

BOROONDARA

Bicycle Users Group

Newsletter June 2010

Boroondara BUG meetings are normally held on the 2nd Thursday of each month except January. Our next meeting is on Thursday 10th June. It 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 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 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. 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 very occasional 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 this newsletter are embarked upon at your own risk.

Features

Castlemaine Base Camp Bike Tour

With its fine, still days and cooler temperatures, autumn is a wonderful season for cycle touring in Victoria. On this year's Castlemaine base camp bike and walking tour from Tuesday 20/4 – Friday 23/4 we experienced perfect weather with warm, sunny days and the occasional overnight rain shower that kept the dust down. This definitely added to the pleasure of exploring the historic, uncrowded central goldfields towns and the surrounding bush.

The countryside was unusually green from the higher than average autumn rainfalls. Deciduous trees were at their autumn peak with patches of gold, red and orange appearing amongst the more muted greens and browns of the Australian bush. The distinctive bluish Eucalyptus haze and the aroma of damp bush added to the enjoyment of being outdoors.

This tour was based on the "Castlemaine Base Camp" in *Bike Tours Around Victoria* by Julia Blunden, Open Space Publishing, Melbourne, pp.74-81. A base camp in which the group stay in the same location on each night of the tour makes planning and riding easier as once the group has arrived at their 'base' town, riders don't have to carry their luggage with them each day on the bike.

Castlemaine is an ideal base camp town as it has a frequent train service, good range of historic venues such as museums and galleries, and many cafes and pubs.

Day 1 – Tues 20/4/10 – Castlemaine to Chewton, Fryerstown, Vaughan Springs, Campbells Creek and return (32km)

Most of the group met at Southern Cross Station on the Bendigo line platform to catch the 7.43am Bendigo/Swan Hill line train to Castlemaine. This train has a little guards van able to carry up to 4 bikes but as the group was larger, a D-Van was booked for the bikes.

Those driving to Castlemaine met up with the train travellers at the "Castlemaine Central Cabin & Van Park" where we were staying. This caravan park has the considerable benefit of being located close to the railway station and the town centre and has powered sites for vans and tents plus well equipped, clean cabins.

After morning tea in town we rode to Chewton, then took a short detour to inspect the Garfield Water Wheel, now in ruins but in its heyday an impressively sized wheel that provided power for the nearby gold mine. Back in Chewton we took the quiet sealed back road towards Vaughan Springs. Just before Fryerstown we stopped at the Duke of Cornwall Engine House that's being restored and has a new corrugated iron roof and restored walls made from local stone.

We stopped in Vaughan Springs located on the Loddon River for lunch. Although the Loddon River was dry, the mineral springs picnic area was green and shaded. The pumps at the mineral springs have been recently refurbished with labels listing the mineral content of each spring. The sulphurous tasting water had a pungent but refreshing taste and was sufficiently gassy to keep popping the top off my bike's water bottle!

After riding back to Castlemaine we had afternoon tea beside the river in the treed grounds of the caravan park. Later that evening we had an excellent dinner at the Railway Hotel which has a 'special' \$12 meal deal on Tuesday nights. Due to the high demand, there were 2 dinner sittings and upon the ringing of a bell, the diners at the first dinner sitting rose 'en masse' and instantly vacated the dining room! Even the second dinner sitting was full and our group was lucky to get a table.

Day 2 – Wednesday 21/4/10 – Castlemaine to Chewton, Faraday, Mt Alexander, Harcourt and return (35km)

Today we rode in dappled sunlight along treed country roads whilst taking in views of the surrounding bush, farms and grape vines changing to the brownish gold autumn hues. When we stopped by the side of the road for a snack, some curious alpacas came over to watch us intently as we chatted to their friendly owner.

Although today's total distance was relatively short, the steep ascent to the summit of Mt Alexander proved very testing and many of us had to walk part of the way. After a short rest and walk at the Leanganook Picnic Area, we rode to the top of Mt Alexander and ate lunch near the summit with superb 360 degree views of the surrounding country.

We rode down the mountain at a considerably faster pace than we had ridden up! As we were feeling tired, we decided to take a shortcut into Harcourt for afternoon tea before riding back to Castlemaine on the Midland Highway. Although busy, this highway has a sealed shoulder that has sufficient room to ride on.

Afternoon tea, a shower, then we headed off to the "Commercial Hotel", an old-style good value-for-money country pub where \$12 buys main course, dessert and unlimited tea and coffee.

Day 3 – Thursday 22/4/10 – Castlemaine to Newstead, Maldon and return (48km)

Today a few extra riders joined us just for the day, some driving to Castlemaine whilst others caught the early morning train. After meeting up at the caravan park, we rode along the Pyrenees Highway to Newstead for a delicious morning tea at Dig Café in the main street of Newstead. Whilst enjoying the warm sunshine in Dig's courtyard, we tucked into huge chocolate brownies smothered in chocolate sauce and cream and muffins. This morning tea amply refuelled us for the ride to Maldon via the little settlement of Welshmans Reef. This was a very scenic section passing through undulating farmland and native bush.

After exploring the remains of the North British Mine Site located in the Maldon Historic Reserve on the outskirts of Maldon, we rode into town for a picnic lunch in the town's shaded park located next to the Maldon Information Centre. The Castlemaine-Maldon Road took us back to Castlemaine and past some historic sites on the way including the ruins of the old Gowar School.

Day 4 – Friday 23/4/10 – Castlemaine

Today we explored Castlemaine by bike and on foot. We rode around the Castlemaine Botanic Gardens, one of Victoria's oldest botanic gardens established in the 1860's by Ferdinand Von Mueller who was government botanist and director of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens. A number of large, exotic trees have been listed on Victoria's Significant Trees Register and added to the charm and importance of these beautiful gardens.

Negotiating our way through the native bushland of Kalimna Park proved somewhat trickier as we became increasingly confused by the maze of footpaths crisscrossing the park! A steep, unsealed road took us back into town and a welcome morning coffee stop at a trendy outdoors café.

The Castlemaine Art Gallery and Museum in Lyttleton Street was well worth visiting with its collection of contemporary and historic art and artefacts. The Museum on the lower level gave an excellent introduction to the district's gold mining and farming history and included displays on several of the smaller towns in the area including Newstead, Guildford and Maldon.

After lunch most of the group went to the station to catch the afternoon train back to Melbourne. The prebooked D-Van failed to eventuate so it was a bit of a scramble to fit all the bikes into the small guards van!

Cathy Taylor

Trail Notes

New Path through Waterways

There's a great new link between Braeside Park and Mordialloc via the very new suburb of Waterways. You can exit from the southern entrance to Braeside Park (Melway 93F2) and dogleg across Governor Rd into Burdekin Boulevard to reach it. A path goes right around the attractive lake. This also connects to the path along the south side of Mordialloc Creek which in turn connects to the main Bayside path and takes you very close to Mordialloc Station. There's also a very pleasant little lakeside café called *Nest* beside the main lake at Waterways which makes a great coffee stop.

South Rd, Melbourne Water Farm Closed

South Rd, which together with Farm Rd provided a good alternative route from Little River to Werribee via the Melbourne Water Farm has been closed to the public and sadly seems unlikely to re-open. A new road is being or has been constructed providing access to the river bank, but unfortunately this does not serve the same purpose.

News items from Moonee BUG

Buckley Street Underpass Open

Construction of the Buckley Street Underpass commenced in October 2009 and completion was expected in March 2010. Delays were experienced and the formal opening was on Friday 28th May.

Newsom Street Shared Bridge Open

The bridge reopened last week with the formal opening Saturday 29th May.

Maribyrnong River Trail Closures

In June 2010 Maribyrnong Council will be undertaking civil construction works to sections of the Maribyrnong Trail. As part of these works there will be temporary closures of two sections. In summary:

Van Ness Avenue, Maribyrnong Trail closed between Pipemakers Park and the intersection of Van Ness Avenue and Hillside Crescent in Maribyrnong Closure from Monday 07 June for approximately 2 weeks Alternative access via Van Ness Avenue and Pipemakers Park or on the eastern side of the Maribyrnong via Raleigh Road Bridge, Woods Street and Newsom Bridge.

Raleigh Road, Maribyrnong Trail closed between northern and southern sides of the Raleigh Road Bridge over the Maribyrnong Closure from Monday 14 June for approximately 2 weeks Alternative access via Clyde Street/Raleigh Road intersection.

Posters showing alternative access routes will be posted on site.

Moonee Ponds Creek Trail Closures

Melbourne Water are undertaking some works on the Moonee Ponds Creek in Westmeadows.

The works involve construction of some rockwork over four small sites on Moonee Ponds Creek spread either side of Mickleham Rd (Melways 5K6), with weed control and revegetation over the entire reach.

During the civil works there will be some short term impacts on the path in the area

Merri Creek Path Closures

Kingfisher-Harrison-Albion. The area affected is around CERES. The detour route has been chosen to avoid sending cyclists on to busy Nicholson Street. Follow detour signs. Hopefully the closure won't be too long but the works are weather dependent.

The other closure is under Murray Road. The bluestone balustrade on the bridge above needs to be repaired after a car ploughed into it and knocked out a lot of (big, heavy) bluestone flagstones. Scaffolding will be erected under the bridge but the path will remain open except for intermittent short periods when users will be stopped by a flag person if there is danger of objects falling from above.

Thanks to Frank Kinnerley from Moonee BUG for the above information items

Opinion

Below is the text of a letter I sent to 'Ride On' but which they have not seen fit to include in the latest issue. Julia Blunden

Congratulations to Bicycle Victoria on their current campaign to improve arrangements for the carriage of bicycles on V/Line trains and coaches. As a frequent touring cyclist I was delighted to have the opportunity to have input into this via the survey, and very interested to see the survey results via *In the Loop*.

What a pity that a similar process wasn't adopted in relation to BV input into the draft revised Principal Bicycle Network. Melbourne is a big city and there's no way any individual or single organisation can have detailed knowledge of the most suitable bike routes in every suburb.

Bicycle User Groups and individual BV members know their own patches better than any outside experts ever can. They could have made very useful contributions to the revision process if only they'd been given the chance. Unfortunately this didn't happen. Government prefers to deal only with our peak body, and BV didn't consult with BUGs or individual members. As a result the revised PBN, a key document in terms of guiding government decisions on cycling projects, will not be as valid as it could have been, and future cyclists will be the losers.

General News

Yarra BUG Radio

Are you aware that Yarra BUG has its own radio program, broadcasting every Monday at 10-10.30am on 3CR Community Radio 855am, and streaming live on the web at <http://www.3cr.org.au/yarrabug> ? Podcasts are also available.

Yarra BUG is currently seeking financial support for their program and is always interested in finding cycling enthusiasts to present too. Training is available for would-be presenters.

Minutes of Boroondara BUG Meeting, Thursday 13th May 2010

Elgin Inn, Hawthorn

Attendance and Apologies

Present: John Parker, Julia Blunden, Graham Ellis (Chair), Glennys Jones, David Leong, Peter Campbell, Linda Rohrs

Apologies: Alister Huth, Gordon Macmillan

Guest: Daniel Paez, Manager Active Transport Policy, Department of Transport

Correspondence:

- In**
1. Information from Council about the Community Development Grants Program.
 2. Hardcopy response from Simon Thomas, Stonnington Council in response to John Parker's email questioning Stonnington expenditure on cycling.
 3. Response from Tony Barton re draft revised PBN indicating that BUG input would be sought at a later stage.
 4. Email from Elaine Hopper, Whitehorse Cyclists, notifying us of their new web site for the Box Hill-Ringwood Rail Trail and asking for our permission to be listed as supporters.

Out

1. Email to Tony Barton, VicRoads requesting an opportunity for BUG input to draft revised PBN
2. Response to Tony Barton indicating that BUG input should be sought sooner rather than later.
3. Email to Elaine Hopper confirming our support for the Box Hill-Ringwood Rail Trail, and a follow up asking for links to be added to pages on the East – West link on our web site and the greenlivingpedia.

Guest Speaker

Business was suspended to listen to what Daniel P had to tell us and to exchange views with him.

Daniel said that the work of his area involves three steps: thinking (policy), action (work on the ground), and review. He is relatively new to the position and has recognised the need to speak to grass roots cyclists (hooray!) However, having said that Daniel made very clear that on the whole government prefers to deal with our peak body, Bicycle Victoria (BV) and he urged us to try to work through them as much as possible. Policy development, such as revision of the Principal Bicycle Network

(PBN), tends to be very hierarchical. Daniel stressed the importance of documents such as the PBN, state and local bicycle strategies in guiding government decision making. The input provided by local council officers into the draft revised PBN should have been guided by local bicycle strategies. He was not generally encouraging of ideas for more democratic approaches via blogs etc.

Daniel mentioned that he had been unable to trace the Boroondara Bicycle Strategy and **Julia B** agreed to email him the strategy and/or a link to it. We agreed that BV should have links to all local bicycle strategies on its web site. On the issue of the PBN Daniel confirmed that the priority given to the 10km radius round the CBD is fixed. This area has priority for State spending. Separation of cyclists and walkers is becoming a high priority within this area.

On the vexed question of using VicTrack land for bike paths Daniel could only confirm that this requires very complex negotiation as there can be up to four landholders involved: the Crown, Department of Transport, VicTrack and, where roads cross rail lines, VicRoads. Metro Trains also need to give permission and can make this process quite expensive. **Daniel** offered to send us a list of rail corridors intended to be used for paths.

We thanked Daniel for giving his time to attend our meeting and for the very frank and thought provoking information he had given us.

As time was short we had to be fairly selective with the rest of the agenda.

Matters Arising:

1. **Golfers Choice and Urban Bush Path:** not addressed.
1. **East Malvern Station Bridge:** nothing to report.
2. **Anniversary Trail at High St and Toorak Rd:** Glennys J has written to Solway Cr Kevin Chow about this and other issues in his ward.
3. **Agenda items for next BAC meeting, Friday 18th June:** **Julia B** will email members asking for suggestions.
4. **Status of Darebin Bridge:** Julia B reported that she had attended a Community Coalition meeting on Monday 10/5. Cheryl Nagel from Parks Victoria was present at this meeting as was Northcote MLA Fiona Richardson. Reports that the Darebin – Yarra link will take at least another three years are unfortunately correct. This is a complex project involving the acquisition of several different parcels of land, and three councils, all of which must make and approve the detailed plans for their sections of the path. While funding is assured if Labor retains power at the next election, it may come under question if the reverse happens. We need to start lobbying our local Liberal members including Andrew Mackintosh (Kew) and Ted Baillieu (Hawthorn) to commit to the link. We also need to be ready to make it an issue at the next council elections, scheduled for 2012, given that the planning permits granted expire and need to be extended three years from when they were issued.

New Business

1. **East – West link:** **Peter C** will draft a motion to Council asking for their support for Boroondara's East – West Link.
2. **Combined BUGs meeting:** It was agreed that Boroondara BUG should make a donation of \$100 to the Yarra BUG radio program on 3CR. This would be contingent on Peter C being allowed to make a presentation about the East – West Link on the program. The possibility of having our logo on the web site should also be explored. **Julia B** agreed to look into this.

Peter C reported that the combined submission on naming and signing of trails has now been worked on by several different subscribers. He will submit this in its current form.
3. **Gasworks site redevelopment:** This development poses a serious threat to the Gardiners Creek Trail which actually encroaches on the site. Glennys J reported that she has already written to Minister Tim Pallas and MP Bob Stensholt about this. **John P** has also drafted a submission to go to the panel by 26/5. He needs a couple more supporters for this to go as a BUG submission.
4. **Draft Revised PBN:** **John P** is preparing a submission on this which he will circulate via email.
5. **Invitations to attend meetings:** It was agreed that Boroondara Mayor Jack Wegman should be invited to our next meeting.

Next meeting: Thursday 10th June.

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

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

Email David & Geraldine Powell: dgpowell@internode.on.net

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:

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

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

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. Please send cheque (made out to Boroondara Bicycle Users Group) along with this form to:

Graeme Stone
16 Jervis St
Camberwell
Vic, 3124