter will take on this role.

On Friday 11/4 **David H and John Parker** will meet with David's local MP, Dee Ryall, in the hopes of convincing her to recommend the NEBC to the Transport Minister. On the same day **Peter Campbell, David H and David F** will be meeting with BN staffers Jason den Hollander and Garry Brennan to discuss working together on the project.

6. **Stonnington Matters:** John Parker reported that the bluestones at the north end of Chapel St which pose a hazard to cyclists are finally being dug up.
7. **Domestic Animals Management Plan:** Glennys J has alerted Council to the need for dogs to be kept on lead in areas with environmentally sensitive waterways and wetlands.
8. **Outer Circle Trail at Harp Junction:** **Alister H** is still pursuing this. Glennys has written to Minister Terry Mulder about the VicRoads lease.
9. **Jacka Trail/North Balwyn Leisure Trail:** This is currently being pursued by Lou Wills without further BUG involvement.
10. **Invitations to Councilors to Attend BBUG Meetings:** Jill Y has been pursuing this. No councilors were available to attend this month's meeting.
11. **Walmer St Bridge:** **Glennys J** will check with Chris Hui whether a BUG letter of support is still needed.
12. **Mont Albert Rd:** Both Alan Tonkin and Phil C have been querying treatments being applied at various intersections on Mont Albert Rd. There was some discussion of the possibility of introducing 'No Standing' zones on the approaches to hill crests so that cyclists are not forced to take the lane in these dangerous situations. It was agreed that Council has a problem reducing parking which residents have long enjoyed. Indented parking or parking on nature strips are possible solution but both detract from the aesthetics of the area. A suggestion was made that BUG members write individually to the RACV putting the case for cyclist safety as a higher priority than parking.
13. **Victorian BUGs Meeting Thursday 1 May:** This meeting has been rescheduled, and relocated to BN HQ. Julia B expressed the hope that it will be well supported by BBUG members. It will be an opportunity to press Craig Richardson to look at improved cooperation between BN and BUGs. It was agreed that Peter Campbell will chair the meeting.
14. **Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting, Friday 14th March:** John P and Julia B attended this meeting as BBUG reps. Minutes have not yet been made available and **Julia B** offered to pursue this with Matthew Austin. Most current projects are advancing as well as can be expected. One exception is the Anniversary Trail at Camberwell High which seems endlessly bogged down, now by the issue of the car park in Riversdale Park. David H suggested a petition to get things moving.
15. **Meeting with Tim Smith, Endorsed Candidate for Kew:** **David F and Julia B** are still to organize this.
16. **Camberwell Laneways Project:** Glennys J and David F both completed the survey. No-one was able to identify any useful shimmies using the laneways.
17. **Treasurer's Report:** Mal Faul reported that BBUG currently has Cash at Bank: \$1681.92, and Term deposit: \$3203.92. Mal queried the need for this sum but it was agreed that it may yet be needed to promote one of our projects. There is \$250 still outstanding from the Super Tuesday counts. It would be useful if in future counters nominating BBUG to receive their payment could let Mal know so he is not solely dependent on BN for this information.

Other Business:

1. **Incorporation:** Mal F raised this issue again suggesting that there would be benefits to incorporation. The need for a president was raised and queried. It was suggested that the secretary can act as the Public Officer, though the current

secretary is unwilling to accept this additional responsibility. **Mal** agreed to check out the new Model Rules to see what exactly is required.

2. **Security Camera on Koonung Creek Trail:** John Parker raised this issue. The cameras were not installed by Council. It was suggested that VicRoads may have done so.
3. **Cycling on Footpaths:** Ken P raised this issue. BN is currently making a push to get footpath cycling legalized for 12-16 year olds. There was general agreement that, given the current inadequacy of cycling infrastructure, adult cyclists also need to use footpaths in some situations.
4. **Kerb Outstands:** Ken P also raised the issue of kerb outstands which force cyclists out into the path of car traffic when they could otherwise keep well to the left. No solutions were advanced for this agreed problem. Perhaps another one to mention in letters to the RACV?

Next meeting: Wednesday 14th May

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

BanyuleBUG

email: banyuleBug@yahoo.com.au

website: www.banyulebug.org.au

contacts: Maurie phone: 9439 1619, or Leigh phone: 9432 9720

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

website: www.darebinbug.org.au

Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre

Phone: 9890 2467

Email: info@surreyhillsnc.org.au

Website: www.surreyhillsnc.org.au

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

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>

Newsletter Editor & 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