

BOROONDARA

Bicycle Users Group

Newsletter June 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 11th June, 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

Dave's Dash

A few months ago, having registered for the annual arborists' conference in Brisbane, and about to book my airfare online, I saw the option for carbon-offsetting the flights, and with my familiar cynical voice inside telling me that these schemes are nothing more than a scam, for a moment reality's usually solid veneer faded and I said to myself: I'll get there carbon-neutrally, I'll ride my flippin' bike there. And it's made of carbon, so it's already sequestered some of this now unpopular element. It'll be a carbon- positive trip!

To avoid the option of backing out, I immediately told all my friends and relations. Most laughed. Some looked at me a bit funny. Paulie says: 'I'm coming to Sydney with you.' My brother says: 'I'm riding Sydney to Brisbane with you'. It came as a great relief to know I would have company other than my own, and almost as good even!

The plan: ride up the Hume to Sydney and then up the Pacific Hwy to Bris-vegas, carrying as little stuff as possible. (The idea was to make it like any other training ride - no big deal.)

DAY 1: Apr 22nd, Melbourne-Benalla, 200km

Average speed: 31km/h

Time In The Saddle (TITS): 6.5 hours

Daily Puncture Index (DPI): 1 (Paulie)

Injuries: 1 bee sting

Highlights:

The exuberance of heading out of town and heading for Sydney.

The lovely wide shoulder on the Hume.

The superb weather.

Spending the week's food budget on day 1 as we ate our way up the Hume.

The roadhouse with a wall full of those quaint sayings that are supposed to be wise but are just stupid, e.g. "You are never to (sic) old to learn" and "A smile is the same in every language."

Lowlights:

Paulie wouldn't talk to me for the first five hours because I was half an hour late meeting him on Sydney Road after a little domestic disaster that morning.

Accommodation: Pub in Benalla.

We each took only the one Hawthorn kit (no spare) and washed them nightly. Mine needed a wash after I did all the work on the front of the peleton all day. I don't know why Paulie bothered washing his.

By the end of the day, we had calculated that Paulie is 63.7% more humble than the rest of the Hawthorn riders, whereas Dave is only 41.2% more humble. But Dave rides faster, for longer. (Note: Big Mig has never registered any reading on the humble-ometer.)

DAY 2: Apr 23rd, Benalla-Holbrook, 185km

Average speed: 31km/h

TITS: 6 hours

DPI: 1 (Dave)

Highlights:

We chatted a lot while riding and worked out that whole G-O-D thing.

We theorised that while most of us have weird and bent dreams at night, Spinny has very straight dreams where he organises office clips at his desk while wearing a tie and not saying anything.

The ute that passed us with the LPG hose from the gas station still attached and flapping wildly. At the next rest area, the ute was parked and the older couple in the front were napping, oblivious to the fact that the hose was still attached. Perhaps they had spent too long at the bowls club.

Lowlights:

It started to get hilly.

Nearly getting hit by the 100km/h LPG hose as it flapped past.

DAY 3: Apr 24th, Holbrook-Yass, 225km

Average speed: 29.3km/h

TITS: 7:42 hours

DPI: 0

Highlights:

Paulie finally took charge of the peleton.

The satisfaction of completing one of the hardest riding days ever.

The mechanic at an old roadhouse (his old cycle parked inside) who saw our outfits and asked: "You haven't ridden all the way from Hawthorn have you?" I said: "Don't be ridiculous mate, just Northcote."

Lowlights:

Hills

Bit of a headwind

Hills

And the hills

DAY 4: Apr 25th, Yass to Moss Vale, 160km

Average speed: 28km/h

TITS: 5:45 hours

DPI: 0

Highlights:

Flying along some flat bits at >50km/h simply at the joy of not having to go uphill.

Lowlights:

Hills, a headwind and a brief shower, but all ok.

DAY 5: Moss Vale to Bondi Beach, 165km

Average around 30km/h

DPI: 0

Moss Vale was 3 degrees when we left at dawn. And foggy.

The ride down the range to the 'Gong is beautiful and we saw a lyrebird. Paulie and I parted ways at Stanwell Park, Paulie to meet his family for the lift back to Melbourne (after we hid the goat), and me on to Sydney. The 4km climb up from Stanwell Park is something! Met a friend at Waterfall for the last leg into Sydney. Back into the traffic.

I then had four recovery days at Bondi, including a massage and daily surfs (lovely) before heading off to Brisbane with my brother (on his Colnago) and my dad (in his 4wd full of yummy food) this morning. I will report on the Pacific Hwy Odyssey later.

The author of the diary is Dave "Diesel" Galwey.

Reproduced with permission. Thanks to David Anderson for passing this on.

Trail Notes

Gardiners Creek Trail Detour

By the time you read this newsletter a sizeable section of the Gardiners Creek Trail, between Great Valley Rd and Toorak Rd, will be closed. This closure is due to several different projects currently getting underway and will continue for up to 12 months. To complicate matters further, the proposed alternative route to the south of the Freeway will not be accessible in the early stages due to traffic calming works being carried out in Carroll Cr, which forms a key part of the route. The current recommended detour route will soon be posted on BV's web site at: <http://www.bv.com.au/bikes-and-riding/10357/>

Gardiners Creek Trail, Separating Pedestrians and Cyclists

This trial separation, proposed for a year or two now, is under construction. It is on the Gardiners Creek Trail, for the 200m south of Winton Rd almost to the bridge crossing. There will be a central 2m wide path and on each side there will be a separate 1m wide path. Paths are all at the same level and there should be no raised edging but at the moment it is not possible to confirm this.

Cyclists are to use the wider bitumen central path and pedestrians are asked to use the narrower side paths which will be constructed in concrete. The white and black paths will help define the sections which pedestrians and cyclists should use respectively but the relatively narrow pedestrian paths may lead to some walkers spilling on to the cyclist path. This will certainly be an experiment watched carefully by pedestrians, cyclists and council officers. The actual length of separation is perhaps only 150m so this may not even be a fair test of a novel approach.

Graham Ellis.

Council's Jim Hondrakis is keen to receive feedback on this experimental treatment. Ed

Events

Boroondara Discovery Ride, Sunday 11 May

This ride, a first for the BUG, was a great success even if our organisation was a little slack at times. Close to 30 people showed up, though not all lasted the full distance. There was a great deal of interest in the three gaps that the ride was designed to highlight: those in the Gardiners Creek Trail between Solway Bridge and Warrigal Rd, and in the Outer Circle Trail between Riversdale Rd and Prospect Hill Rd, as well as the missing link between the Darebin Creek and Yarra Trails.

We were pleased to welcome two of the ride participants at our next BUG meeting: John Bales and Glennys Jones. Both have much to offer the BUG and we look forward to their input in the future.

A second Boroondara Discovery Ride is planned for later in the year, probably in October or November. This will explore various options for a much needed East-West link through the centre of Boroondara. Any readers with ideas for such a link are welcome to become involved in the planning of this ride. Hopefully we can tighten up the organisation on our second attempt!

Julia Blunden

Wattle Park Family fun Day

Last Thursday I attended the first of several planning meetings for this Family Fun Day which will be held at Wattle Park. The event is being promoted by Parks Victoria and three staff attended. Other stakeholders included Friends of Wattle Park and students of a Diploma of Conservation and Land Management course at Holmesglen TAFE. These students will perform the promotion work into a wide range of media to encourage the same size turnout as occurred last year: Wattle Park events are limited by ground space and car parking issues. I attended to represent BBUG and Whitehorse Cyclists.

Last year's event was quite successful with about 3,000 people attending over the day. Parks Victoria staff explained the suggested layout for this year. There will be displays of vintage cars and various stalls selling food and drink. The area used is to the north of Wattle Park Chalet. There will be a ceremony involving wattle flowers to celebrate spring. This event used to be very popular in Victoria and is being revived by several groups. The Tramways Band will play in the afternoon along with other musical groups. Parks Victoria does not supply marquees or trestle tables but there may be some assistance for a trestle from Friends of Wattle Park. Any display would probably need to be weatherproof!

There will be a regular stream of families attending. People will be encouraged by promotions to walk, cycle or use public transport to reach Wattle Park. We can expect many people to be interested in displays by cycling groups. Another minor problem arose at the end of the meeting. Parks Victoria requires each stallholder to have \$10million public liability cover. A Parks Victoria Ranger sent the following later. "In short, yes, each group requires public liability insurance with a minimum of at least \$10 million dollars and noting Parks Victoria as an interested party. The insurance company must also be listed with the Australian Prudential Regulatory Authority (APRA) under "Insurers authorised to conduct insurance business in Australia". If the cycling group is affiliated with Bicycle Victoria then they may be able to fall under their insurance umbrella which may be worth investigating." Since BBUG does not have PL cover maybe we could combine with another group. This will have to be considered at a BBUG meeting.

Graham Ellis

Boroondara News

Darebin Creek – Yarra Trail Link

Boroondara Council planning officers have prepared a detailed report supporting the Parks Victoria Planning Permit Application (PPA) to build the bridge that will link the Darebin Creek Trail to the Yarra Trail via Willsmere Park. This is available for downloading at

http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/council/meetings_agendas/agendasminutes/urban_planning/12603/12605

Part 1 of the agenda contains the report under the title '27 Willow Grove'.

On Monday 2nd June, at Boroondara Council's Urban Planning Special Committee meeting, submissions were heard, both against and in favour of the Parks Victoria PPA. Because of the large number of people who had registered to speak all were limited to 3 minutes.

Objectors spoke first and focussed on the supposedly pristine, read private, nature of the park and the perceived threat to its flora and fauna. They spoke of the threat to passive enjoyment of the park citing cyclist speeds of 60kph! A number raised the possibility of finding a better route for the link, despite none having been identified during the many years that have passed since the link was first proposed. The bogey of dangerous floods was also raised.

Supporters speaking at the meeting included members of the Community Coalition for the link and Bicycle Victoria's Harry Barber. B'daraBUG members Don Glasson, Graeme Stone, Janet Bennett, Peter Campbell, John Parker and Malcolm Faul all spoke strongly, each bringing a different perspective to the debate.

At the conclusion of the submissions Council planning officers had the opportunity to respond to objections raised, which they did very ably. Dr Graeme Lorimer was also invited to speak and answer questions on ecological issues. He confirmed his view, quoted in the officers' report, that dogs pose more of a threat to native flora and fauna than cyclists.

Councillors now have two weeks to make up their minds on the granting of the PPA before a vote is taken at the next Urban Planning meeting on 16th June. This meeting, currently scheduled for 8pm, is open to the public but no more submissions will be heard.

If you have not yet contacted your ward councillor to express your support for the bridge there is still time to do so.

Bicycle Advisory Committee

The Boroondara Bicycle Advisory Committee (BBAC) met on Friday 30th May. There are now two councillors on this committee, Dick Menting and Heinz Kreutz, as well as staff from various Council Departments, and representatives from Bicycle Victoria and the BUG. There was the usual full agenda to get through, and Jim Hondrakis as usual had lots of interesting news about projects relating to cycling infrastructure in Boroondara. Issues covered included the Darebin Creek link, progress on the Bicycle Strategy, various works impacting on the Gardiners Creek Trail, progress with works on the Outer Circle Trail east of Harp Junction, scoping of an East-West link through Boroondara, next year's budget for cycle infrastructure, current funding applications and much more. Minutes of this meeting are not yet available but should be soon.

The next BBAC meeting is scheduled for Friday 29th August.

Minutes of Boroondara BUG Meeting Wednesday 14th May 2008

Held at Swinburne, Hawthorn Campus, Room TD244

Present: Jason den Hollander, Julia Blunden, John Parker, Alister Huth, Glennys Jones, John Bales, Peter Campbell

Apologies: Graeme Stone, Phil Crohn, Graham Ellis, Betty Weeks, Don Glasson, David Leong

Correspondence: A letter was received from the Mayor, Coral Ross, regarding the review of electoral representation. We decided that this issue is not relevant to the BUG.

1. **Darebin Creek – Main Yarra Trail Link:** Jason D said that we need lots of supporters of the link, especially Boroondara residents, to attend and apply to speak at, the Special Urban Planning Meeting on Monday 2nd June when Boroondara Council will vote whether to approve the Parks Victoria Planning Permit Application. It was agreed that Julia B would send a special message out to the Yahoo group to this effect, and place a notice on the News page of the BUG web site. Members present also agreed to contact their ward councilors and let them know their views on the link.
2. **Bike Strategy:** Julia B reported that the item in the *Boroondara Bulletin* was outdated. Jim Hondrakis has indicated that the final round of consultations will take place in July 2008 with a report to go to Council in September. Other responses can only be made available to us if all identifying information is removed. John B queried whether submitters had the option to request privacy, which is customary in such situations and could have made this matter simpler.
John P pointed out that the Council Plan currently being finalized needs some alterations to the bike section, especially the statement about the Gardiners Creek missing link.
3. **Gardiners Creek Path Missing Link:** After discussion of various possible routes it was agreed that the BUG's preferred route is along the creek as endorsed by BV. The Markham Reserve route currently being pursued by Council is not seen as a solution to this problem. A path alongside the widened M1, proposed by John P and discussed with the Monash Alliance, is also desirable as it would serve a different purpose, linking to the Glen Waverley Rail Trail.
The major obstacle to achieving our desired solution is Stonnington Council. One action proposed is to expand our BUG to include Stonnington members and become a combined Boroondara/Stonnington BUG. It was agreed that an item on the agenda for the next Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting on Friday 30/5 should be 'Communication with Stonnington'.
4. **Discovery ride to attract new members:** The ride took place on Sunday 11th May and explored three serious gaps, in the Gardiners Creek Path, in the Outer Circle Trail at Camberwell High, and the Darebin Creek – Yarra link, as well as highlighting other problems and improvements on the OC Trail. Despite being on Mothers' Day it was well attended with close to 30 participants, though not all of these stayed the full distance. There was a great deal of interest in issues featured on the ride, and the best measure of success is the fact that two participants, John B and Glennys J have since attended a BUG meeting for the first time.
5. **Eastern Rail Trail/East-West Trail:** Jim H has agreed to prepare a brief and send it out to consultants within the next few weeks with a view to starting work before the end of June. It was agreed that this should be an agenda item for the next BAC meeting. It was also agreed that this will be the focus of our next Boroondara Discovery Ride in October/November this year. Peter C agreed to assist with this.
6. **Web Site copyright/licensing issues:** Peter C agreed to prepare some options, expressed in plain English, for consideration at the next meeting.
7. **Trail names:** John P agreed to make a list of suggested names for all of Boroondara's trails. These will be circulated to members for comment and then given to Jim H.
8. **BUG response to the Eddington Report:** John P has reformatted his response and placed comment on non-Boroondara issues in an appendix. Those present agreed that this was a satisfactory arrangement.
9. **Quick Decision Making Process:** It was agreed that we need a process to get approval for documents such as the above response to go out in the BUG name when time is too short to wait for the next meeting. It was agreed that we need a pool of 6 members who are willing to look at emailed documents and respond within 3 days to the originator. Four approvals, including the originator, would suffice. Those nominated were: John P, Julia B, Graeme S, Jason D, Peter C and David L.
10. **Promotion of the BUG:** Jason D is still to prepare a design for a business card for us to consider at the next meeting. Peter C offered to email details of a cheap deal on card printing.
11. **GVBR sponsorship:** Graeme S reported that he had not made any real progress with this. Glennys J has a son at Hawthorn SC and named several possible contacts there, and another event that might be worth sponsoring. She also mentioned Malvern Valley Primary School's Ride to School Day and raised the possibility of helping children without bikes. No decision was made about the next step.
12. **BAC agenda:** The following items were proposed:
Communication with Stonnington
East – West link – brief for consultants?
Trail audits – when will the last section of the Yarra Trail, between Walmer St and Gipps St, be audited?
How can the BUG be involved in the COB activities on Ride to Work Day?

If anyone has any additional items they want listed please let Julia B know by Monday 19/5 so she can email them to Jim H.

13. **Meeting Protocols:** It was agreed that, in future, times will be allocated to agenda items at the start of the meeting. During our lively debates those present should refrain from interrupting speakers and otherwise letting their enthusiasm override accepted meeting etiquette.
14. **Family Fun Day:** Graham E reported that he planned to attend a meeting about this on Thursday 29/5. The Day is to be held in Wattle Park on Sunday 14/9 and could be an opportunity for us to promote the BUG.
15. **Rail Trail to Fairfield:** Those present agreed that this seems a worthwhile project. Jason D indicated that VicRoads will almost certainly move to duplicate the Chandler Hwy Bridge when Amcor closes. It was agreed that Julia B should email Simon Thornton to express our support.

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

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

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/>

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