

BOROONDARA

Bicycle Users Group

Newsletter August 2011

Boroondara BUG meetings are normally held on the 2nd Thursday of each month except January. Our next meeting is on Thursday 11th August. It will be held in the function room at the Elgin Inn, cnr 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 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

When in Rome Do as the Romans Do - Ride a Bike!

If you have no difficulty riding through a very busy South Bank on the Yarra Trail, then you can ride a bike in Rome. Why hoof it around Rome? - the Colosseum, Forum, Campo dei Fiori, Piazza Navona, Trevi Fountain, Spanish Steps and all the other famous landmarks are all readily reachable by bike.

Rome has a small bike share system. Purchasing a rental swipe card is fiendishly complicated, so unfortunately it looks as though the system will succumb to Rome's notorious bureaucracy. The best thing about the system as it stands are the maps at each station, that inform all the pedestrians aka the tourists, where they are.

Bici & Baci - this being a rather cute play on words translating to "bikes and kisses" - have good three-speed hub city bikes for rent, with their office located not far from the main train station. Your biggest problem will be navigating your way around. If your GPS loses lock due to the shadowing of our modern day satellites by the maze of medieval buildings that is Rome central, a paper map will still do the trick. The other main problem is having available a safe overnight parking spot for your steeds - that needs to be resolved before renting.

There are a few off road bike paths to make use of. Look up "Open Cycle Map" on the net and all is revealed. Take a ride up the Tiber bike path from Circo Massimo past the little river island and beyond. Some distance further north, a connecting bike path takes you to the park at Villa Borghese. Great views over Rome and easy access to the Spanish Steps and the Trevi fountain on the loop home. Be prepared for stairs to access the path along the Tiber.

A bike path towards the south, takes you out into the burbs to see the real Rome. At the most southern end of the bike path you ride past a more contemporary Roman suburb: "EUR". It was originally designed to host the "World Fair" with EUR roughly translating as the "Exposition Universal at Rome". WWII put an end to that idea. EUR contains striking fascist architecture fashioned by Mussolini's followers and is worth a look. The return trip up the Tiber once again takes you past the typical multi-story residential apartments that make up today's Rome. Further along the path you pass by the location of the great flea market

"Porta Portese" held every Sunday but that's definitely a day out in itself. Back in the old mediaeval area of Rome, it's interesting to reflect on the contrast between the area frequented by the tourists and Rome's modern day reality.

Navigating around Rome can be a bit tricky, so you may prefer a guided tour. There's a couple available from "Top Bike rental & tours" with their premises located just to the north of the Colosseum. They run a great ride that visits the Catacombs and beyond - they organise the tickets. After the Catacombs, the mainly off-road ride continues further south along the ancient Via Appia (Appian Way) passing by parkland and large houses rented out for wedding parties and it's rumored the occasional Bunga Bunga party. The ride returns via the Parco degli Acquedotti (Aqueduct park) just 8km from the city center - after a longish day there is a stop at an old farm building where you can try some of the cheese made there and imbibe a bottle or so of red - it's much like the Collingwood Children's Farm and Abbotsford Convent area but some hundreds of years older. The tour costs a bit, but the guide is knowledgeable and the bikes are good quality mountain bikes with a full set of gears that handle the occasional cobblestoned sections of path rather well. It's very relaxing not having to navigate and after a hectic Rome, the more serene areas traversed make for a magnificent day out.

Shorter trips around the main tourist areas or the flea market mentioned earlier are well worth the effort. Helmets are optional. Riding on the footpath is not allowed, however the Romans tend to be highly pragmatic or perhaps have just given up; the high urban density results in the tolerance of many weird and wonderful behaviors. One notable exception is the forecourt of St Paul's, where irate priests will make an effort to encourage you to be more saintly, "walk your bike please, you may run over the children" - it gets lost in the translation - do you run them over or not?

The motorised traffic on the main roads is a little chaotic but tends to be patient with bike riders unlike here in Melbourne. Road users need to cooperate with each other, otherwise nobody makes any progress. One still needs to be very careful but not totally paranoid. Consequently, a short road ride up to Garibaldi's statue above the Botanical Gardens - don't bother visiting the latter - affords fantastic views over ancient Rome and is worth the effort.

And so do the Romans really ride bikes? Yes they do. You will see mums and dads taking the kids to school together with the family mutt, and many office workers in their suits or dresses pedaling along at a relaxed pace with a laptop bouncing about in the front basket.

And as is always the case, the Romans' sartorial expertise is simultaneously on display. They all look great on a bike and so can you.

John Parker

Trail Notes

New Path at Grace Park

Another useful piece of bicycle infrastructure has been implemented by City of Boroondara: this time it is a new path along the north side of Grace Park Tennis Club, linking the park and the Hawthorn Football Ground car park. This provides a safer alternative for cyclists, as Hilda Crescent is usually choc-a-block with parked cars both sides of the street. The Linda Crescent wing of the football ground is similarly afflicted by parked cars. An off road path is required here to connect through to Glenferrie Road. And then we have the nucleus of an Eastern Rail Trail!

Thanks to Malcolm Faul for this news

Events

Carbon Tax Forum

Come along to the next Lighter Footprints Forum aimed at explaining the carbon tax and its implications for our community.

Speakers include:

Anna Burke, Federal Member for Chisholm (ALP) . Tim Costello, CEO World Vision . Alan Pears, RMIT professor and energy efficiency expert.

Where: Hawthorn Town Hall, Chandelier Room, 360 Burwood Rd Hawthorn.

When: 7.30pm Wednesday, 10 August

Cost: Entry by donation

For details see: <http://www.lighterfootprints.org>

Headride

The [Headride](#) is a charity ride organised to benefit the Neurosurgical Department of the Alfred Hospital. We are aiming to raise \$50,000 to support the purchase of a Cappabianca Tumour Resector used to remove tumours originating from the pituitary gland.

The ride will be starting on October 22nd in Adelaide and conclude at the Alfred Hospital in Mebourne eight days later on the 29th. The route follows the coastline and is approximately 1,000kms.

Margi Noonan, the organiser of the ride, is a keen cyclist who required the services of the Neurosurgical Department at the Alfred Hospital in December 2009. Margi required an urgent craniotomy after a nasty accident on the indoor cycling track at Darebin. Fortunately the procedure was a success and Margi is motivated to “repay & support” the nursing & medical staff who helped provide her a second chance at life.

This is a wonderful good news story supporting a worthy cause. It was an easy decision for me to get on board when Margi asked. I am hoping you too will get on board by making a tax deductible donation via the donation page on the [Headride](#) web site.

Thank you for your support

David Anderson

Ride to Worship Week

For the planet, the poor and your health, join in Ride to Worship Week 2011

The second annual Ride to Worship Week runs from Friday 7th to Thursday 13th October 2011. To join in the fun, all you need to do is to cycle, walk, or use another form of environmentally friendly transport to get to and from your place of worship or spiritual observances (church, temple, synagogue, mosque etc). You can join in as an individual, a family, or as a whole worship group or faith community. Check out the Ride to Worship Week clip, read more about Ride to Worship Week, and register your participation at www.arrcc.org.au/ride-to-worship-week-2011. Ride to Worship Week is an initiative of the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC).

General News

Darebin –Yarra Link – New Campaign Web Site

Now is the time to show your support for the long awaited Darebin Yarra link. Planning for the final stage of the link is well advanced but the State Government is yet to agree to fund it. The Community Coalition for the link have set up a web site to provide information about the link and their campaign for it, and most importantly to gather community support. Have a look at the site, which is still in the developmental stage, and post your comments on how you would use the link to the site and/or to the linked Facebook page. You can find it at <http://www.darebinyarralink.org/>

Boroondara News

Possible Incorporation of Boroondara Bicycle Users Group

As you will see in our meeting minutes we have decided to defer a decision on incorporation until we have put the membership of the BUG on a more formal footing and until we have a president. Both of these developments are pre-conditions for incorporation and it may take a few months before they come to pass.

Minutes of Boroondara BUG Meeting, Monday 14th July 2011

Elgin Inn, Hawthorn

Attendance and Apologies

Present: Gordon Macmillan, Julia Blunden, Graeme Stone, Malcolm Faul, Ken Morrison, (Chair), John Parker, Heather Hall, Alistair McDonald (Yarra Bicycle Strategy Project Manager)

Apologies: Linda Rohrs, Hedley Finger, David Leong, Glennys Jones, David Leong, Betty Weeks

Correspondence:

In

- Hays Paddock Plan: Draft Report and accompanying letter from Mark Dornau, Manager Parks and Gardens
- Email from Les French re sundry matters. Julia B questioned how such emails to the BUG's gmail address were to be dealt with. It was decided that where appropriate issues should be listed as agenda items for the next BAC meeting, the sender to be informed of this and of any other relevant matters. **Julia B and Graeme S**, as the present recipients of the gmail need to copy each other into any correspondence with the sender. In case of uncertainty such emails should be referred to the wider group

Out

- BUG submission re proposed local law spelling out need to specifically include cycling infrastructure in assets to be restored by developers. (Glennys J)
- BUG Submission re Hays Paddock Plan: Draft Report. (Julia B)

Matters Arising:

1. **Golfers Choice and Urban Bush Path.** As John P had been overseas he had nothing new to report. John noted that as the Warrigal Rd underpass is now unofficially open this needs to be featured on the BBUG web site. **Julia B** agreed to do this, and to include details of the official opening on Tuesday 9th August at 2.30pm.
2. **East – West link:** Peter C was not present and had not sent a report.
3. **Stockland Tooronga Village Development:** Graeme S has been in communication with Stockland and has been reassured that the link on the east side of Tooronga Rd will be reinstated when the showroom goes. Graeme observed that there is a narrow path there now that if sealed could provide a link, albeit substandard, except for a hoarding that is currently blocking it.
4. **Gasworks Site Redevelopment:** Excavation is currently in progress. At the June BAC meeting Jim Hondrakis appeared confident that the Gardiners Creek Trail will remain on its current alignment and will be able to be widened to bring it up to the same standard as the rest of the trail on the Boroondara side.
5. **Belford Rd:** At the June BAC meeting Jim Hondrakis reported that an underpass at the freeway level is the preferred option, but that he is still awaiting comments from VicRoads.
6. **Possible Formation of Stonnington BUG:** Hedley F was not present at the meeting but had indicated by email that he is still working on this.
7. **Darebin – Yarra Link:** Julia B reported that the Community Coalition is in the process of creating a web site to publicise the link and the need for the Baillieu government to fund its completion. The site will include a Facebook page to collect statements from supporters detailing how they will use the link when it is complete.
8. **Incorporation:** Before we take a vote on incorporation there are some preconditions that need to be fulfilled, assuming that we accept the model rules which is the cheaper option. Firstly we need a President, whose role is mainly to chair meetings. No-one has yet offered to assume this role, although we do have a Secretary and Treasurer. It is also necessary to have clearer criteria for membership than currently exist.

It was agreed that as a preliminary measure we will formalize and generally tidy up BBUG's membership. Malcolm F, our new treasurer and membership secretary, agreed to this. We agreed on a new fee of \$15 for 5 years' membership. (Note that this does not conform to the model rules which specify annual membership.) There will be three options for payment: cash, cheque, or bank transfer. In the case of a bank transfer the member should email Malcolm to alert him. All payments will be acknowledged by email. Members will need to provide name, address, phone number and email address which will be recorded in a membership register. It was suggested that an online form should be set up allowing this information to be filled in and then emailed to Malcolm. **John P** agreed to look at setting this system up.

9. **Meeting with Cr Jack Wegman:** Cr Wegman is unavailable on BUG meeting nights due to another commitment. Peter C, Glennys J, John P and Julia B have all indicated their willingness to attend such a meeting. **Julia B will circulate some suggested times to interested parties.**

New Business

1. **Ride to Work Day Community Breakfast:** Glennys J, John P and Graeme S will meet July with Anna Haygreen and Chris Hui at Provisions Café in Camberwell Rd at 2pm on Monday 18th to discuss the Boroondara community breakfast. The suggestion was made that it would be preferable if the breakfast could be located where it would be visible from Glenferrie Rd rather than near the velodrome as proposed.
2. **Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting, Friday 17th June:** Ken M requested a report on the BAC meeting. Unfortunately none of those present had a copy of the minutes. (On investigation I discovered that the minutes are not yet on the Council web site. I recall that I received draft minutes from Anna Haygreen but cannot find these in my email. I remember that I sent a correction which Anna acknowledged, but I have not received a new version. Has anyone got a copy they can send Ken?)
3. **Problem Chicane in Greythorn Rd at the Crest (can you remind me where exactly Ken?):** Ken M reported that as yet nothing has been done to resolve this problem. The simple solution would be to sign the adjacent footpath as a shared path so that cyclists can legally move onto it until over the crest. It was agreed that this should be added to the list of problem chicanes. It was also agreed that proposed traffic calming devices should be a permanent item on the BAC agenda as the needs of cyclists are sometimes overlooked when such devices are installed.
4. **Missing Pram Ramp Princess St North:** Ken M reported that there is still no pram ramp at the southern end of Princess St North linking it to the Outer Circle Trail, thus forcing cyclists to cross a bluestone kerb. It was agreed that this should be added to Chris Hui's list of needed pram ramps.
5. **Financial Report:** Malcolm F circulated a financial statement showing that the BUG currently has a bank balance approaching \$3,000. Most of our income derives from Bicycle Victoria's bike counts and we have little in the way of expenditure.
6. **Next meeting:** Thursday 11th 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 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