

BOROONDARA

Bicycle Users Group

Newsletter June 2012

Boroondara BUG meetings are normally held on the 2nd Thursday of each month except January. Our next meeting is on Thursday 14th June. 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.

Features

Checking Out the Goulburn River High Country Rail Trail

For a while now I have been wanting to reconnoitre on the southern end of this trail for a Hub and Spoke ride for Whitehorse Cyclists. Wet weather mainly has delayed finishing the trail. Fortunately when Velda and I could do our checks the trail was being officially opened.

The trail officially starts at Tallarook Station which has an hourly service from Melbourne so I started riding from there with Velda in the support vehicle. The first issue was to find the trail: even with several signs it was confusing but soon the trail was found next to the Trawool Road. The trail surface is mostly granitic sand which packs down with time and traffic. The first several km was soft and with many hoof marks from horses that should not have been on this section. However the surface soon improved and became quite sound although at all times you have to watch for ruts from rain. The whole section to Yea is particularly scenic with many views from on high down to the Goulburn River and its floodplain.

Soon enough I reached the Goulburn Valley Highway and turned left onto the Highway to go to Seymour. This enabled lunch to be bought and allowed me to assess the Highway because people will often ride to Seymour to put bikes on the train there where it starts its run to Southern Cross. Very soon there was a 1-2km climb out of the river valley but it is feasible in a low gear. Apart from this challenge the ride to Seymour is fast on a wide shoulder to the road.

After lunch I returned to Trawool, the trail and soon the Trawool Resort which offers a restaurant luncheon. The rest of the day's ride to Yea was uneventful although scenic. Yea will be the base for many people exploring this new trail. Yea has several hotels, one motel and one caravan park all offering accommodation. There are various eateries to help with lunches and dinners.

Next day I headed east, taking the substantial 3km climb to the Cheviot Tunnel. This tunnel was made using locally fired bricks and remains a sound, impressive monument to the builders of this railway. On the other side there is a long gradual descent towards Molesworth. Again there are impressive views of the highway and town. Molesworth Hotel is known in the area for its meals.

Fortuitously, Federal Minister Simon Crean opened the Rail Trail to an audience of perhaps 200, which included about 30 cyclists. Through impeccable timing your correspondent in his Whitehorse Cyclist blue and yellow finery was recorded by WIN and appeared on the evening news.

Later in the day I took the Alexandra branch line which involved another climb to reach Eglinton Pass. This gives wonderful views of the valleys. Most of the climb section has a gravel top layer which now is a bit of a problem but the loose gravel will probably be scattered soon.

On our final day I again tackled the Cheviot climb to enjoy the descent into Molesworth. This time however, I took the main line to Yarck for lunch. There are several good eateries and some accommodation in Yarck.

I found that my travelling average on the trail was always from 19 to 21km/h. Allow extra time for rests at the top of hills and for sightseeing. All my riding was on a steel frame road bike which allowed those relatively high averages for a rail trail. Expect the average to be 15km/h normally or even less where those bigger hills appear. My riding was much fun and rewarding: you should enjoy your riding on this wonderful trail.

Graham Ellis

Trail Notes

Closures on Ring Road Path

Bollard installation near Steele Creek

To prevent illegal dumping at Steele Creek, the Alliance is installing bollards in three locations along the shared user path adjacent to the M80 Ring Road Altona bound to restrict vehicle access. The locations are between Steele Creek, Keilor Park and Melrose Drive, Airport West.

The first installation took place in December 2011 near Steele Creek, the next installation is to take place this Friday 8 June between 7.30am and 5pm, adjacent to Airport Drive and Westfield Drive (Melways ref: Map15 H5). During works traffic controllers will be on site to safely direct pedestrians and cyclists.

Events and Activities

Zero Bike Budget Rally, Victorian Parliament steps, 7.30-8.30am, Thursday 21 June

Bicycle Network Victoria is inviting every person who rides a bike and cares about the safety of our streets to attend the before-work rally on Thursday, 21 June to express their outrage at the Baillieu snub.

The 2012 Budget papers show the government has allocated zero funding to the VicRoads Bicycle Program. (Some already-announced commitments from previous budgets are still trickling through. The Baillieu Government is trying to hide behind these carry over items.)

Whitehorse CycleWise Skills Course

Whitehorse City Council will give residents the opportunity to boost their skills and confidence to cycle as a means of transport on Saturday 16 June 2012.

With support from Whitehorse City Council, CycleWise is run by Melbourne Business Bikes@Work who employ Austcycle accredited instructors to teach commuters the nuts and bolts of cycling.

The course consists of 2.5 hours of bicycle confidence training facilitated in a safe, traffic free environment. It is the ideal course for new riders, people who have not cycled for years or lack confidence riding. Participants will learn and practice safety checks, braking techniques, maintaining balance and using gears effectively along with numerous other crucial control skills.

The CycleWise skills course will be held on Saturday 16 June 2012, from 9.30am to 12 noon, at the Courtyard Room (rear of Nunawading Library), 397 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading. Tea and coffee will be provided. Participants are asked to bring a geared-bike in roadworthy condition and a helmet.

To book or obtain further information phone Council's Sustainable Transport Officer on 9262 6134 or email lucy.menzies@whitehorse.vic.gov.au

Great Southern Randonnee

The Victorian Region of Audax Australia Cycling club has great pleasure in announcing the 5th edition of the Great Southern Randonnee to be run on the 29th October 2012.

The ride will take you through these beautiful coastal and inland regions

- Great Ocean Road (Heritage Listed)
- Surf coast
- Otway Ranges National Park
- Twelve Apostles
- Shipwreck Coast
- Grampians National Park

All rides are fully supported with distance of 200 km, 300 km, 400 km, 600 km, 1000 km and 1200 km.

More details at: <http://www.gsr1200.com.au/gsr1200/Home.html>

Help Needed

Red Cross Desperate for More Donated Second-hand Bicycles

As part of its Household Goods Program, the Red Cross gives furniture, bedding, crockery, and other domestic goods to refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants to help them settle in.

Bicycles are an important part of this program as, combined with train travel, they allow clients to attend job interviews and appointments, and to extend the distance they can travel to work. Children also benefit from bicycles to ride to school, run errands, and play.

The government's decision to release refugees into community detention is putting extra pressure on household goods distribution. Up to 40 refugees are being released each week in Melbourne and stocks of goods are running low.

So if any members of Boroondara BUG have old bicycles lurking at the back of the garage or under the house, consider donating them to the Red Cross! The team of volunteer bicycle mechanics will soon clean off the dust, scrub the rust, replace the rusty cables, and have them as good as new in no time. It's better to recycle (geddit) than put them out in the hard rubbish!

The only bicycles that are unsuitable are those with bent frames from serious crashes. Every other component can either be adjusted or replaced.

The best part is that the Red Cross will pick your preloved darlings up from your place. Perhaps you can ask your neighbours if they can leave their unwanted bicycles with you to make the pickup that much more rewarding.

To donate your bicycles, call or write to

Claire Foreman, Caseworker, Migration Support, **Australian Red Cross**, 23-47 Villiers Street, North Melbourne VIC 3051
Tel [\(03\) 9341 7569](tel:0393417569); Mob [0418 579 061](tel:0418579061); Fax [\(03\) 8327 7884](tel:0383277884); Email cforeman@redcross.org.au
Monday--Friday, 08:00--16:00 hours

Boroondara News

Minutes of Boroondara BUG Meeting, Thursday 10th May 2012

Elgin Inn, Hawthorn

Attendance and Apologies

Present: Ken Morrison, John Parker, David Leong, Alister Huth, Glennys Jones, Malcolm Faul, Gordon Macmillan, Julia Blunden, Graham Ellis (Chair), Hedley Finger, Graeme Stone

Apologies: Peter Campbell

Correspondence:

In

- Email from Ian Penna re sabotage on the GCT (One solution to this was seen as improved lighting. Julia B agreed to contact Chris Hui to ask who should be contacted when there is a dangerous situation on a bike path that needs attention out of office hours.)
- Email from Steven Sheppard re loose boards on gantry near St Kevin's (John P has followed up on this.)

Out

- Letter of support for council grant application for shared path in Gordon Barnard Reserve
- Letter to Ted Baillieu re missing link in AT at Camberwell High (Julia B reported that this has been acknowledged, and agreed to follow it up if no reply is received in a reasonable time frame)

Matters Arising:

1. Hawthorn to Box Hill Trail - Joint Discussion with Lighter Footprints Group

Mick Nolan reported that LF members had ridden the route with Peter Campbell. Their ideas to promote the trail include: creation of a promotional document including a map; a public forum of the type LF have run on other issues; a letter drop; organised rides with cycle police, local MPs etc. They believe we need to do high level costing of the project. Jenny Henty spoke about the possibility of applying for a community grant to produce the brochure, which may be possible even though neither of our organisations is incorporated if we act jointly. It was agreed that Julia B should sound out Mike Hassett's daughter, who designed the brochure that Whitehorse Cyclists are using to promote the Box Hill to Ringwood Rail Trail, regarding her willingness to do ours and her charge. LF also urged BBUG members to keep up the correspondence which they have initiated in the *Progress Leader*.

2. **Urban Bush Path:** It was reported that there is now a sign at Solway Bridge directing people to the Golf Course café!
3. **Stockland Tooronga Village Development – Access from GCT:** Glennys J reported that the access path now has a centre line, but there is still no flaring at the GCT end. John P confirmed that a pram ramp is needed to provide access for cyclists travelling south along Toroonga Rd and said he would ask for this to be put on the agenda for the next BAC meeting.
4. **Gasworks Site Redevelopment:** Glennys J reported that progress is being made, but the GCT is still not affected.
5. **Belford Rd Underpass:** Alister H opined that this project is unlikely to go ahead at present given the recently announced State Budget cuts to VicRoads funding for cycling infrastructure.
6. **Possible Formation of Stonnington BUG:** Hedley F reported that he cannot undertake this project due to lack of time. It was agreed that we continue to act as the de facto Stonnington BUG for the present.
7. **Darebin – Yarra Link:** Julia B reported that MLA Fiona Richardson had spoken in Parliament about the need to continue with this project. It seems unlikely to be funded this financial year but the Community Coalition will explore the possibility of the DSE providing funds and will also press them to pursue the issue of planning permit renewals.
8. **New membership rules and payment methods.** Malcolm F reported that BBUG now has 23 financial members. He will shortly follow up those who indicated that they would pay their sub but have not yet done so. Funds in hand are now \$3,649.50, with another \$300 due from the Super Tuesday bike count.
9. **Gardiners Creek High St Underpass:** Glennys J reported that the Stonnington budget includes an allocation for the redevelopment of the TH King Oval/Glen Iris Park. She said we need to watch for plans as this may provide an opportunity to realign the GCT here providing a safer approach to the High St underpass.
10. **Anniversary Trail/Outer Circle Audit:** Glennys J reported that the draft report of the second stage of the audit is still with Council. A number of improvements recommended in the first stage of the audit have already been implemented. The crossing at Ryburne Av is already under construction? (I couldn't see anything happening when I rode this today) Glennys reported that she had attended a meeting of HART, the Hartwell Traders Association. Traders were keen to get cyclists off the Toorak Rd footpath but have agreed to leave things as they are for the present.

New Business

1. **Barnsbury Rd Steps to AT:** Julia B agreed to try to find out who is responsible for these and to write to them pointing out the unsatisfactory nature of the steps, which are not DDA compliant and do not even have a gutter for bikes.
2. **Questions for BNV Survey of Council Candidates:** We agreed on the following four issues, one for each of BNV's categories:
 - Commuter: the Hawthorn – Box Hill Trail
 - School: the Anniversary Trail missing link at Camberwell High
 - Recreation: renewal of planning permit for Darebin- Yarra link

- **Parking:** support for secure, undercover bike parking to be routinely included in planning for Council facilities such as recreation centres and libraries

The exact wording of these issues will be finalised at our June meeting in time for BNV's July deadline.

3. **Measures to prevent doorings:** Glennys J reported that she had attended as an observer at the first public hearing in relation to Greg Barber's proposed legislation to increase penalties for dooring. Glennys expressed concern about BNV's attitude on this issue. She urged members to attend the second public hearing scheduled for 8pm, 23rd May at Parliament House. Some of those presenting will be the Amy Gillet Foundation, BNV, Melbourne BUG and the parents of James Cross, who died as a result of a dooring in Glenferrie.
4. **Meeting on State budget cuts for cycling:** Julia B urged those present to attend the meeting that has been organized by Melbourne BUG to plan a campaign against the budget cuts, 3pm, Saturday 12th May, at Terra Rossa, 87 Flinders Lane.
5. **BNV Mail-out to Boroondara Members:** Mal F suggested that we take advantage of this option to publicise BBUG. It was agreed that we should keep it in reserve until we have a clearer strategy for the Hawthorn to Box Hill Trail and promote this along with BBUG.
6. **Stonnington Plans:** Glennys J reported that Stonnington currently has plans for a very short bike lane, more bike counters, and lots more bike parking. Although small projects they represent a more genuine effort on the part of the council to promote cycling.

Next meeting: This is currently scheduled for Thursday 14th 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

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