

BOROONDARA

Bicycle Users Group

Newsletter March 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 12th March, 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@yahogroups.com to receive this monthly newsletter and occasional important messages.
2. Send a blank email to: BoroondaraBugDiscussion-subscribe@yahogroups.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

In Case of Minor Emergency

If somebody is obviously, or even possibly, seriously injured it's clearly best to call an ambulance. But what to do in case of a lesser injury?

I've had spills off my bike before but always managed to get back into the saddle and ride, at least to the nearest train station. However a few weeks ago my luck ran out. Approaching Ricketts Point Tea House from the south, along the shared path rather too fast, I had to break suddenly as a car pulled out of a driveway. Gravel had spilled onto the path and my front wheel slipped away from under me dumping me hard on the pavement.

My legs seemed OK, though one knee was throbbing a bit, and I was aware of a rapidly growing lump on my cheekbone where it had connected with something. Then as I went to use my left arm I realised that something was seriously wrong with it. I couldn't even pick up or wheel my bike, let alone ride. Luckily one of my companions was behind me when I fell. He parked my bike and helped me into the tea house where staff kindly produced an ice pack for my cheek.

Summoned by that almost indispensable cycling companion, my mobile phone, my husband was soon on the way to collect me. Fortunately his station wagon easily accommodates my bike.

Where to go next though? My initial plan was to head for our usual medical practice in Hawthorn. However the day was well advanced. By the time Ralph arrived and my bike was stowed it would be after 4pm. Even if we got there before they closed I knew I'd need to get X-rays done elsewhere then take them back to a doctor. Other riding companions returned to keep me company and one suggested going to Emergency at Cabrini Hospital. She thought it wouldn't cost much as we have private hospital cover.

So that's what I did. I was seen by a triage nurse and offered pain killers, X-rayed, seen by a doctor and treated all within about 1½ hours. (The only treatment was to have my arm put in a sling, now preferred to plaster for less serious breaks.) This was in great contrast to the time when Ralph had a similar accident some years ago, dislocating two fingers, and went to the Austin Public Hospital. The wait there was for five hours and we had almost decided to try a private hospital when he finally received attention. Understandably they were giving priority to people with more life-threatening conditions. However dislocated fingers are very painful and speedy treatment offers the best chance of a good recovery.

There were a couple of downsides to my option. I'm not sure what the out-of-pocket cost will be as yet but probably well over \$200 for the hospital visit and X-rays. (Private hospital insurance was not relevant, though doubtless it would have been if I'd been admitted to the hospital.) Then there was the issue of follow-up. None was arranged, but as the days went by questions came into my mind and I realised that I had taken in little of what I had been told at the hospital. A week after the fall I saw my GP. She referred me to an orthopaedic surgeon who amazingly was able to see me the same day. He confirmed the diagnosis and treatment I'd received and provided guidelines on care of the injured arm. I asked the GP what she'd advise in a situation like mine and was reassured when she said that she would do exactly as I had done, but follow up with a GP visit at the earliest opportunity.

I'd be very interested to hear from readers about their experiences with comparable injuries and their views on the best course of action.

Julia Blunden

Trail Notes

Taralla Creek – Dandenong Creek Link

Pedestrian lights have finally been installed at Canterbury Rd near where the trail along Taralla Creek (formerly Croydon Main Drain) ends. This will enable cyclists and pedestrians to cross safely to join the Dandenong Creek Trail via Bungalook Rd East, instead of dodging the traffic as we have done for many a long year. Many thanks to Maroondah Council and VicRoads for this very welcome improvement.

Notes by Julia Blunden

General News

Bike Ban on Peak Hour Trains Reversed

On 15/2 Minister Kosky announced that bicycles will once again be allowed on all Connex and V/Line trains at all times - but only in the final carriage of Connex services, and only in set storage areas on V/Line trains. In response to lobbying by cyclists there has also been agreement to progressively introduce signage indicating where bikes should be stowed which will hopefully help to legitimise their presence on trains and discourage other passengers from unnecessarily blocking access to these areas. Possible modifications to train carriages to facilitate bike storage have also been mooted. Other initiatives to assist with multi modal travel include \$1 million funding for 20 bike cages at train stations, and carriage of folding bikes on buses and trams.

Congratulations to all the community groups and individuals whose swift and forceful response to the ban helped to bring about such a satisfactory outcome. And thanks to the Minister for listening to them.

Boroondara News

Boroondara Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting – Change of Date

The BAC meeting originally scheduled for Friday 29/2 has been postponed to Friday 7/3. It will be held 3-5pm in the Fountainview Room at council's Camberwell offices.

Note that observers are permitted at these meetings but they should let Sustainable Transport Officer Julia Smith know in advance to ensure that enough seating is available. Julia's email address is: Julia.Smith@boroondara.vic.gov.au

New Boroondara BUG Web Site

The BUG now has a new Wiki style web site. Check it out at www.boroondarabug.org. All the old material is there plus lots of extra information, including google maps galore which explain many topics better than words can ever do. The fact that Wiki software has been used means that authorship and editing can now be shared amongst our members. However would-be authors and editors will need to seek BUG authorisation.

Many thanks to John Parker for the very considerable amount of work he has put into creating this new web site and getting it up and running.

Darebin Creek – Yarra Trail Link

Advertising by Boroondara, Banyule and Yarra councils, of Parks Victoria Planning Permit Applications for the various works required to complete the missing link is now in progress. See *Progress Leader*, Tuesday March 4, page 67. Now is the time when it would be very helpful for all supporters of the link to send submissions to their local council. These do not need to be lengthy or technical. However bear in mind that if the matter should go to VCAT, all those who have made submissions are entitled to appear and speak, but only on those matters addressed in their submissions. The closing date for submissions to all three councils is 18th March.

The PPA details are as follows:

Banyule: No: P635/2007; Description: Buildings and Works and (shared trail); Address: 899 Heidelberg Rd Ivanhoe VIC

Yarra: No: PL07/0812; Description: Buildings and Works; Address: 18 Old Heidelberg Rd Alphington VIC 3078

Boroondara: No: PP07/00882; Address: 27 Willow Grove, Kew East; Description: Buildings and Works to an existing trail and vegetation removal in a public park and recreation zone environmental significance overlay significant landscape overlay and land subject to inundation overlay

Gardiners Creek Trail Missing Link

At the Ashburton Festival on Sunday 24/2 local MP Bob Stensholdt presented a cheque for \$500,000 to Boroondara's Mayor, Coral Ross. This sum, half from Parks Victoria and half from the Department of Infrastructure's LAAP program, was designated for the construction of a link track to join the two existing sections of the Gardiners Creek path, one to the west of Solway Bridge and the other to the east of Warrigal Rd. The proposed link is to run from Warrigal Rd via Markham Reserve to join the Anniversary Trail at Ashburn Grove. Access to the western section of Gardiners Creek trail would be via Solway Bridge. The exact route through the reserve has not as yet been finalised as there are many competing demands for space, including playgrounds, dog walkers and sporting groups.

While it is very pleasing to see the State government putting additional funding into cycling infrastructure there are some questions as to the utility of this route. Certainly there is a need for a link between the two sections of Gardiners Creek trail. But is this route going to serve the needs of the majority of cyclists using the trail, especially those commuting to the city?

Bicycle Victoria describes the proposed route through Markham Reserve as 'a steep route that zig zags up into Boroondara', and is campaigning for a creek-side link, see <http://www.bv.com.au/change-the-world/10580/>.

Boroondara BUG would also like to see a route which is more direct, or at least one with more favourable grades and which better serves the needs of the majority of cyclists in the area. Stonnington Council has been unwilling to consider any routes that continue east of Solway Bridge on the south side of the creek, mainly on the grounds that it would adversely affect the Malvern Valley Golf Course. Boroondara BUG members have identified other possible routes with minimal impact on the golf course and strongly believe that further investigation of possible routes on the south side of the creek is needed.

We have identified this area as the Camberwell Junction of off-road paths. In choosing the best route for the link it is also important to consider the links with the Glen Waverley Rail Trail, the Scotchmans Creek Trail and the trail that goes through the Urban Forest and places further south. Safe bike routes to Holmesglen TAFE and Chadstone Shopping Centre are also important considerations.

To sum up, although the Markham Reserve path will be an asset in its own right for many users, it may not provide the best solution for a regional link. Cyclists remain concerned that the best solution may not have been found and that community funds may not be spent wisely.

For more detail about this important issue see our web site at:
http://www.boroondarabug.org/wiki/index.php/Gardiners_Creek_Trail

Both Stonnington Council and the Electoral district of Malvern share the same north east corner. This corner contains the golf course and is bounded by Gardiners Creek in the north and Warrigal Rd in the east. So you know who to write to:

[Email Stonnington council now -->](#)

[Email the member for Malvern; Michael O'Brien MLA now -->](#)

Melbourne 2030 Plans

Boroondara Council is currently engaged in formulating a number of plans designed to comply with the aims set out in Melbourne 2030. These include plans for Camberwell Junction; Glenferrie shopping area; Glenferrie Oval, Grace Park and LE Bray Reserve; Kew Junction and Balwyn.

You can find links to these plans and view the BUG's responses to them on our web site at http://www.boroondarabug.org/wiki/index.php/City_of_Boroondara_Bike_Plan

Minutes of Boroondara BUG Meeting Wednesday 13th February 2008

Held at Patterson Reserve and JP's Place

Present: Julia Blunden, Phil Crohn, John Parker, Jason den Hollander

Apologies: Graeme Stone, Graham Ellis, Alan Tonkin; Don Glasson, Alister Huth, Betty Weeks

- 1. Darebin Creek – Main Yarra Trail Link:** JB reported that she would be attending the next meeting of the Community Coalition on Monday 25/2. JDH reported that advertising by the 3 councils was expected in the next ten days.
- 2. Bike Strategy:** JB reported that she had sent the BUG response to Jim Hondrakis in mid January. Since then she had received further comments from Alan Tonkin and had advised him to forward them directly to Jim.
- 3. Gardiners Creek Path Missing Link:** JP and GS have done further investigation of possible routes for the link on the south (Stonnington) side of the creek. They have identified a route via The Boulevard and Thursoe St which has not been considered to date, is mainly out of the 10-year flood zone, requires no additional bridges, and has minimal impact on the golf course. JP has composed a letter on this subject which we agreed he should send to all Stonnington councilors on behalf of the BUG.
- 4. Eastern Rail Trail:** It was agreed that in future we would refer to an 'East-West Link' as we do not believe that this link must follow the rail line closely all the way. Nor do we believe that it will be achieved quickly as a single project, but rather that sections can be done as opportunities arise. The Glenferrie Oval, Grace Park Concept Plan provides an opportunity to advance this link.
- 5. Web Site and Newsletter – new directions:** GS and JB had both spent a morning having a thorough look at the new, wiki version of the web site created by JP and pronounced themselves satisfied. It was agreed that the site should go live immediately. Authorised editors/contributors currently are JP, JDH, JB and GS. JP agreed to write a short piece about the new site for the March newsletter. In future JB will upload the monthly newsletter and rides supplement to the web site and Yahoo subscribers will receive an email alerting them to this, rather than receiving attached files.
- 6. Events to Attract new members:** JP suggested that we could organise a bike tour of Boroondara to highlight issues of concern to the BUG. These would include past achievements and hoped-for future improvements. JDH raised the issue of insurance. PC offered to run the ride as an MBTC ride with himself as nominal leader. Visitors would pay a \$5? fee to join the ride. JP and JB to plan the ride. At the end of the ride participants to be given a letter which they can sign and send to Council. It was agreed that PC, JP and JB would identify a Thursday in April/May for this event, which would then appear on the MBTC calendar and be advertised in the BUG newsletter and through other avenues.
- 7. Sustainable Living Festival:** JDH agreed to deliver the BUG kit to the CPF marquee on Friday morning. GE and JB to spend time there over the weekend.
- 8. Concept plans:** JB reported that she had attended a residents' meeting concerning the concept plan for the Glenferrie Oval, Grace Park and LE Bray Reserve at which two Council officers were present. It was agreed that the BUG should continue to press for key stakeholder status in all such concept plans. JP has prepared responses to three concept plans currently being developed (the above plus Camberwell Junction and Glenferrie Activity Centre) and it was agreed that he should send these to Council.
- 9. Australian Institute of Traffic Planning and Management (AITPM) Conference – BAC delegate:** It was agreed that as this conference is in Perth the cost of sending a delegate would be prohibitive.
- 10. BAC meeting Friday 29/2:** The following agenda items were proposed:
 - Please note that Boroondara BUG has a new website (same address: <http://www.boroondarabug.org>) - which discusses the Leonda link & East-West link among other things

- The BUG has submitted a response to the Bike Strategy, has belatedly presented comment on the Victoria Park master plan, and will supply comment on Glenferrie Oval, the Glenferrie area and Camberwell junction structure plans.
- Congratulations to Jim Hondrakis on removal of power poles from Anniversary/Outer Circle Trail east of Harp Junction.
- Thanks to BCC and Jim hondrakis for organising speedy repairs to the Gardiners Creek Path after the recent cave in.
- Thanks to Julia Smith for sending out TravelSmart Maps to the shops for which BUG member John Parker provided a list
- Re: PP06/01145 - Application by Tennis Victoria, 100a Prospect Hill Rd, Camberwell

Use and development of an outdoor recreation facility (two illuminated tennis courts) on land affected by a special Building Overlay"

What is the council's position on moving the Anniversary Trail off Spencer St?

- Gardiners Creek missing link - Have the council given any consideration to our suggestion of moving the bridge to the west of Warrigal Rd and the underpass to the south side of the creek?
 - East-West Link – current plans?
 - Plenty River Bridge – follow up on costing?
 - Split path update
 - Bike strategy update
 - 2030 plans are not giving enough consideration to cyclists and are tending to simply lump them in with pedestrians.
- Queries for Julia Smith as Sustainable Transport Officer: Do they look at cyclist crash data, TravelSmart maps, the ITS and Sustainable Transport Strategy when they are doing these? Shouldn't the BUG be identified as a key stakeholder in all of these plans as in some other municipalities?
- Blue and white bike signs update
 - Trail names to be added to the VicNames register – need to agree on definitive names for all Boroondara's off-road trails – see http://www.boroondarabug.org/wiki/index.php/Trail_names

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

Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre Bike Riding Group

Contact: Robin Kendrick, phone: 9853 3126

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/

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

Finbar Neighbourhood House Rides

Contact Deb in the office on 9428 7668 or 0403 028 200

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/>

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 Graeme Stone) along with this form to:

Graeme Stone
16 Jervis St
Camberwell
Vic, 3124