

BOROONDARA

Bicycle Users Group

Newsletter September 2011

Boroondara BUG meetings are normally held on the 2nd Thursday of each month except January. Our next meeting is on Thursday 8th September. It will be held in the function room at the **Glenferrie Hotel**, 324 Burwood Rd, Hawthorn (Melway 45 D10). **Note the temporary change of venue.** 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

Loirelife

When I think of the Loire Valley now, it is not the magnificent array of chateaux or even the wide lazy river that I see in my mind's eye, but gently undulating terrain with fields of wheat and vineyards bordered by red, remembrance day poppies, leafy forests, and sleepy villages, all criss-crossed by narrow but very serviceable roads almost entirely bereft of motor traffic. In other words, cyclist heaven.

Alison and John, like many other English people, have taken advantage of the decline in population in this very charming part of the French countryside to invest in property. They have turned the erstwhile farmhouse of Gue de Ray, and its barn, into a very comfortable and attractive base camp for those who wish to explore the Loire Valley whether by bike or car, or even just to lounge about and enjoy its tranquillity. It was only after they had settled in the area that they developed a taste for cycling themselves and realised just what they had to offer visiting cyclists in particular.

On the recommendation of friends who had enjoyed Alison and John's hospitality the previous year, Ralph and I booked in for the mid-May 'Loire Valley Discovery' cycling holiday. Our five sunny spring days of varied and well-planned rides, followed by carefully prepared four-course dinners, eaten out of doors in the delightfully long, balmy evenings, were some of the most enjoyable I have spent anywhere.

Gue de Ray can accommodate up to eight people in four different areas each with its own bathroom. There are several different indoor and outdoor sitting areas, as well as indoor and outdoor eating areas. There's a laundry and an outdoor clothesline for use by guests. In the ample grounds, there's also a hot tub, a swimming pool which was quite warm enough to use in May, and a large kitchen garden which supplies some of the vegetables and fruit for meals.

There were only six guests during our stay, the others being two women from Tasmania and a Canadian couple. We were a fairly compatible group and rode together most of the time, though there is certainly no compulsion to do so.

John had planned one or two rides for each of our five days, and I got the impression that he is always fine-tuning these to improve them for each set of guests. Each evening he distributed sets of maps and written instructions, and ran through the route, pointing out any tricky navigational issues so that we would hopefully not go too far astray. Various options to shorten or lengthen rides or to visit different attractions were built in to the instructions. Bikes with handlebar bags, and helmets if required, were supplied for a small additional charge. Basic puncture repair kits were also supplied, but it was reassuring to know that rescue was always an option in case of major bike breakdown or navigational problems.

Our first ride was very quiet and rural taking in forests and lakes to the north of Gue de Ray. An early thrill was to see two deer, surprised while feeding in a field, springing across the road just ahead of us to the safety of the forest. On the last leg of this ride we visited the Chateau de Lathan, notable mainly for its gardens and park which occupy 56 hectares and have some interesting features including a grand canal, and an underground passage. As we were still getting accustomed to the style of the maps and written instructions, not to mention the French system of road signage, and everyone was taking photos at every remotely picturesque spot, this ride proceeded at a slow pace and we were very late returning for the delicious home-cooked lunch that Alison had provided. Only some of the group took advantage of the shorter ride John had planned for the afternoon.

Our destination on day two was Bourgeuil to the southeast, and as we needed to get there early, before the market closed, John led on the somewhat complicated outward route. Alison was there to meet us and to take John and her bulging shopping bags home in the car. After a turn around the market and lunch at a café overlooking it, we headed off to the Cave de Bourgeuil. Here we visited a very atmospheric underground museum of historic wine-making equipment and enjoyed a wine tasting. All the wines enjoyed the AOC (controlled designation of origin) 'Bourgeuil', and all, with the exception of one white made from Chenin Blanc, were reds made from Cabernet Franc grapes grown to very precise specifications, the very subtle differences in flavour being entirely due to the different soils in which the grapes were grown. Our ride home took us up a steep, but mercifully not too high escarpment and through more forests, where I had my second encounter with wild life – this time a large viper crossing the road just in front of me.

Day three saw us heading southeast down to the Loire itself for the first time. We reached Langeais in time for morning coffee. While some decided to visit the late mediaeval chateau here others opted to cross the river and continue eastwards along the riverside cycle route to Villandry to explore the chateau, built during the Renaissance, and its magnificent and very elaborate gardens. For more energetic riders than any in our group there were also the options of riding on to Azay le Rideau and even the Chateau D'Usse, although you'd need to be exceptionally speedy to actually visit all these chateaux on the one day by bike. Late in the afternoon we had a rendez-vous with John back at Langeais, where the bikes were loaded onto the trailer and we rode back up to Gue de Ray the easy way, in the people mover.

After our exertions the previous day we were ready for a lazy day, which was just what John had planned. Our next destination was the not too distant Café de la Gare in Linieres Bouton, which offers a bargain-priced Menu Ouvrier (workman's lunch), one of several available in the area. Four courses are provided for a set price of €12. A lavish buffet of hors d'oeuvres is followed by a plate of meat stew with vegetables – there's a choice of meats – then there's a selection of many excellent cheeses, and finally a variety of amply proportioned deserts can be selected from a glass cabinet. Generous quantities of wine and cider are supplied to accompany the food. John and Alison joined us for lunch, as our guests for once, and rode back with us. John recalled having to fetch the car to transport guests who had overindulged on occasion, but all of us managed the ride home, albeit at a sedate pace. Two of the group took up John's suggestion for an afternoon ride to a neighbouring chateau at Gizeux but the rest of us opted for less strenuous activities.

Our last day saw us heading south down to the Loire once again, this time crossing the river at Varennes sur Loire and heading west to Saumur. Along the way we deviated slightly to visit the extraordinarily picturesque village of Candès St Martin, and one of our group left us to visit Fontrevaud Abbey to the south. The bank of the Loire here is honeycombed with troglodyte dwellings, carved into the limestone cliffs, and we stopped for lunch in a troglodyte café with a terrace overlooking the river. There were two cycle routes for the last leg to Saumur – one alongside the river and another higher up. We chose the latter which wound its way through vineyards providing extensive views across the valley, and brought us to the rear entrance of the chateau at Saumur. There was time to explore as much of the chateau as was open at the time, some parts being off limits due to renovations, and the town and its bars, before another rendez-vous with John and the people and bike mover.

In the past I have never favoured bed and breakfast establishments or farm stays as an accommodation option, but Gue de Ray has certainly given me cause to re-think this prejudice. Conversations over dinner with our hosts and fellow guests, accompanied by generous quantities of French wine, were certainly as much a part of the enjoyment of this stay as the riding and sightseeing. John and Alison had many interesting tales to tell of their experiences in setting up *Loirelife* and their dealings with the locals. They even put on a slide show at our request, of photos of the renovation process – a slightly more modest version of *Grand Designs*. As outsiders who had lived in France for a number of years they provided a fascinating window into another culture, rather more different than I had previously realised from our own.

For more information see <http://www.loirelifecycling.com/>

Julia Blunden

Opinion

I wish to comment on the fantastic support for Cadel Evans at Fed Square on August 12th. I was amongst the 30,000 or so people there and despite not seeing Cadel in the flesh (thank goodness for the extra screens around the square), it was a great atmosphere amongst like-minded cyclists and Tour de France aficionados.

Congratulations to the Melbourne cycling community for the demonstration of their support for Cadel and Australian cycling. I look forward to the new Australian cycling team, GreenEDGE, being successful in their bid for UCI World Tour licensed team status.

The increased profile surrounding these events can only be beneficial to the cycling community in general.

Ian Scott

Trail Notes

Federation Trail

The section of the Federation Trail between Leakes Rd and Fitzgerald Rd has been rebuilt in concrete. It's wide, line marked, and they've even got the joints right. Hooray! Wouldn't it be wonderful if the entire trail could be brought up to this splendid standard?

The bad news is that the trail still ends in the middle of nowhere. Fairly major works are involved in completing the proposed link to the Maribyrnong Trail. However as an interim measure, for a more modest outlay, the path could be extended from where it currently ends, to the corner of Watson St and Truman St at Edwards Reserve (Melway 41 G12), on the west side of the train line. This would give access to the rail crossing at Brunel St and Moresby St (red cross). Cyclists could continue to the Bay Trail via Hudsons St, crossing the second rail line at Spotswood Station. The path would be a low key informal access path rather than a fully blown solution.

Hays Paddock Link

Those who use the Hays Paddock- Stradbroke Park link between the Yarra and Koonung Creek Trails and the Anniversary Trail will be delighted with the new timber bridge over Crystal Creek at the southeast corner of Hays Paddock. This bridge eliminates a squeeze point that was both dangerous and frustrating. Along with the newish pedestrian crossing at Kilby Rd this bridge marks a very significant step towards making this link work well both for cyclists and long-distance walkers.

Events

Ride the Trail in a Day – Saturday October 1.

Ride 100, 60 or 30 km along the East Gippsland Rail Trail and discover friendly villages, boutique beer, sculptured nudes and serene forest.

We'll provide delicious lunch, water and check points on route, sag wagon and return transport for you and your bike at the end of your ride.

LIMITED TO ONLY 250 RIDERS!

Find out more, and how to register at

http://www.eastgippslandrailtrail.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=102&Itemid=72

This is a not for profit event to promote introduce cyclists to Victorias best kept cycling secret.

Gil Penalosa, Public Forum - Tuesday 11 October

Internationally renowned liveable city advisor and social marketing strategist, Gil Penalosa is passionate about creating cities for people. Hoping to improve the quality of life for all residents, Gil shares his knowledge and experience from around the world in the design and management of great parks, public spaces, and walking and cycling infrastructure.

Venue: Fitzroy Town Hall, Main Hall, Napier Street, Fitzroy.

Date: Tuesday 11 October, 2011

Time: 7.00 pm

Free entry

Gil's presentations draw on his experience and successes in both the private and public sector. As former Commissioner of Parks, Sport and Recreation for the City of Bogotá, Colombia, Gil successfully led the design and development of over 200 parks of which Simón Bolívar, a 360 hectare park is the best known. Here they created the Summer Festival, with over 100 events in 10 days and more than 3 million people attending, making it the main recreational and cultural event in the country.

Gil's team also initiated the "new Ciclovía"—car-free Sundays— today an internationally recognised program which sees over 1.3 million people walk, run, skate and bike along 121 kilometres of Bogotá's city roads. Gil also works as Senior Consultant for the renowned Danish firm Gehl Architects and he serves on the Boards of Directors of Ciclovías of the Americas, and City Parks Alliance, USA.

Cambodian Kids Foundation Ride for Bikes

This is the second year of the Ride, last year we raised \$18,500 from registrations and this year we hope to raise \$50,000 from registrations and sponsored riders.

Distances: 60KM - 95KM - 110KM

Where: The ride is run in the Macedon Ranges which offers beautiful country road cycling close to Melbourne. Highlights are Hanging Rock and the Memorial Cross Mt Macedon.

When: Sunday 13th November.

Full details are available on our website www.rideforbikes.org.au

If you go to the website it tells the story that the riders ride their bikes so that we can buy bikes for the children to get to school and remaining funds go to ongoing educational costs. There are also pics of last year's event and the bikes that were purchased.

Back on your bike: beginners bike skills course

Starts: Sunday 13 November at 09:00 am

Ends: Sunday 13 November at 01:00 pm

Location: Boroondara Council's Camberwell office car park, 8 Inglesby Road, Camberwell

Contact: Sustainable Transport Officer on 9278 4515

Returning to riding or just a recreational rider? Then our beginners basic bike skills course is for you!

Refresh your skills and gain confidence to get back on your bike with this practical half day course for residents older than 12 years.

The course covers:

- basic bike handling skills
- choosing, setting up and adjusting a bike
- safety checks
- starting and stopping
- breaking and using gears effectively
- turning and balance.
-

Morning tea will be provided. Bookings are essential and places are limited.

What to bring: you will need your own bicycle in good working order and an Australian Standards approved helmet.

What to wear: comfortable, casual clothing and closed toe, secure footwear.

Help Needed

Cyclists Survey for New Rail Trail

It is anticipated that the Goulburn River High Country Rail Trail, one of the longest rail trails in Australia, will open in early December 2011. I am undertaking a survey of cyclists who may use the trail. The results will be used to inform local tourism operators about cyclists' needs.

The ten minute survey will be conducted from early September and will conclude 31 October 2011. The survey can be accessed at the link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/goulburn-river-high-country-rail-trail>

Darren McClelland
Enjoy Inspire Consulting Pty Ltd

Boroondara News

Minutes of Boroondara BUG Meeting, Monday 11th August 2011

Elgin Inn, Hawthorn

Attendance and Apologies

Present: Gordon Macmillan, Julia Blunden, Graeme Stone, John Parker, Heather Hall, Peter Campbell (Chair), Alister Huth, David Leong, Graham Ellis

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

Correspondence:

In

Follow –up email from Les French re issues on Yarra Trail at Belford Rd etc
Email from David Mann re access to Tooronga Village on east side of Tooronga Rd

Out

Matters Arising:

1. **Warrigal Road Shared Path.** John P reported that he had taken the opportunity at the opening of the Warrigal Rd underpass to lobby various councilors and politicians about this.
2. **East – West link:** Peter C reported that Greens MLC Greg Barber has put some questions about this on notice at State Parliament but these have not yet been answered. **Peter** indicated that he is still working on a leaflet and will have this ready in time for Ride to Work Day, October 12th.
3. **Stockland Tooronga Village Development:** **Graeme S** will do a site inspection and follow up with Coles BUG. **Glennys J** may follow up with *Progress Leader*.
4. **Gasworks Site Redevelopment:** Excavation is still in progress.
5. **Belford Rd Underpass:** Jim Hondrakis is still awaiting comments from VicRoads. It was noted that the mooted changes to the Eastern Fwy could pose problems for this.
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 the Community Coalition has created a web site to publicise the link and the need for the Baillieu government to fund its completion. The site includes a page to collect statements from supporters detailing how they will use the link when it's complete. **BUG members** are urged to post comments in support of the link, either to the web page or to the linked Facebook page or both. John P mentioned an article in the *Northcote Leader* in which Robin Gallagher is quoted saying the project is on track.
8. **New Membership Rules:** Malcolm F was not present but had reported that he is yet to act on setting up a direct funds transfer system. It was suggested that a Paypal account could be set up.
9. **Meeting with Cr Jack Wegman:** It was agreed to leave this meeting for the present.

10. Ride to Work Day Community Breakfast: Glennys J and John P met with Anna Haygreen and Chris Hui to discuss the Boroondara community breakfast. This will be located on the Gardiners Creek Trail near the velodrome. As much larger numbers are expected at this location the refreshments on offer will be simpler. It was agreed that this will be an opportunity for the BUG to make contact with a large number of local cyclists and we need to have material about the BUG and its projects prepared to distribute.

New Business

1. **Warrigal Road Underpass Opening:** It was agreed that a letter of thanks should be sent to the various mayors, CEOs and politicians who were present at this opening. This is a good way of alerting them to our appreciation of new cycle infrastructure and also highlighting the existence of the BUG. **Julia B** agreed to write the letter.
2. **Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting, Friday 16th September:** Hopefully John P and Glennys J will attend this. **Julia B** will forward agenda items but will not be available to attend the meeting. Ideally at least three members should attend. It was suggested that we compile a list of standing items to be listed on agendas for BAC meetings. This list includes:

East-West link

Darebin-Yarra link

Belford Rd Underpass

Improvements to Yarra Trail between Chandler Hwy and Pipe Bridge

Solway Bridge

The Gasworks site redevelopment

Toroonga Village east side access

HA Smith Reserve Bridge

Missing link in Anniversary Trail at Camberwell High

Anniversary Trail at High St and Toorak Rd

10 worst chicanes

Additional agenda items for the next meeting include

Clark St Bridge

Role of BAC – can we see plans for projects such as the Solway Bridge before these go to tender? If this is not possible at a formal BAC meeting can email be used?

Link from Wellington St bike lane to Stevenson St, Kew – is this to be via VicRoads car park or via the footpath? When will it be marked?

3. **Agenda Items for Next Combined BUGs meeting, Wednesday 21st September:** Items suggested include:
Victorian Bicycle Strategy – revision needed to reduce emphasis on 10km radius. Not all cycle commuters are heading for the city and riding to school is just as important as cycle commuting
Legislation needed to change driver attitudes to cyclists. Need to look to Northern Europe for ideas
Legislation needed re use of railway easements and re future grade separation plans for level crossings at railway lines which must make better provision for cyclists
Julia B agreed to attach the minutes of the last meeting to the call for agenda items to be sent out
4. **Clark St Bridge:** It was noted that this has been announced several times now. It was agreed that this should go on the agenda for the next BAC meeting.
5. **Victorian Environment Assessment Council:** The report into issues including the use of Crown Land is now out and available on the web. John P wrote a submission on behalf of the BUG pointing out the importance of retaining public land to maximise permeability by cyclists and pedestrians, and this is quoted in the report.
6. **Next meeting:** Thursday 8th September

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