

BOROONDARA

Bicycle Users Group

Newsletter August 2013

Boroondara BUG meetings are normally held on the 2nd Thursday of each month except January. Our next meeting is on Thursday 8th August. It will be held at Julia Blunden's place, 29 Elgin St, Hawthorn, just up the hill from the Elgin Inn. The meeting starts at 7.30pm. Some of those attending may meet for a meal at the Elgin Inn before heading up the hill for 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 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

The Cycling Revolution in London

On a recent visit to London, I was impressed by the number of cyclists commuting by bike. Then I picked up the newspaper (Evening Standard 24/6/13) to find that one in four morning rush-hour road users in central London is a cyclist. Bikes outnumber all other vehicles on 29 of 164 sites monitored, some key roads. Take London Bridge as an example: 47% of vehicles on the bridge are bikes – 9,300 per day. This is almost Amsterdam proportions, where the busiest street has 13,000 per day. London cyclists make 570,000 trips per day, a 96% increase in 12 years. And Mayor Boris Johnson has budgeted an astounding GBP913 million to upgrade cycling infrastructure!

And the London love of cycle commuting shows. There are many back street runs that are well sign posted and direct, generally parallel to the busy main road. They are well used. Even with the congestion tax restricting cars in central London, bike is still the most efficient way to get around. From my observation aboard a bus, bike beats bus and taxi. It's almost certainly faster than train for short journeys, by the time walking, escalator, crowding and changing between train lines. While most cycle commuters seem to ride the full distance, folding bikes are allowed on trains. We observed a surprising number of folding bikes being assembled by commuters from the trains arriving at Paddington. Outer London will be getting Dutch-style bike lanes from next year. London has become a real bike city.

To quote the London Mayor's cycling commissioner (we need one of those), "join us (as a bicycle commuter) - you have nothing to lose but your trains. And you'll always get a seat."

Over to you, Cr Doyle and Premier Naphtine.

Mal Faul

Jill's Story

Well greetings, hello and howdy.

I'm Jill Young - an everyday bike riding resident of Hawthorn, although probably with a lot less money!

I came to riding 8 years ago when I moved to Melbourne from the UK. At the time I was working in South Yarra and caught two trams to get to work and after doing this for a couple of months I thought 'I reckon this would be easier on a bike'.

I went out that weekend and bought a bike and little did I realise that it was to be the start of a committed affair. I studied what route I'd take and on the Sunday rode into work. I thought I'd do this in an effort to allay the stresses that would no doubt be there when I rode for the first time, such as how long it was going to take me and if I was going to be late or not. It took me about 25 minutes whilst the tram journey would take nearly 50. It was a no brainer!

After that sunny Sunday of doing a dummy run ride to work, I rode everywhere and have since become a committed bike rider that has surprised those who know me as I was never really a 'sporty' person, and as I tell them, I'm still not but that is the joy of the bike to me - it doesn't ever feel like exercise at all. I just see it as a lovely, practical, environmentally friendly way to get about. I love the freedom that a bike affords. Just this afternoon I was at a set of lights, and got off my bike to help a woman with her walking frame up the pavement. In all honesty, there's little chance I would have done that if I was in a car. It's those random little interactions that I love about riding.

However, (and yes, you knew there was going to be a 'but'!), I think more people should be riding and really believe that we need to work collectively to encourage this. The number one reason that people cite as to why they don't want to ride is one word: fear. This is particularly apparent amongst women. I want to try in whatever way I can to change this and think that working with the BBUG and local Councillors we maybe can.

I know that things are changing, slowly, but think we have a long way to go yet. I don't own a car because I believe I don't need one and that a bike is perfectly fine for me to get about. I would love it if more people not only shared this belief, but if the infrastructure was there to support this mentality.

Collectively, we can make a difference.

Jill Young

Opinion

BNV on Wrong Track

This is just to let you know that I have just tried to resign my membership of Bicycle Network Victoria on account of its partnership program with Coca Cola.

I think we should all be concerned about this linkage between our peak body and the corporate giant. Apart from the sugar consumed in its soft drinks, there are other issues to consider:

* I am concerned about the packaging waste and litter caused by the use of bottled water (Coca Cola Amatil produces Mt Franklin, Pump, etc.). We should be getting behind the Yarra Valley Water's "Choose Tap" program with its water refill stations that are popping up in public places (and along bike paths).

* I am concerned that Coca Cola is doing everything in its power at present to prevent container deposit legislation being introduced nationally (including Victoria). Recently, it has taken the NT to court for its introduction of CDL.

* As cyclists we should be supporting CDL. I am told that the instance of broken glass in gutters is much less of a problem in SA because that State has CDL. People take their bottles and cans back to a depot or reverse vending machine (for a deposit refund) so there is less litter and less breakage from kerbside pick ups.

For your information

Jenny Henty

Trail Notes

Yarra Trail, North Bank

The Yarra Trail on the north bank between Barkly Avenue and Punt Road trail had to be closed some weeks ago because of multiple crashes, and numerous injuries, in just a few hours on a day when the combination of a substantial tilt on the pontoons due to the build-up of silt, and ice on the approaches, sent riders skidding to the deck.

The trail will re-opened soon, with work underway on fixing the icing problems on the ramps, and moving the mud under the Burnley pontoons. Minister for the Environment and Climate Change, Ryan Smith, has announced funding to re-open the busy bike route. His comprehensive plan commits \$480,000 to the project, a significant task because of the serious silt accumulation which has occurred this year.

Gardiners Creek Trail – Works to Widen Creek East of Tooronga Rd

Melbourne Water have halted scheduled works after a flood of negative feedback from concerned Gardiners Creek Trail riders regarding the suggested on-road detour. The proposed detour would have forced riders to cross Burke and Tooronga Roads in peak hour.

As a result of rider feedback and concerns, Melbourne Water have opened discussions with Coles and Bicycle Network in order to achieve a viable, off-road alternative through the adjacent land of Coles' car park. The project start scheduled for mid-July has been temporarily put on hold. Melbourne Water expect to know around the end of August whether an alternative detour through the privately owned Coles car park is achievable and will provide updated information about the project's start date in coming weeks.

The above news items show what we cyclists can achieve if sufficiently large numbers of us make our concerns known to the politicians and bureaucrats. Ed.

Events

Bicycle Wayfinding Forum

Date Thursday 15th August 2013

Time: 2.00pm – 6.00pm

Venue: Level 5 Theatre, Department of Transport, SX1 Building, 121 Exhibition Street, Melbourne

Outline:

Wayfinding, especially for cyclists, is an emerging field within the government sector. Without a singular responsible authority for bicycle infrastructure or standard guideline, designing a bicycle wayfinding system can be a challenging experience. The Bicycle Wayfinding Working Group (BWWG) consists of a group of Metropolitan Melbourne Councils, Parks Victoria and GTA Consultants. To assist both professionals and the general public, the BWWG along with the Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure (DTPLI) is hosting the Bicycle Wayfinding Forum to discuss:

The development of an effective wayfinding system for bicycles

The improvement of Melbourne's cycling experience through better navigational assistance

Guest presenters include:

- **Soren Luckins (Büro North) – Getting to the Point** Evidence based design strategies for the analysis and development of successful wayfinding outcomes, from the user to management and investment.
- **Phil Gray (GTA Consultants) – Targeting the User** Pedestrian vs Cycling Wayfinding. Developing wayfinding for a particular user.
- **Chris Hui (Boroondara City Council) & Winchelle Chuson (Knox City Council) on behalf of BWWG – Finding Our Way** Improving Melbourne's cycling experience through a coordinated wayfinding system.
- **Warren Salomon (Sustainable Transport Consultants) – Primary Guest Speaker** Warren has previously written both the Queensland and the Sydney guidelines for bicycle wayfinding. He will be discussing both international and national examples.

At the completion of all presentations, 45 minutes will be reserved for questions which panel members will address.

This Forum is a public event. Afternoon tea refreshments will be provided.

RSVP: Wednesday 7th August 2013

Please email winchelle.chuson@knox.vic.gov.au

Registration is essential to arrange access and catering. Available seating is limited.

General News

Cycle Tours Global Website

If you're considering cycle touring, whether in Australia or overseas, start your research at www.cycletoursglobal.com. The stated audience is 'cyclists who tour and tourists who cycle' This new, free website profiles more than 5,500 bike tours in 104 countries. You can search by country, month, duration, cost, level, terrain, speciality and level of support. Its coverage is not of course exhaustive; I know of at least one Victorian tour operator who is not listed. But it is an extremely comprehensive and useful resource.

Julia Blunden

Boroondara News

Support Needed for Jacka Trail, North Balwyn

Those of our readers who also read *The Progress Leader*, may have followed the ongoing debate in the letters pages about Boroondara Council's plan to construct a shared path through Gordon Barnard Reserve, North Balwyn. This was to be the first step of a project detailed in the Boroondara Bicycle Strategy, which was formulated after extensive public consultation and adopted by Council in 2008. The project is 'to develop an off-road path between Myrtle Park and Gordon Barnard Reserve passing through Hislop Park'. A new crossing of Balwyn Rd is an integral part of this project. A 'Potential long term link between Anniversary Trail and Koonung Trail' is also mentioned.

This trail, which the BUG has dubbed the Jacka Trail, after Jacka St and Jacka St Reserve at its eastern extremity, will serve a number of users. These include children riding to the various schools in the area, particularly Balwyn High School, and users of the various sporting facilities in the parks including the Boroondara Sports Complex. It is badly needed as cycling rates in North Balwyn are currently low, due in part to the hilly topography but also to the lack of off-road routes. The advantages of the Jacka Trail are that it will not only be off-road, but will be as level a route as can be found in this area. Parks are often located in low-lying land.

A few vocal locals are voicing strong opposition to the construction of the path through the Gordon Barnard Reserve and working hard to enlist more locals in their cause. They are bombarding the *Progress Leader* with letters and bending the ears of councillors at every opportunity. Thanks to their efforts Council have now put the project on hold.

It would be extremely helpful if all our readers, but especially any who live in the North Balwyn area, could do the following:

- Write to the *Progress Leader* in support of the path. If you can indicate how you would use it so much the better.
- Speak or write to your local councillor, and all the other Boroondara Councillors about it.
- Let any of your friends in the area know what is happening and urge them to do all of the above.

Julia Blunden

Minutes of Boroondara BUG Meeting, Thursday 11th July 2013

Elgin Inn, Hawthorn

Attendance and Apologies

Present: David Farrow, Malcolm Faul, Hedley Finger, Jenny Henty (Lighter Footprints), John Parker, Peter Campbell

Apologies: Julia Blunden, Graeme Ellis, Glennys Jones

Correspondence:

Received –

1. **Tooronga Village site:** Notification of plan of village (Councillor Coral Ross).
2. **MacRobertson Bridge (Grange Road):** Yarra Council advised that City Link may remove the hydrant at the NE side of the bridge. This has happened

3. **Public Climate Forum:** Jenny Henty supplied a flier from Lighter Footprints advertising a Public Climate Forum to Meet the Candidates for the 2013 Federal election at Tuesday, 13 August 2013, 19:00 for 19:30 hours. See www.lighterfootprints.org for further details.
4. **BBAC meeting:** Glennys Jones emailed a very detailed summary of the BBAC meeting to committee members and noted again the difficulty of dealing with 'observers' cum protesters

Matters Arising:

1. **Hawthorn to Box Hill Trail:** John Parker reported that the Cookson Street footpath had been refurbished but did not include a bicycle path. David Farrow suggested that a letter on behalf of the BUG be sent to council, suggesting that it could be marked as a shared path. Peter Campbell is pursuing Robert Clark (Finance Minister, etc.) and Terry Mulder about trail and could bring this up.
2. **Golfers Choice and Urban Bush Path:** John Parker reported that Stonnington Council is considering this as part of their bike strategy process – which could drag out to 2014.
3. **Gasworks Site Redevelopment:** Glennys Jones reported in a broadcast email that the wall is still collapsing but although Melbourne Water will stabilise and repair this there was no progress this week.
4. **Darebin-Yarra Link:** No progress this month(John Parker).
5. **Belford Rd Underpass:** Nil.
6. **Dights Falls Trail:** Nothing raised at BBAC meeting.
7. **Stonnington Matters:** John Parker had long in-depth discussion with faceless persons; no useful content to report.
8. **Domestic Animals Management Plan:** Nil to report.
9. **Invitations to New Councillors to Attend BUG Meetings:** The meeting agreed to defer discussion of the invitations until August.
10. **Bollards v. Post and Rail:** John Parker reported that he and Peter Campbell had raised this issue at BBAC.
11. **Outer Circle Trail at Harp Junction:** John Parker and Peter Campbell raised this issue at BBAC.
12. **Leonda Link:** Raised at BBAC (John Parker, Peter Campbell).
13. **Open Space Strategy:** Glennys Jones emailed that Boroondara Council is currently conducting a Sport and Recreation Survey which includes Cycling. The survey closes on 9th August. See http://bulletin.boroondara.vic.gov.au/sport-and-recreation-survey/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=sport-and-recreation-survey (<http://goo.gl/hwGXN>)
14. **Gardiners Creek Trail detour:** To be raised at a forum on 17th July and elsewhere. – a route through Coles carpark was suggested, with detour signs erected
15. **Treasurer's Report:** Mal Faul reported that after the Super Tuesday claim had been received, the balance in the current account was \$1,736.29 on 30 June 2013. The 180-day term deposit, now at \$3113.16, should be rolled over unless a worthwhile project can be found on which to spend some of this amount.

New Business

1. **July newsletter:** Malcolm Faul gave an apology for being unable to compile the July newsletter.
2. **Yahoo mailing list:** Various people expressed dissatisfaction with the current Yahoo mailing list and there were suggestions that a Yahoo or Google group should be set up instead.

Other Business:

1. Hank van Apeldoorn was thanked for his excellent minutes of the previous meeting.

2. John Parker reported that new bike path north side east of East Camberwell station was covered in detritus deposited by Victrack

Meeting closed at 20:50 hours

Next meeting: 8th August

Notes by Hedley Finger

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

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

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 & Secretary:

Julia Blunden

phone: 9853 5095

email: jblunden@bigpond.com

Media Contact: Peter Campbell
Phone: 0409 417 504
Email: <http://greenlivingpedia.org>

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