

BOROONDARA

Bicycle Users Group

Newsletter August 2012

Boroondara BUG meetings are normally held on the 2nd Thursday of each month except January. Our next meeting is on Thursday 9th August. 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.

Events and Activities

National Launch of Freestyle Cyclists

Readers may be interested in supporting the National Launch of Freestyle Cyclists, which is bringing together groups from around Australia and New Zealand to campaign for repeal of helmet laws. If you want to be involved please check out the Freestyle Cyclists Google Group, at <https://groups.google.com/forum#!forum/freestyle-cyclists> or sign the online petition at <http://www.freestylcyclists.org>

The launch will be at Ceres Learning Centre, East Brunswick on Saturday October 6th at 1PM. Speakers confirmed so far include Prof Chris Rissel (Professor of Public Health at University of Sydney.), Geoff McLeod of Sputnik Films to talk about his ads for helmet freedom (see http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ZNLb_SBbuA for an example), and Sue Abbott who has successfully defended a number of helmet fines in court in New South Wales.

The aim is to get more people riding and accelerate the uptake of cycling in Australia and New Zealand, noting that the health benefits of cycling outweigh the risks by a large factor.

General News

Progress on Dooring Penalties – Message from Greg Barber

Every cyclist feels the threat of being doored when riding by parked cars. Too many have been unfortunate and have been doored, and there has been tragic deaths as a result. Dooring is now the most common cause of a bike crash and this is why The Greens have been taking urgent action to reduce the threat of car doors to cyclists.

The response of the cycling community to the Parliamentary Inquiry into The Greens Dooring Bill ([Road Safety Amendment \(Car Doors\) Bill 2012](#)) has been large and positive, and has resulted in **a win for cyclists**.

The government yesterday announced that the on the spot fine for 'dooring' has more than doubled to \$352.

This is a vast improvement on the measly \$141 fine that existed previously; that's less than the fine for not having a bell on your bike!

Congratulations go to all of you who made a submission via our website (view here: <http://vicmps.greens.org.au/dooring>) and for those who participated in other ways. It shows what a strong community can achieve when working together - **this is your win.**

While more than doubling of the dooring fine is a great improvement, and the dooring issue has received much exposure and publicity in the process, **more needs to be done.** The Greens are working to ensure the penalty matches the seriousness of the offence - doorings can cause serious injury and death. The Greens Dooring Bill includes loss of three demerit points from the drivers licence, making the penalty a closer match to the seriousness of the offence. The greater the penalty, the greater the deterrent. I will be pursuing this in the passage of The Greens Bill through the Parliament.

We will keep you informed on how this proceeds. In the meantime we will keep up the work campaigning to **bring back the bike budget** and improve cyclist safety with [The Greens Bike Blackspot app](#) - put your blackspot on the map here: <http://vicmps.greens.org.au/loveybike>.

Safe cycling.

Greg Barber, Victorian Greens Leader and Spokesperson on Transport
<http://www.facebook.com/GregBarberMP>
<http://twitter.com/gregMLC>

Boroondara News

Minutes of Boroondara BUG Meeting, Thursday 12th July 2012

Elgin Inn, Hawthorn

Attendance and Apologies

Present: Ken Morrison (Chair), John Parker, Alister Huth, Malcolm Faul, Gordon Macmillan, Julia Blunden, Graeme Stone, David Farrow, Jenny Henty (Lighter Footprints)

Apologies: Peter Campbell, David Leong, Betty Weeks, Glennys Jones; Mick Nolan and Carolyn Ingvarson (Lighter Footprints)

Guest: Sam Hibbins (Greens Candidate for Stonnington Council)

Correspondence:

- In Email from Sam Hibbins suggesting we get together to discuss Stonnington issues
- Email from David Williams re BUG involvement in the Boroondara Health, Lifestyle and Leisure Expo Sunday 7 October 2012, 11am to 3pm at the Balwyn Leisure Centre
- Email from Council re Kew Junction Plan
- Email from Bushan Jani re pram ramp from Tooronga Rd to path linking to GCT

Out

- Email to Jason den Hollander re questions for Council Candidates
- Email/letter to Premier Ted Baillieu protesting at cuts to cycle funding

Matters Arising:

1. **Hawthorn to Box Hill Trail:** Jenny H reported that Lighter Footprints have written a response to the Council Plan regarding bike works. John P reported that he and David Hall had taken the opportunity to discuss the project with Attorney General Robert Clark at one of his constituency meetings.
2. **Golfers Choice and Urban Bush Path:** Nil to report
3. **Stockland Tooronga Village Development:** a pram ramp providing access to the GCT from Tooronga Rd via the new link path is to be completed by the end of July.
4. **Gasworks Site Redevelopment:** Glennys J reported that Jim Hondrakis noted at the BAC meeting that the detour to enable reconstruction of the GCT along the southern boundary will present some challenges as the detour will need to run through the construction site and the brick retaining wall must stay in place.

5. **Belford Rd Underpass:** See Dights Falls Commuter Trail, New Business.
6. **Darebin – Yarra Link:** Julia B reported that the Community Coalition have received confirmation that the planning permit extension requests are being prepared. The DSE has obtained an estimate of building costs. Construction works are costed at \$11M and land acquisition at \$1.5M, making a total of \$12.5M, rather less than the \$30M quoted when we met with DSE a few months ago. Banyule Council is just waiting on drier weather to construct the link under Heidelberg Rd to Sparks Reserve.
7. **Anniversary Trail/Outer Circle Audit:** Glennys J reported that fencing alongside the railway cutting from Adrian St to the Dion St bridge has been completed, with the redundant western fencing being removed as per the audit. The chicane on the north side of the Dion St bridge was inadvertently replaced by the fencer, but when brought to Council's attention, removed. The chicane on the south side of the crossing will also be removed when the fencing work is done.
8. **BNV Rally:** Those who attended reported that considering the appalling weather the number attending, 500 or so, was quite impressive. Another rally is planned for Sunday 29/7, 12 midday at Abbotsford. Details will be in *In the Loop*.
9. **Submission to the Metropolitan Planning Strategy:** Some BUG members have made comments to the online forum. We need to watch for the opportunity to make a formal BUG submission.
10. **Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting 22/6:** Minutes of this meeting had not yet been received. John P gave a brief report on the meeting which was chaired by Mayor Heinz Kreutz.
11. **Treasurer's Report:** Malcolm F reported that the BUG now has a balance of \$4,025.36. We have 27 paid up members. The \$100 donation was made to 3CR naming Yarra BUG Radio as the beneficiary. A term deposit is shortly to be arranged for \$3,000 for 6 months at 4.85% interest.

New Business

1. **Stonnington Matters:** Sam H is standing as a candidate for Stonnington Council this year with a platform that includes improvements to cycling infrastructure. Sam and the BUG members present agreed that there is much that could be done to improve matters for cyclists in Stonnington but little will on the part of the present Council to do it. Stonnington has a good bike strategy but it is not being implemented. Challenges include improving Chapel St or identifying and developing an alternative route, and improvements to the GCT. Sam asked that his email be included in the minutes for future contact. It is samhibbins22@yahoo.com.au
2. **Dights Falls Commuter Trail:** David F, Alister H, Ken M and John P undertook the first exploratory ride on Saturday 7/7. Various options for the route were considered both north and south of the Eastern Fwy. It was agreed that the main hurdle is crossing the Yarra near Dights Falls. One suggestion for promoting the project was that some of the proponents should offer to speak at the next Yarra BAC meeting. Another was that David and Alister arrange a meeting with Jim H to make a brief presentation and provide him with a more detailed version of the project in print.

Next meeting: This is currently scheduled for Thursday 9th August

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