

BOROONDARA

Bicycle Users Group

Newsletter July 2008

Boroondara BUG meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, except January. The Next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 9th July, at the Swinburne Hawthorn Campus in room TD244. The TD building is between Park and Wakefield Streets. All welcome.

The Boroondara BUG is a voluntary group working to promote the adoption of a safe and practical environment for utility and recreational cyclists in the City of Boroondara. We have close links with the City of Boroondara, Bicycle Victoria, Bicycle Federation of Australia and other local Bicycle Users' Groups.

Boroondara BUG has a website at <http://www.boroondarabug.org> that contains interesting material related to cycling, links to other cycle groups, recent Boroondara BUG Newsletters and breaking news.

We also have two Yahoo Groups:

1. Send a blank email to: BoroondaraBug-subscribe@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.
2. Send a blank email to: BoroondaraBugDiscussion-subscribe@yahoogroups.com to monitor or join in an ongoing discussion of bike related issues both local and general.

All articles in this newsletter are the views and opinions of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of any other members of Boroondara BUG. All rides publicised in this newsletter are embarked upon at your own risk.

Trail Notes

Gardiners Creek Trail Detour

Still no word on this unfortunately.

Darebin Creek Path Missing Link to be closed

Work is well underway on construction of an underpass, including a section of boardwalk, under Darebin Rd. When completed this will obviate the need to ride along Ford Cr and cross Darebin Rd. As part of the project a zebra crossing will be installed at Darebin Rd to enable cyclists to cross more safely should the underpass be flooded.

The basic path has been formed on the west bank of Darebin Creek. It is a continuation of the sealed path which presently ends at the northern end of Grange Rd and continues as a track behind the properties on the north side of Ford Cr. It now passes under Darebin Rd via the westernmost arch of the bridge before rising to join the existing sealed path on the south side of Darebin Rd. At the moment screw piles are being inserted to provide the supporting structure for the retaining walls of the newly exposed bank. Here is the link to Darebin Council's media release.

http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/Page/page.asp?Page_Id=5768&h=1

Thanks to Jacques Fievez for passing on this information.

Eastlink Trail

Many readers took advantage of the recent opportunity to ride on Eastlink before it opens to motor traffic (See Rides supplement for some of their comments). Being a coward I passed on this when I got some inkling of the numbers doing so. Instead I decided to check out the Eastlink Trail south of the Maroondah Hwy. I had assurance from several sources that it was

now open, however in the event one of my companions had to untwist the wire holding the cyclone fencing in place to let the group pass through at Canterbury Rd.

I can report that the trail provides a riding experience that is quite different from any other Melbourne trail. It passes through a lot of parkland and right past the entrance to Chesterfield Farm, and has quite a rural feel in sections. No doubt with traffic on the tollway this feeling of peace and remoteness will be somewhat lessened.

The surface is generally good, though not perfect. Some of the at-grade road crossings, eg Burwood Rd, are a bit of a let down with many traffic lights to be waited for. One of my companions was also critical of some of the bridges on the grounds of poor visibility at corners due to high walls. Another noted dangerous chicanes at High St - metal / wire fences but no chevron sign attached to fence as exists on other ones so they cannot be seen in poor light. The most serious flaw in my view is a virtual gap in the trail at Yarraman Station, where trail users have to cross the line on an old footbridge that is steep and narrow and has very poor approaches. Signage is generally good once you work out the system. We turned off at the Dandenong Southern Bypass so I can't report on the last little section leading to the Patterson River.

To sum up, the new trail is not up to the very high standard of the Koonung Creek/Eastern Freeway Trail with its smooth surface and under-road tunnels. However it's a terrific new route for recreational cyclists with links to many other trails that make all sorts of permutations and combinations possible. It's unlikely that utility cyclists will ride the entire path but they will probably find some bits of it very handy.

Julia Blunden

Maribyrnong River – Bridge Closure

I have been advised by Moonee Valley Council that after a regular inspection, the wooden shared pedestrian / cycling bridge across the Maribyrnong River near Riverside Golf Course (Melway 28 C 10) has been closed. This bridge spans between Newsom Street Ascot Vale and Pipemakers Park. I do not have any more detail at this stage

Frank Kinnersley

Events

BV Over 50's Riding Program

Elizabeth Charalambakis is currently working two days a week at Bicycle Victoria on setting up riding programs for the over 50s along the lines of Janet Bennett's COTA rides.

Last Saturday an information session was held for volunteers who had expressed an interest in becoming a ride leader or ride leader buddy as part of the Over 50s Riding Program.

In summary, the ride leaders' role is to set up local riding groups for people over 50 years of age, provide advice on routes, paths and café stops, set participants up with buddies and be a local point of contact and support. The ride leader buddies' role is to assist the ride leader. The ride leader/buddy information session included:

- An overview of the Over 50s Riding Program;
- An overview of roles and responsibilities of Bicycle Victoria and ride leaders and ride leader buddies;
- Discussion about the Ride Leader Guidelines (please find attached); and
- Opportunities for group discussion and problem solving.

The session was to be presented by Elizabeth Charalambakis and Liz Dalton (a ride leader in the program and an experienced adult educator and bike rider).

Seven ride leaders and two ride leader buddies have been recruited to participate in the pilot phase of the program. The objective for the pilot phase was to recruit 6 ride leaders, so it is right on track. The pilot program will run from 1 July - 31 August 2008. An evaluation will be undertaken to refine the post-pilot program. The post-pilot phase will run from December 2008 - August 2009.

More information about the Over 50s Riding Program will be published in the next Operations Report. Please feel free to discuss the program with Elizabeth (ext 868), should you have any questions or suggestions for improvement. Your feedback is welcome. Please give BV a hand by promoting the program to your friends, family and neighbours. Details of rides will be published on the BV website under 'Finda' and brochures are available if you need them.

Thanks to Graeme Stone for passing on this information.

SRAM Whittlesea Challenge

Date: Saturday 30th August 2008

Time: 8.30am

Start & Finish: Walker Reserve, Laurel Street, Whittlesea

Distance: 110 km

Format: Is a recreational challenge ride for individuals or teams - Is not a race.

Registration: Available from 7.00am on the morning of the event.

Website: www.cycloportifvic.com.au

Contact: Contact Adam Smith, 03 8480 3068, adam.smith@cycling.org.au

Highlights:

- Your chance to ride on quiet country roads located only 35 kilometres from central Melbourne
- Start and Finish in the picturesque town of Whittlesea
- Test yourself on the Humevale Road climb, one of Melbourne cyclists favourite training grounds
- Further test your climbing skills and conquer the infamous Strath Creek climb
- Enjoy the scenic country views of Kinglake West, Flowerdale, Strath Creek, Wandong & Heathcote Junction.
- Aid stations to keep you refreshed throughout the ride
- The course will be well sign posted, marshalled & traffic managed to ensure the safety of all participants
- On course technical support provided by the SRAM Neutral Ride Program mechanics
- Qualified First Aid Officers will provide medical support around the course
- On course photographer to capture those memorable moments

Ride 4 the Environment, 30-31 August

Ride 4 the Environment is an initiative of Sport 4 the Environment (see www.sport4theenvironment.com.au) and has been developed to create true environmental change and awareness.

Ride 4 the Environment will take place on the beautiful Mornington Peninsula with two days of riding. Day 1 will have participants ride from Mornington to Sorrento and Day 2 will return and culminate in Mornington which will be transformed into "Bike Town". Imagine Main Street closed and the party atmosphere as thousands enjoy a car free day in the centre of town. There are also one day and shorter options for you to enjoy.

Join me and my fellow Sport 4 the Environment ambassadors.

SIGN UP NOW - SUPPORT THE RIDE - SUPPORT THE ENVIRONMENT

All money raised goes directly into Sport 4 the Environment's sporting club sustainability programs.

To register go to www.sport4theenvironment.com.au and click on the Ride 4 the Environment logo.

I hope to see you in August, Alisa Camplin.

Thanks to Janet Bennett for passing this on.

News from Neighbouring BUGs

YarraBUG Radio Show Update

Our six volunteers have almost completed their radio announcer training and are all enjoying the process immensely. Our six soon-to-be radio announcers are Rob, Sonya, Val, Emma, Steve and Chris. Topics covered in our training have included panel operation, writing for radio, digital editing and interviewing. If you have any ideas for show segments or interviewing subjects, please feel free to make a contribution! In last months newsletter we asked for potential show names, we're almost at the stage of making that tricky decision and will let you all know as soon as we've settled upon a name. Many thanks to everyone to who sent in name suggestions. (and more!)

Melbourne Bicycle Co-operative

The Melbourne Bicycle Co-operative has been recently formed and is affiliated with the Melbourne University Student Union through the environment department. It will be a membership based co-op that will have tools for people to fix their own bikes, and run a really exciting recycled bicycle program initially facilitated by the huge number of abandoned bikes at Melbourne Uni. It is not a project exclusively for Melbourne Uni people but for the Melbourne bike community. This is the link to the forum which has just been established if you want to check it out: <http://mbc.mybb3.org> and an email address that you can join to be forwarded all the juicy bike goss: cyclemelb@gmail.com

Assistance Required for Cycling Thesis, From Emelia:

An outline of my project is looking at how different people using different bicycles choose to use the road in different ways including the routes and roads they choose to, in their experiences of the city. I am now in the process of recruiting participants and conducting preliminary interviews. I was wondering if people would be interested in participating in the research project.

It will take approximately 2 hours of your time at a time that is convenient to you.

It would involve an informal chat about your bike and cycling practices and stories and then a ride with on a journey that you know or make on a regular basis and then a short debrief afterwards. I was also wanting to acquire at some stage a camera that could be mounted on a bicycle for the production of video diaries for participants that were super keen.

Want to know more? Contact Emelia: e.bishop@ugrad.unimelb.edu.au

In the Bike Lane - Crew Call out

From Sonya: (Producer for *In the Bike Lane*) A pilot for a half hour TV show all the Melbourne commuter cyclists are going to be talking about called *In the Bike Lane*. It is slated for shooting on July 7th and July 14th. There'll be a host, three presenters, two panelists and a panel anchor. I need crew and hope you can help me out by putting the word around. Maybe you have skills you want to hone and contribute to this project? Maybe you just want to come for Dave's food! It is going to be a lot of fun with lots of new and some experienced talent in front of the camera. The following will make up the studio crew, 4 camera operators, director, set director, 1st AD, a floor manager, an autocue operator, an audio tech, a vision switcher, a tape operator, a lighting and CCU setup tech, production assistants, makeup and caterers. Want to know more about how you can take on any of these roles? Email or call me on 0422 756 994 e: severard@netspace.net.au

Melbourne Bicycle Account 2008 photo competition

From City of Melbourne: Over the coming months, the City of Melbourne will be preparing the 2008 Melbourne Bicycle Account which will be released at Ride to Work Day in October. This year, the City of Melbourne is asking all cycling and photography enthusiasts to send in images that represent the true character of cycling in Melbourne. The best photographs will be selected for the next edition of the City of Melbourne's Melbourne Bicycle Account (MBA) 2008 with photo credits. All winners will receive a \$100 voucher from CBD Cycles. Please send your photos with details of the street and suburb and a completed photo release form for each photo to stuart.outhred@melbourne.vic.gov.au by Monday, 1 September 2008. Further details and entry forms: <http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/info.cfm?top=70&pa=1154&pa2=3884&pg=4114>

Eighth Annual Bicycle Film Festival - Melbourne 2008

Call For Entries - Local Content From Julie: We are looking for locally-made films with a strong theme or character of Bicycles. This includes all mediums and styles such as animation, experimental, narrative, documentary and music videos. The films can be up to feature-length but shorts are preferred. We want films about bikes, cyclists, and the local bike scene.

Festival dates: 20 - 23 November 2008 Deadline for entries: 12 September 2008. Download entry form at: www.ambiguoushorse.com For inspiration visit: www.bicyclefilmfestival.com

Items reproduced from YarraBUG July News

Boroondara News

Projects for the 2008-9 Financial Year – Reader Input Sought

Below is a list of projects for the coming financial year, presented by Jim Hondrakis at the last Boroondara Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting. The BUG supports many of these projects, but has sought clarification on several of them, and regards some as less worthwhile or less urgent than others - see BUG comments in brackets. We also have other projects that we consider to be of greater urgency than some of those listed.

We would be very interested to hear from our readers on this. What are your top five priorities for improvements to cycle infrastructure in Boroondara? They could be large or small projects. Please email your list to Graeme Stone at graeme_stone@optusnet.com.au by Tuesday 8/7.

1. Crossing facilities with T-intersection treatment (Winton Road/Pitt Street);
2. Belford Road raised zebra crossing
3. Willsmere Road zebra crossing (the BUG is seeking clarification on the legal status of cyclists using zebra crossings)
4. Normanby Road zebra crossing (see above)
5. City wide program on bollard removal/replacement (we noted that there are to be 2 trial locations for the new installations)
6. Detailed scope report for East-West link

7. Lighting one 200m section of the Gardiners Creek Trail (To be trialled as in Anderson Park)
8. Progressive implementation of audit recommendations – GCT, MYT, Koonung Trail
9. GCT reconstruction – Nettleton Park Reserve to Brixton Rise bridge 730m
10. Bike education programs (not sure what this covers – safe routes to school?)
11. Bicycle Strategy actions
12. Glen Iris Road exclusive bicycle lanes (what evidence is there that these will be well used?)
13. Anniversary Trail safety audit (an audit of this path was conducted in 2003)
14. Regulatory/behavioural signs on Anniversary Trail
15. Anniversary Trail missing link (at Camberwell High School, between Riversdale and Prospect Hill Rds)

Darebin Creek – Yarra Trail Link

Many BUG members recently sat through two Boroondara Urban Planning meetings that lasted until midnight to see what Council's decision on the Parks Victoria Planning Permit Application (PPA) would be. Parks Victoria had already referred the decision to VCAT prior to these meetings, but Boroondara Council's decision may still be important.

At the June 2nd meeting a large number of objectors and supporters, about forty in all, spoke for 3 minutes each putting all the conceivable arguments for and against the link through Willsmere Park. Council planning officers, who had recommended issuing the planning permit to Parks Victoria, also had their say, as did environmental expert Dr Graeme Lorimer, who again refuted suggestions that the link poses a serious threat to native flora and fauna in the park.

At the June 16th meeting Council debated then voted on the PPA. Mayor Coral Ross moved that the application be approved, seconded by Cr Dick Menting. Coral spoke very strongly in favour of the bridge as providing an important strategic link, while acknowledging that a path through Willsmere Park is a high cost to pay. As expected Cr Phillip Healey spoke at great length against, still pushing the view that there is a better route for the link downstream – the Kew drain option. He was supported by Crs Jack Wegman and Phil Meggs. Cr Dick Menting spoke briefly in support as did Cr Nicholas Tragas. Cr Heinz Kreutz, who chaired the meeting, made an impassioned speech in favour of the link and related his experience of visiting the park last weekend and seeing a large number of dogs racing in and out of the billabong.

When it came to the vote Mary Halikias-Byrnes (who arrived late) voted in favour and Meredith Butler, after initially abstaining, voted against. Cr Luke Tobin was absent. So the vote was 5 to 4 in favour.

Hopefully what this means is that when VCAT make their ruling, hopefully in favour of the bridge, they will not face a battle with Boroondara Council over compulsory acquisition of the land for the path to link to the Yarra Trail, unless that is Cr Healey successfully moves a rescission motion. The VCAT hearing may still be several months away. VCAT will hear objectors to the PPA but only Parks Victoria and expert witnesses who they nominate will speak in favour. Unfortunately further appeal is still possible after a VCAT decision. Another option is that the Planning Minister, Justin Madden, could call the matter in which would bring the matter to a speedier and more certain conclusion.

Julia Blunden

Minutes of Boroondara BUG Meeting Wednesday 11th June 2008

Held at Swinburne, Hawthorn Campus, Room TD244

Present: Graeme Stone, Phil Crohn, Graham Ellis, Julia Blunden, John Parker, Glennys Jones, Peter Campbell

Apologies: Jason den Hollander, Malcolm Faul

Correspondence: A letter was received inviting the BUG to apply for a Community Development Grant. This was not considered necessary.

1. **Darebin Creek – Main Yarra Trail Link:** Some members present planned to attend the Council meeting on Monday 16th June when a vote will be taken on the Parks Victoria PPA. Unless it is made clear at this meeting, Julia B will make enquiries about the VCAT hearing to find out when this is likely to happen and what the rules are regarding submissions. Writing letters to the *Age* on the issue was recommended.
2. **Bike Strategy:** Jim Hondrakis confirmed at our last Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting that the next round of consultations will take place in July. \$100,000 has been included in the 2008-9 draft budget for implementation of the strategy.
3. **Gardiners Creek Path Missing Link:** Bicycle Victoria has written to various state government agencies and ministers regarding their preferred route for this link. It was decided that it might be useful to use Freedom of Information to attempt to obtain the 2003 SKM report on this issue which Stonnington Council appears to have mislaid.

- M1 Widening:** John P has been making heroic efforts to obtain some advantage for cyclists out of this project, which will cause major disruptions to the Gardiners Creek Path for the next year or so. He has met separately and jointly with the Monash Alliance and with Stonnington's Geoff Ovens, but to little avail. It was suggested that John P contact Tony Barton at VicRoads with his suggestion for a shared path running alongside the M1 between the bridge over the freeway to East Malvern Station and Argyll St, thus linking the Gardiners Creek Trail to the Glen Waverley Rail Trail.

John P has also obtained plans for the new northern approach to the bridge over the freeway and rail line to East Malvern Station. This approach, in contrast with the current fairly straight and gradual one, incorporates two right-angle bends and one hairpin bend, as well as being narrow and having sections with steep gradients. It appears that the design has been done purely to suit the golf course and that a much better design is quite feasible. It was agreed that John P should write to the Monash Alliance on behalf of the BUG to protest strongly about this, pointing out the needs of tandem, recumbent and tag-along riders who will find this new approach particularly difficult. This letter should be cc'd to BV and to all Stonnington Councillors.

- East-West Link:** Jim H is employing consultants to scope this. Phil C has agreed to lead another discovery ride under the auspices of the MBTC to arouse interest in the project and possibly attract new members. Julia B offered to circulate a list of possible dates in September/October/November so we can choose one before our next meeting. It was agreed that the ride will be a circuit starting at Box Hill Station, heading west to the Yarra following one possible route, and returning via a different one. Julia B will approach Whitehorse Cyclists and attempt to get them involved in the project. John P and Peter C agreed to do some reconnoitering in order to come up with a route and a list of points of interest.
- Web site copyright/licensing issues:** Peter C recommended that we all look at the Wikipedia's GNU FDL licence with a view to adopting this. It can be copied to our web site or we can provide a link to it.
- Trail names:** John P is still to circulate his proposed list to BUG members.
- Promotion of the BUG:**
Business Cards: As Jason D was absent this was deferred to the next meeting.
Ride To Work Day: Julia B agreed to draft and circulate a letter to Julia Smith offering the BUG's assistance with expanding the Council's program to become a Camberwell or Boroondara-wide event. Various locations for this event were suggested. The Civic Centre is one possibility but a better option would be on a well-used bike route, but with sufficient space and shelter in case of rain.
- GVBR sponsorship:** Graeme S reported that he is pursuing two lines of enquiry at BV. One is schools participating in the Great Victorian Bike Ride, and the other is schools involved in Ride to School programs.
- BAC meeting:** Minutes of this meeting were not yet available. One item on the agenda was priorities for 2008-9. Jim H listed a large number of items but indicated that the list is negotiable. Members present were not entirely happy with the list as is. Julia B has already emailed Jim H asking that directional signage on off-road paths be added to this list and given a high priority. Glennys J indicated that she would like to add safe ride-to-school routes to the list. It was agreed that this is an opportunity to involve more members. Graeme S agreed to contact Julia S for additional detail on the list. This can then be sent to members and included in the next newsletter with a request for members and readers to nominate their top five priorities.

It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Council thanking them for the increased funding for cycling infrastructure and emphasizing that this trend will need to continue in the future. A similar letter should be sent to the *Progress Leader*.

- Family Fun Day, Wattle Park, 14/9:** Graham E reported that there are two main obstacles to BUG participation in this event. One is that participants must have Public Liability Cover and the other is that no marquees or trestle tables are provided. Graham E agreed to follow up with BV and Whitehorse Cyclists to see if either can help us out and report back to the next meeting.

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/>

Hawthorn Cycle Tours

contact Hawthorn Aquatic and Leisure Centre

phone: 9815 0988

email: lexbishop@bikerider.com

website: <http://www.geocities.com/perften/Hct.html>

Banyule BUG

email: banyuleBug@yahoo.com.au
website: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~banylbug/>
contacts: Richard phone: 9459 8648, or Les phone: 9459 2701

Boroondara Bushwalkers

contact Julia Blunden
phone: 9853 5095
email: jblunden@bigpond.com
website: www.keypoint.com.au/~bbwinc

Camberwell Downhill Gourmet Bike Riders

contact Elva Parker, phone: 9836 6392

Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre Bike Riding Group

Contact: Robin Kendrick, phone: 9853 3126

Council on the Ageing (COTA) Cycling Group

contact Janet Bennett
email: janpeter@bigpond.net.au or COTA,
phone: 9654 4443
website:
http://www.cotavic.org.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/1006/cota_cycling_brochure_jul-dec_2007.pdf

Darebin BUG

Rides and Events Coordinator
Doug Morffew, phone: 9499 7325 (AH)
email: dougmorf@alphalink.com.au
Download the Darebin BUG rides flyer, with details of rides (Word doc)
website: www.darebinbug.org.au

Finbar Neighbourhood House Rides

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

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

contact Touring Secretary, Dave Cash, phone: 9817 3269
or email info@mbtc.org.au (Note that this email address doesn't get checked every day - so don't expect an immediate response!) website: mbtc.org.au

Whitehorse Cyclists

email: ejhopper@vicnet.net.au
website: <http://www.whitehorsecyclists.org.au/>

YHA

contacts: Ride Co-Ordinator Kathy
rides@yhacycling.org.au or mobile 0425-792 574
or Secretary Voula on secretary@yhacycling.org.au
website: www.yhacycling.org.au has free registration

Boroondara BUG Contacts

Membership Secretary & Treasurer:
Graeme Stone
16 Jervis Street, Camberwell, Vic 3124
email: graeme_stone@optusnet.com.au

Newsletter Editor & Minutes Secretary:
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Media Contact & Webmaster:
Jason den Hollander
phone: 0407 118 891
email: fdutch@gmail.com

Meeting Chair:
Phil Crohn
email: philcrohn@ozemail.com.au

Boroondara Bicycle Users Group

Membership Application Form

Name _____

Address & Postcode _____

Phone (H) _____

Phone (M) _____

Phone (W) _____

Email _____

Member of Bicycle Victoria? Please circle: Yes / No

Membership requires a one-off payment of \$15 per household. There is an additional charge of \$10 per annum for delivery of a hardcopy newsletter. Please send cheque (made out to Boroondara Bicycle Users Group) along with this form to:

Graeme Stone
16 Jervis St
Camberwell
Vic, 3124