

BOROONDARA

Bicycle Users Group

Newsletter February 2011

Boroondara BUG meetings are normally held on the 2nd Thursday of each month except January. Our next meeting is on Thursday 10th February. 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 very occasional 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

A Wintry Weekend in Warrnambool and Port Fairy

Having suffered extreme heat in 2009, when I began planning my 2010 Cup weekend bike tour back in April, I decided that a cool, coastal destination would be the best option. The Warrnambool – Port Fairy Rail Trail was due to open later in the year, and with a bit of luck we'd be amongst the first to ride it.

Like those of many other prospective holiday makers, my heart sank as the forecast for the weekend in question went from bad to worse to absolutely disastrous. However with nineteen people organised to come, it was easier to go ahead than open negotiations on cancellation.

Those of us travelling by train arrived at Southern Cross early on the Saturday morning in order to store our bikes in the D-van I had booked. The D-van did not eventuate but there was a power van with plenty of room for bikes. This was just as well since there were 13 of us and quite a few other cyclists travelling that morning. In fact by the time we left Geelong there must have been close to 30 bikes on board. I had an email confirming my bookings of the D-van for both our outward and return journeys which the V/Line staffer checking our tickets examined with great interest. I hoped that the message might get through for our Tuesday return trip.

As the train headed west the weather didn't look too bad at first and we felt hopeful that the forecasters had been unduly pessimistic. However by the time we reached Warrnambool rain appeared to have set in. Despite offers of lifts from two of our drivers all 13 train travellers and one other opted to ride from Warrnambool, via Koroit, to Port Fairy, our destination for the day. I understood that the section of the rail trail from Warrnambool to Koroit was not yet open so we took a route along back roads for our first leg. The rain thankfully eased and we arrived only a little damp at Koroit, where a bakery cum gallery provided a welcome refuge from the elements.

From here we could ride the new rail trail all the way to Port Fairy. It began very promisingly with smooth bitumen but soon became unsealed. However the surface is generally quite firm and well drained, and in spite of the wet conditions we encountered little in the way of mud. It's quite a pretty trail, passing through farmland and some treed sections, and much of

the way we were riding gently downhill which is always a treat. Thanks to a fortuitous meeting with a member of the committee soon to take over management of the trail, we learned that the trail from Koroit to Warrnambool was in fact mostly quite rideable with only one section at the Warrnambool end, from Pennington, still to be completed. We noted that this would be an option for our return journey two days hence.

We arrived at Port Fairy damp but thankfully not soaked and dispersed to our various accommodation options. About half of us were staying at the Youth Hostel which turned out to be very satisfactory. It's centrally located and has a variety of room types. Unfortunately a bush walking group had beaten me to the single and double rooms even though I booked six months ahead, so most of our couples stayed elsewhere. Dinner on Saturday night was at the Victoria Hotel, which was voted a very suitable choice.

Sunday was to be the bleakest day of the long weekend, with rain, strong winds and temperatures even lower than those forecast, so that one of us at least had to scour the shops for an extra layer of clothing. Only one hardy soul tackled the rather comfortless loop ride I had planned for this day. Most of us opted to walk instead, and stay within range of cafes and bakeries. A historic town walk was a bit of a flop as it was just too cold to stand admiring buildings. A brisk walk around the port and coast proved more successful, as did a visit to the excellent museum in the cosy old courthouse. Some but not all of us ended the day with a fish and chip dinner at Wisharts on the Wharf, which offers a pleasing view of the port and very large serves of seafood.

Thankfully Monday was a little milder and 16 of the group, all but the drivers, chose to ride back to Warrnambool. We started out together riding between the Belfast Lough and the coast, a very picturesque route even in the still wintry conditions. However once we reached the highway we split into two parties, one intending to stay on road and ride around the rim of Tower Hill while the other headed back to the rail trail. We all met up for lunch in the bakery at Koroit, before splitting up once again. A small, very energetic party opted to return to Tower Hill and ride down to the Visitor Centre there and do some walking.

The majority tackled the as yet officially unopened section of the rail trail. This turned out to be similar in quality to the Koroit – Port Fairy leg, though there were a few gates to be opened and closed and we did suffer a couple of punctures. As we approached the Princes Hwy the path appeared to end at a T-junction, where a length of garden twine separated us from an unsealed road along which a herd of dairy cattle was passing. There was no indication of which way, if any, the trail continued. Some of the group returned the way we had come to the nearest road, quite some distance back. Others decided to brave garden twine and cow poo and explore further, and soon discovered the underpass leading to the other side of the highway a little to our right. After a longish wait for the others we were able to follow the trail for several more kilometres, much of this distance along a bitumen shoulder fenced off from the road, an arrangement that none of us had encountered before.

Eventually we found ourselves back on the highway which we followed for the last few kilometres to Warrnambool. Again our group was divided, this time between the Beach Backpackers near Lake Pertobe and motel accommodation. Most of us now opted to relax indoors until dinner time but a hardy few, inspired by the excellent free maps supplied at the backpackers, headed off to explore some of Warrnambool's off-road paths. One of these was the Warrnambool end of the rail trail, ready to be connected up once the missing link is completed. We all met up for dinner at Bojangles, an Italian style restaurant which I highly recommend to anyone finding themselves in Warrnambool at mealtime.

The weather remained threatening on Tuesday but most of the group headed off on the 30km day ride I had planned to Hopkins Falls. A sharp shower soon after we started led one rider to change her mind and head for the station and the midday train. But those who persisted were rewarded with generally favourable conditions. The store at Wangoom, though booked out for lunch, was able to supply very satisfactory morning tea fare. Hopkins Falls, a short but very wide waterfall, was looking most impressive after all the recent rain. Two riders took up the challenge of riding an extra leg around Framlingham Forest, thus doubling the length of their ride. The return to Warrnambool proved somewhat more taxing than the outward ride due to a now quite brisk headwind, but again we escaped being drenched.

After a late lunch in town most of us headed back to our lodgings to collect our gear. I was keen to get to the station early to check whether the D-van would appear this time. It did, but was backed off the platform by the driver, who clearly was unaware of its purpose. Only my insistence that 12 bikes needed to be accommodated led to its being brought back within our reach. Apart from that small glitch the return journey went smoothly. However we were glad to have brought our own food supplies as those on the train were soon seriously depleted.

Despite the very much less than ideal conditions, the weekend was far from being the complete disaster I feared. My long-held view that it is almost always better to press ahead with a planned ride had been reinforced once again. But as for the ideal location for a Cup weekend bike tour – it's anybody's guess! For further information on the Warrnambool – Port Fairy Rail Trail see <http://www.railtrails.org.au/states/trails.php3?action=trail&trail=39>

Julia Blunden

Trail Notes

Ring Road Path Realignment, Airport West

Due to poor weather conditions experienced in December 2010, works were rescheduled to realign approximately 350m of the Shared User Path situated on the south side of the M80 Ring Road adjacent to Airport Drive, Keilor Park. The realignment moves the SUP approximately six metres to the south, parallel to the existing path. These works are now due to commence on Tuesday 11 January and will take approximately two weeks to complete.

Due to access restrictions, the only way we can undertake the works is for our trucks to travel via the path itself. Trucks will access the site via the shared user path and this section of the network will be shared with pedestrians and cyclists. Spotters will be onsite to manage the intermittent truck movements and will give pedestrians / cyclists priority. If our team experience delays due to bad weather, we may need to extend our works timeframe. We will let you know if this occurs. We will maintain the path regularly during the works, which will include regular path sweeping.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Maria Williams | Community Relations Officer, M80 Ring Road Upgrade Inquiry Line | 1300 297 090; Email | community@tullasymdney.com.au

Maribyrnong River Trail Works

Works are to be undertaken on the Maribyrnong Trail within the City of Maribyrnong which will commence next Monday 07 February and continue for approximately 1 week, subject to weather conditions. The works are dispersed in a number of locations. Generally pedestrians and cyclists will be directed to dismount, walk around the work zone, and return to the path to continue riding.

The exception to this arrangement is Site 3, on the northern side of the Stockbridge (on the western side of the river) where the southern concrete trail (from Footscray and Williamstown) meets the asphalt pathway leading up to the Stockbridge. Due to the constrained space in this location, the path will be closed for approximately 3 days from Tuesday 8th February, and pedestrians and cyclists are to be diverted via the Stockbridge, to the existing shared path on the eastern side of river, Footscray Road shared path, Shepherd's Bridge, Napier Street, Maribyrnong Street to the Maribyrnong Trail. The trail closure will be kept to a minimum and opened up for traffic as soon as possible.

Please contact Stuart Hale, Open Space Coordinator, City of Maribyrnong on 0413-938 905 with any queries.

Thanks to Frank Kinnersley for passing on this message

Events

Free bike training courses for adults in Boroondara

Want to ride a bike but feel worried about traffic? Our free courses will help build your skills and confidence in a supportive environment.

All courses have small groups of 6 people or less and are facilitated by Bikes@Work.

Are you 50 or over? Join our over 50s course to refresh your skills and get back on the bike.

The practical courses include on road riding in the local area and cover:

- avoiding hazards on the roads
- setting-up your bike and safety checks
- route planning
- visibility and intersections
- changing lanes, turning and roundabouts
- scanning, signaling and emergency stopping.

General course: 10am to 3pm, Sunday 20 March

Over 50s course: 10am to 3pm, Sunday 27 March

For bookings: phone 9278 4542 or email anna.haygreen@boroondara.vic.gov.au

For Sale

Birdy Folding Bike

Good home wanted for Orange Birdy folding bike. Purchased November 2006 but very little used since I moved more than 3 years ago. Perfect condition. Comes with very good front panniers (Ortlieb) plus cover. Lives at West Brunswick. What offers? Rosemary West: phone: 97120964 or email: rosemary.west@bigpond.com

Reviews

Not one, but two new cycling magazines appeared on the scene late in 2010. Both are published in Melbourne.

the wheeler: seriously aficionado

The first issue of *the wheeler* is dated 09/10. There are to be 4 issues per year, and the subscription cost is \$28.00.

It's a full-colour, glossy magazine and the emphasis is very much on racing and the glamour side of cycling. To be fair there are also some quirkier articles including one about bike polo and another about ABC Radio's Emma Ayres who took her cello on *Around the Bay in a Day* and played Bach during rest stops. There's also an excellent piece on what Melbourne needs to do to normalise cycling a la Copenhagen. But, at least in this first issue, you'll look in vain for any mention of BUGs, or of clubs that cater for older, recreational riders.

For more information see: <http://thewheeler.com.au>

Treadlie Magazine

The first issue is dated 17th December. The publisher is Green Press, Ripponlea Vic. This magazine is Australia-wide. Like *the wheeler* a subscription for 4 issues per year costs \$28.

The content of the first issue is described thus: Toolkit (upfront bits): Bikes, helmets, baskets, events and fads, The latest and greatest in biking stuff; Profiles: People and their bikes, businesses, ideas, designs; Features: Cities pushing cycling initiatives, how to build a fixie, cycling trends and festivals; Reviews: Bike trails, city, country and international; Regular Features: On the streets bike fashion, the bike centerfold.

For more information see: www.treadlie.com.au

General News

Super Tuesday 1st March 2011

Super Tuesday 2011 is on Tuesday 1 March, from 7am-9am. For the first time, supporters who have counted in previous years received priority registration! Registrations for previous participants to participate in Super Tuesday 2011 opened on Tuesday 11 January at 9am, a week earlier than the general public registrations opened. Registrations opened to the general public on Monday 17 January. The registration link appears on the Super Tuesday 2011 web page. Make sure you get your preferred site as it's first in best dressed! As in previous years you can nominate your local Bicycle User Group, club or school to receive \$50 as a reward for your work, making this a great fundraising opportunity! So get your friends and family involved in Super Tuesday 2011, and get them to sign up! If you would like more information, please email Jeff McPhan at Bicycle Victoria: jeffm@bv.com.au

Boroondara News

Bicycle Advisory Committee Meetings

Meeting dates for 2011 are as follows: 18/3, 17/6, 16/9, 16/12. The meeting venue is the Acacia Room at the Council Offices, Inglesby Rd Camberwell. Observers are welcome but should let Sustainable Transport Officer Anna Haygreen know they are coming prior to the meeting if possible.

Agendas and minutes for BAC meetings can be viewed at <http://boroondara.vic.gov.au/our-city/cycling-walking/cycling/bicycle-advisory-committee>

Minutes of Boroondara BUG Meeting, Monday 13th December 2010

Elgin Inn, Hawthorn

Attendance and Apologies

Present: John Parker, Glennys Jones, Julia Blunden, Graeme Stone, Alister Huth, Peter Campbell, Graham Ellis (Chair), David Leong, Betty Weeks, Linda Rohrs, Malcolm Faul

Apologies: Gordon Macmillan

Correspondence:

In

Email from David Powell, Director Environment and Infrastructure, confirming council's support for the East – West link aka Eastern Rail Trail

Out

Letter to Stockland re access for customers cycling to Stockland's Toorong Village complex

Matters Arising:

1. **Golfers Choice and Urban Bush Path:** John P has issued an invitation to the Stonnington councilors to meet with him on site to consider his proposal. He will use Bixe to argue for an increase in Stonnington expenditure on cycling infrastructure.
2. **East Malvern Station Bridge:** Glennys J has had no response to her last email so has sent another and cc'd it to Michael O'Brien, MLA for Malvern.
3. **Anniversary Trail at High St and Toorak Rd:** This is on the agenda for the December BAC meeting. Glennys J reported that the retailers on the south side of Toorak Rd are in favour of re-routing the trail behind the shops.
4. **East – west link:** Julia B reported that Whitehorse Cyclists are in the process of collecting 10,000 signatures for their petition for the Box Hill – Ringwood Rail Trail. Peter Campbell reported that our East – West link is now part of the Boroondara Bike Strategy and VicRoads have been made aware of this and need to respond and offer assistance. We need a leaflet and a petition like WC.
5. **Stocklands Toorong Village Development:** After recent rain drainage has again become a problem on the Gardiners Creek Trail. Glennys J has been pursuing this. Graeme S has written to the Coles workplace BUG at Toorong Village about the access path on the east side of Toorong Rd in the hopes that they will know the best person to approach. The HR staffer was one suggestion. Julia B has written to the Progress Leader..
6. **Woolworths Gasworks Site Redevelopment:** **Glennys J** offered to write a letter on behalf of the BUG to Ted Baillieu in his capacity as local member, and cc the new ministers for Planning and Roads, BV, and Cr Coral Ross to try to keep the issue of the public acquisition overlay in the foreground.
7. **Anniversary Trail missing link at Camberwell High:** Graham E reported that he received a letter from Jim Hondrakis indicating that a preliminary concept plan had been prepared and that a meeting with Camberwell High was imminent. A report on this meeting was expected at the December BAC meeting.
8. **Leos:** There is still no sign on the one-way lane saying 'Bicycles Excepted', nor is there any bike parking.
9. **Ride to Work Day:** Graeme S reported that he and Glennys J met with Anna Haygreen and Chris Hui to debrief over coffee. They were all generally happy with the format of the community breakfast. However as there will be building work in progress at the Camberwell Civic Centre in October next year a different venue will have to be found. Suggestions included: GCT near the velodrome, Camberwell Station, Anniversary Trail near Burke Rd. Swinburne was also suggested, but **Linda R** indicated that she will press for the Swinburne Student Union to organise a breakfast, which would rule out Swinburne, and the Hawthorn Town Hall opposite. It was agreed that this issue needs to be revisited early in 2011.
10. **Hays Paddock Plan:** Julia B reminded those present that the meeting scheduled for 6.30pm on Wednesday 15/12 would be a site meeting with Jim H present to look at issues of particular concern to cyclists such as Glass Creek crossings and paths. A toilet usage survey conducted sometime in October showed usage to be quite high in the weekends and should rule out any reduction the number of public toilets.
11. **Belford Rd Underpass:** Boroondara Council has received a letter of support for this project from Tom Melican, the then Mayor of Banyule.

12. **Reporting of flooded trails:** David L reported that there does not appear to be much interest in this issue. Various ideas were put forward as to what is needed and how this might be done, possibly using the Bureau of Meteorology website. It was agreed that this would be a suitable item for the next combined BUGs meeting.
13. **Main Yarra Trail between Pipe Bridge and Chandler Hwy:** **David L** agreed to write a letter on behalf of the BUG to Andrew McIntosh, MLA for Kew, urging that the Coalition Government fund the new, improved path designed by Parks Victoria.
14. **Warrigal Rd Underpass:** Betty W reported that work on the underpass is proceeding, but that work on the new bridge on the east side of Warrigal Rd will not start until the underpass is complete.
15. **BAC meeting Friday 17th December:** Julia B, John P, Glennys J and Peter C all indicated that they would attend. Graeme S indicated that he would not be attending.

New Business

1. **Combined Boroondara – Stonnington BUG:** There was general agreement that before we resort to a combined BUG a further attempt should be made to start a stand-alone Stonnington BUG. Ideally BV would take the lead in this. **Julia B** offered to raise this with Harry Barber at her forthcoming meeting with him and Helen Millicer.
2. **Meeting with Graham Watt, the new MLA for Burwood:** **Graeme S** agreed to organise this meeting, with John P, Glennys J and Peter C as possible joint attendees. He also agreed to write a letter of thanks to retiring MLA, Bob Stensholt.
3. **Possible Contact with Other State MPs:** **Peter C** undertook to write to local members Robert Clark, Andrew McIntosh and Ted Baillieu about the East – West Link. **Malcolm F** suggested that the BUG send cards congratulating each of the local members on their election win. **Julia B** offered to send the card to Andrew McIntosh and also to resend the original letter about trail naming and signage to the relevant new minister/s.
4. **Christmas cards:** **Julia B** offered to send a card on behalf of the BUG to Jim Hondrakis and his team.
5. **Bike Corrals:** It was agreed that we need to follow up on the letter and article in the PL by identifying suitable locations for bike corrals. Hahndorf's in Bulleen Rd, Maling Rd and the school car park near Town and Country on Whitehorse Rd were suggested as options.
6. **Boroondara Activity Centre Strategy;** Glennys J drew attention to this strategy which could have some implications for cyclists, particularly in terms of increased on-street parking.
7. **Next meeting:** Thursday 10th February

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: murphj@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

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: Mikeatleisure@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

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:

Graeme Stone

16 Jervis Street, Camberwell, Vic 3124

email: graeme_stone@optusnet.com.au

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:

Graeme Stone
16 Jervis St
Camberwell
Vic, 3124