

BOROONDARA

Bicycle Users Group

Newsletter November 2011

Boroondara BUG meetings are normally held on the 2nd Thursday of each month except January. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 9th November. It will be held in the function room at the Elgin Inn, corner Burwood Rd and Elgin St, Hawthorn (Melway 45 B10). **Note the temporary change of day.** 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, 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.

Opinion

Bike Futures Conference: Bikes and Roundabouts

We often hear how "they" should do this and "they" should do that. The famous "they", when in reality it should be "we" should do this and "we" should do that.

Some BUG people around Melbourne were invited to attend the Bike Futures conference as volunteer helpers. As a consequence "we" became the "they" for a day or so.

In one particular lecture session we were all tasked with brainstorming on cycling through roundabouts by a VicRoads representative - potentially a worthwhile exercise as road crash statistics show that roundabouts are a high risk location for cyclists. However I was soon disappointed, as right from the outset it was stated that the off road solution was too expensive, so the session was to focus at the on road solution. Paint is cheap but you get what you pay for.

Like most people I have my own personal view on how roundabouts should accommodate bikes and how they should be ridden through. Knowing others may not agree, I'll still stick my neck out:

- a) Small roundabouts on low speed roads - take the full lane and put up with any honking from the rear.
- b) Slightly more trafficked roundabouts - same answer as above with the addition of "bike & cars to share" signage and perhaps making it difficult to speed through the roundabout by a more judicious layout.
- c) On larger roundabouts, especially multi-lane roundabouts and high speed roundabouts, the bike route should be off road, providing two options for the cyclist. In fact just formalising what I already do: At such roundabouts, if the vehicles are very few, or so many that they have come to a complete stand still, I ride on the road. Otherwise I'll use the footpath and the pedestrian crossings. I'm not going to ride a bike through a multi-lane roundabout with a speed limit over 60kph with a B double behind me. I'm just not going to; at my age I'm less driven by testosterone and more by how short life now appears.

No amount of specially positioned paint, aka a bike lane, is going to make a difference at a roundabout. In general such lanes encourage drivers to overtake you and then turn left in front of you. Motorists also tend to take the direct path through a roundabout that may result in you getting "squeezed". Bike lanes force cyclists to perform right-hand turns from the left hand lane, which is not how it's done in a car. The existence of a bike lane creates conflict with motorists if you "take the lane", as you are not where you belong, ie you are perceived to belong in the bike lane. It also encourages cyclists to believe they are safer, when they are not. Paint has its place but I don't believe a roundabout is one of those places.

Rather than trying to reinvent the wheel, can we learn from the Dutch model? Two videos on roundabouts showing transitioning from the road to off road and back to on road:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gcunBu-gbuQ>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YoX7lr9q-wI>

and the thinking behind the fundamental Dutch intersection:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=FlApbxLz6pA

VicRoads is tasked primarily with road construction and maintenance, not bike path construction and maintenance. However it must be recognised that VicRoads has probably built more infrastructure for cyclists than any other organisation in Victoria. Regardless we need a "VicBikePaths" that has monies to build segregated bike paths starting with the difficult locations such as roundabouts.

Let's chuck out the "Highway Design Manual" and pick up a good translation of the "Ontwerpwijzer voor fietsvriendelijke infrastructuur" or have a look here:

<http://www.fietsberaad.nl/index.cfm?lang=en§ion=Voorbeeldenbank&mode=list&ontwerpvoorbeeldPage=Rotondes>

It all gets back to what you want. If you build for cars you get cars - build for bikes and you get bikes. Contemporary thinking supports changes to the ideas of mobility along the lines of more cycling and making cities more liveable through more cycling.

What do "we" want and how are "we" going to get it or do we sit back and hope "they" do it.

John Parker

Trail Notes

Moonee Ponds Creek Trail Closures

The Tulla Sydney Alliance (TSA) is undertaking widening on the M80 Freeway (The Western Ring Road). This has resulted in various diversions of the Moonee Ponds Creek Shared Path and the Ring Shared Path.

Discussions earlier this year were that TSA hoped to have the Moonee Ponds Creek Link under the M80 open either temporarily or permanently for the summer break. At this time we have been unable to confirm if this will occur.

There have also been closures, detours and worksites at the Racecourse and Mount Alexander Road underpasses while the structures are repainted. These projects are still in operation. There will be closures, detours and work on the Mount Alexander Road underpass while bridge strengthening is carried out for the tram work.

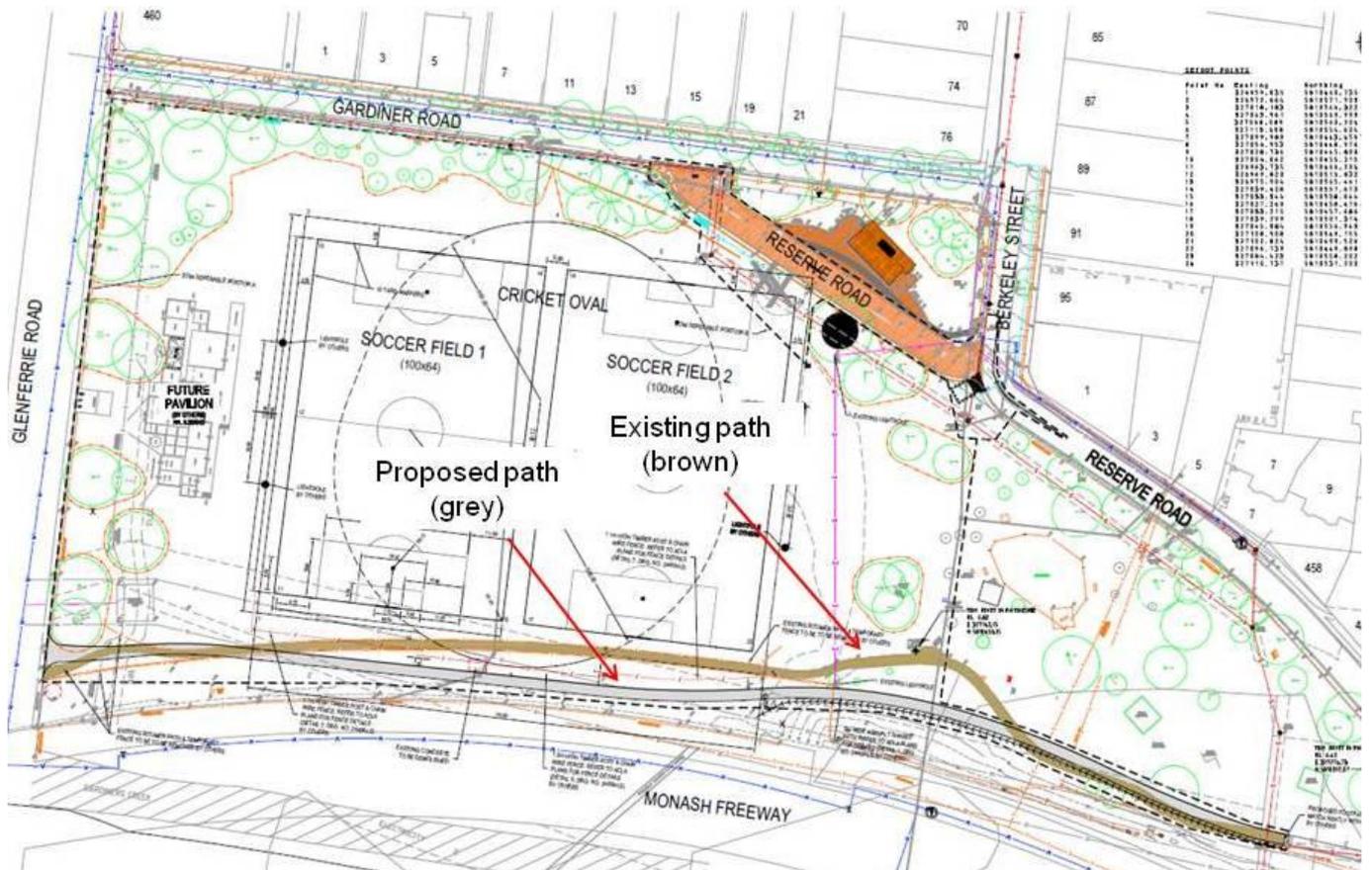
Thanks to Frank Kinnersley for forwarding this information

Path upgrade at H A Smith Reserve (Gardiners Creek Trail)

Council is upgrading 350 metres of shared path on the Gardiners Creek Trail at H A Smith Reserve in Hawthorn, between Glenferrie Road and Kooyongkoot Road. The upgrade includes widening the path to a width of 3 metres with an improved alignment and drainage (please see plan below for location details).

Works are expected to begin in early November and finish mid December 2011.

A path detour will be provided while the path is being reconstructed.



Events

OzHpv Rally Weekend, Myrtleford Area, December 2-4, 2011

Australia's Human Powered Vehicle Association, OzHpv will hold a rally weekend in Myrtleford in a few weeks' time. Details of the ride are online at http://modularbikes.com.au/rally_weekend/rallyweekend.pdf.

This is a national event and we are expecting riders from Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney. It will be a great opportunity to see and try recumbent bikes and trikes or just ride in great cycling country with friendly folks.

Any enquiries 94818290

Steve Nurse, Ozhvp President, ozhvp.org.au

2XU Great Ocean & Otway Classic Ride 2012

Don't miss your opportunity to experience this amazing ride, with participants enjoying a rarely ridden and uncrowded course through the Otway Ranges and along the breathtaking Great Ocean Road.

Entries are now open at www.supersprint.com.au Now in it's 6th year, the event is widely becoming recognised as a premier recreational ride in Australia. All participants will receive the stylish 2012 official event jersey by 2XU! Enter before the 30th November and receive your jersey prior to Christmas.

We look forward to providing you with another quality SuperSprint event! Good luck with training!

2012 Mudgee Bike Muster

Time flies when you're having fun or riding a bike and that means it's time to open up registration for the 2012 Mudgee Bike Muster next Easter!

We had a fantastic time in 2011 and sold out well before the event. Register early so you don't miss out and for everyone who registers before January 31 you will be automatically entered into the draw to WIN a brand new GIANT bike worth \$2,499.00*. Thanks GIANT!

How cool would you look cruising around at Bike Muster next year on a shiny new GIANT bike!

We will be running a similar program again in 2012 but are working on a couple of new things which we think will be a lot of fun, see the program and get all other info including how to register on the Bike Muster website: www.bikemuster.com.au

I hope everyone is enjoying some great riding and we look forward to seeing you soon! If you have any questions or need more information, shoot me an email at info@bikemuster.com.au and I'll get back to you ASAP.

Peter Scott, Bike Muster, M 0419 227 152

General News

Media release - \$1.78 million boost for inner-city bike riders. Thursday, 27 October 2011

<http://premier.vic.gov.au/media-centre/media-releases/2353-178-million-boost-for-inner-city-bike-riders.html>

From the Minister for Roads

<http://premier.vic.gov.au/media-centre/media-releases/from-the-minister-for-roads.html>

People living in inner Melbourne will soon have more reasons to jump on their bikes and embrace an active lifestyle, Minister for Roads Terry Mulder said today.

Announcing \$1.78 million to improve cycling facilities in the cities of Yarra and Melbourne, Mr Mulder said that improving access and safety for cyclists is an important priority for the Victorian Coalition Government.

"Cycling is important for transport, sport and recreation and is good for people's health and well being which is why we are continuing to improve Victoria's bicycle path network," Mr Mulder said.

"Cycling is particularly popular in inner Melbourne where many people ride their bikes to work and to school.

"This funding is part of approximately \$14.5 million being provided for cycling projects this year and is in addition to a further \$12 million to be allocated for specific bicycle commitments over the term of government."

These cycling improvements will include:

Improved linemarking and new bicycle detectors at traffic signals to give cyclists a head start on the intersections of Alexandra Parade, Johnston Street, Gertrude Street and Victoria Parade along Brunswick Street, Fitzroy (\$219,000).

- Green bicycle lanes, signage and pavement improvements on Heidelberg Road, from Queens Parade to The Esplanade, Clifton Hill (\$370,000).
- New bicycle signals, improved lighting, green surfacing and pavement improvements at Princes Street, Carlton (\$465,000).
- Bicycle safety improvements at Footscray Road, under CityLink (\$475,000).
- Improvements to the East West bicycle link (\$600,000).
- Before and after studies for bicycle and pedestrian projects (\$68,000).

"The East-West bicycle link will connect Abbotsford to Kensington, so cyclists will be able to commute to the northern part of the city as well as recreational areas along the link," Mr Mulder said.

The Victorian Government has also started work on a metropolitan planning strategy to guide land use and transport planning in Melbourne. This will include a metropolitan livability audit which will look at existing as well as future bikeways for Melbourne.

"The Coalition Government and VicRoads are working in partnership with councils and bicycle groups to develop Victoria's bicycle path network now and into the future," Mr Mulder said. "We will continue to consider the needs of cyclists as part of all major transport projects."

Download PDF 74.50 Kb

http://premier.vic.gov.au/images/stories/documents/mediareleases/2011/111027_Mulder_-_1.78_million_boost_for_inner-city_bike_riders.pdf

Thanks to Yarra BUG for this good news item

Boroondara News

New Enewsletter Available

If you'd like to keep abreast of what's happening for cyclists in Boroondara sign up to the Bike Boroondara enewsletter. It will include quarterly emails plus occasional updates on priority bike projects. The first issue was about the update on the path upgrade at H A Smith Reserve – see 'Trail Notes' above. To sign up simply email transport@boroondara.vic.gov.au

Minutes of Boroondara BUG Meeting, Monday 5th October 2011

Elgin Inn, Hawthorn

Attendance and Apologies

Present: Julia Blunden, John Parker, Ken Morrison David Leong, Graeme Stone, Glennys Jones, Peter Campbell (Chair), Alister Huth, Malcolm Faul

Apologies: Hedley Finger, Gordon Macmillan, Graham Ellis

Correspondence:

In

- Invitation from Josh Frydenberg to a community forum on 27 September
- Invitation from Ruth Scharley to join Netlog
- Email from Josh Frydenberg with link to his parliamentary statement re Cadel Evans. It was decided that **Julia B** should respond to this with a letter outlining what needs to be done in the electorate to facilitate cycling. This will be cc'd to the state member Andrew McKintosh and the relevant councilors and put on the campaigns page on the BUG web site.
- Email from David Childs re problems for cyclists at the Malvern Valley Golf Course.

Out

- Letter of support for Council's grant application for access paths from Burke Rd South Reserve to Gardiners Creek Trail

Matters Arising:

1. **Malvern Valley Golf Course:** There is apparently a question over the long term future of the golf course. **John P** agreed to write a letter of protest to Stonnington Council about the new signs forbidding cyclists to use the maintenance path along the creek, and to ask for a reference number so it doesn't disappear without a trace.
2. **East – West link:** **Peter C** will revamp last year's handout for RTW day. The project is still with VicRoads. It appears that the Surrey Hills to East Camberwell section will be on the revised PBN. John P has contacted Tony Barton at VR about input to the PBN but has had no positive response. There is still no minister for cycling. Peter will contact the Minister for Transport and ask for clarification of the status of this project.
3. **Stockland Tooronga Village Development:** **Glennys J** reported that she believes that Stockland is land-banking, and that the development has not delivered the 'village' that was promised to the tenants. She will write to Bianca Carmona at the *Progress Leader* and suggest that she look into this with a view to getting a story in the PL.
4. **Gasworks Site Redevelopment:** Work continues. Woolworths is required to rebuild the shared path to current standards as far as possible although it will have to be narrower than 3m in places.
5. **Belford Rd Underpass:** **Alister H** reported that VicRoads have no money to pursue this project although Jim Hondrakis will follow it up with them. Julia B agreed to include this in the letter to Josh Frydenberg. Alister will also write a letter on behalf of the BUG to the VR CEO asking about the status of the project.
6. **Possible Formation of Stonnington BUG:** Hedley F was not present at the meeting and had not sent a report.
7. **Darebin – Yarra Link:** **Julia B** reported that she was unsure whether the Community Coalition had sent their comments on the bridge design they had been shown to Parks Victoria. She agreed to follow this up with David Hall who had written a detailed response. John P reported that no details of the bridge design had been provided at the September BAC meeting but the issue of the need for extension of the Planning Permits had been raised. Julia said that PV plans to act on this next March.
8. **New Membership Rules:** **Malcolm F** has been away and has not had time to act on this but hopes to do so before our next meeting.

9. **Ride to Work Day Community Breakfast:** There was general dissatisfaction with the poster designed by BNV which does not sufficiently highlight key details of either the event in general, or the community breakfast in particular. **John P, Glennys J and Julia B** will be present at the breakfast to promote the BUG. Aids will be the sandwich board, BUG business cards, possibly with a sticker inviting takers to our November meeting, copies of the newsletter and rides supplement, and Peter C's revamped East-West link handout.
10. **Gardiners Creek Trail, High St Underpass:** As it is not considered appropriate to do so at the RTW breakfast members will campaign on this on other dates – week day mornings and weekends. This needs to be done soon if an increase in Stonnington's budget for cycling infrastructure is the aim. Julia B has prepared an A4 sheet listing issues that need to be addressed and **John P** will prepare a petition and set some dates for getting signatures from riders on the trail.
11. **Kooyongkoot Rd issues:** John P reported that in the light of feedback from Glennys J and himself Wadi Mati will look at this again.

New Business

1. **Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting, Friday 16th September:** There were four BUG members present at this meeting. It was agreed that in future we must identify which two are the official BUG representatives. In the light of a failure to bring plans for some major projects to the BAC before they were finalized we also need to look at the terms of reference to see whether they need to be revised.

An important issue raised at this meeting was that of the impending vacating by VicRoads of their site in Denmark St, Kew. This is a rare opportunity to improve two bike routes. The Wellington Rd bike lane could be connected to the new pedestrian crossing at Stevenson St via the site. There is also the possibility of completing the path along the old railway easement from the L E Bray Park via the site of the old California Motel, currently vacant, and the VicRoads site.

Julia B agreed to write a letter to the minister, cc'd to the local councilor, state member, Tony Barton at VR and Jim Hondrakis, raising this issue in fairly general terms.

2. **Solway Bridge:** John P reported that good progress is being made on the Boroondara approach to the new bridge but there are concerns about the Stonnington side. The bridge span will need to be brought in via the golf course. Better information about the project is needed for the locals, eg a notice board with a plan.
3. **Combined BUGs meeting, Wednesday 21st September:** **Julia B** agreed to send the minutes of this meeting to all active BUG members.
4. **Anniversary Trail audit:** The email sent by Chris Hui did not make clear that BUG member participation is wanted. Those wishing to participate should let Chris know about their availability.
5. **Possible affiliation with bike shop:** **Glennys J** said that this had been offered by the new bike shop in Whitehorse Rd near the Anniversary Trail. As we have not yet formalized our membership no such arrangement is possible. It was suggested that Glennys invite them to join our Yahoo group.
6. **BNV Board elections:** Julia B passed on Helen Millicer's suggestions for the best candidates to vote for. Julia indicated that she would be promoting Helen's candidacy as an individual rather than on behalf of the BUG. Julia agreed to circulate information about the BNV AGM (Monday 14/11, 7pm in the Yarra Room at the Melbourne Town Hall) and the deadline for assigning proxies (Friday 11/11 – limit of 5).
7. **Next meeting:** This is currently scheduled for Thursday 10th November. However this is dependent on availability of the Elgin Inn function room and may need to change as the room is in high demand at this time of year.

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 one-off payment of \$15 per household. 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