

BOROONDARA

Bicycle Users Group

Newsletter November 2013

Boroondara BUG meetings are normally held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month except January. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 13th November. It will be held in the function room of the Elgin Inn, cnr Burwood Rd and Elgin St Hawthorn (Melway 45 B10). The meeting starts at 7.00pm. Some of us arrive around 6.30pm for a meal at the Elgin Inn before the meeting.

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 Network 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 Facebook page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/boroondarabug>. 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

Around the Bay in a Day 2013 – 210 Kms Queenscliff Ferry Route Ride Report

All that freezing winter training including the wet and cold ride back from the Dandenongs on our final training ride the week before didn't prepare us for the 32 degree day that awaited us!!! Keeping the fluids up would be very important.

So the day started with a 3:30 am alarm, and what seemed like half a chemist shop of hayfever medication (*I would never have passed a WADA test*). It was a rare warm morning 18 degrees (we'd pay for it later), and I was debating whether or not to take the wind vest. In the end, I erred on the side of caution and jammed it into one of the already overflowing jersey pockets. Our Corporate Team was assembling at our Dockland HQ and on my ride there, I'd ride past endless numbers of night clubbers and taxis.

After a few photos we were off at 5:10am. We got to the base of the Westgate Bridge at 5:29am only to arrive at a Police road block. No cyclists on the bridge until at least after 5:30am. It wasn't until almost 5:35am that they opened the road block and the pelotons were off. It was great to see the ever dedicated Roger (who has in the past ridden with us) marshalling at the bottom of the Westgate.

The strong, warm northerly wind made the ride to our first rest stop at the Little River BP (*55kms ridden*) incredibly easy (easiest ever - it felt like you hardly had to pedal). Matt got a puncture in Werribee, so Murray waited whilst the rest of us rode on to our next rest stop at Leopold.

I always enjoy the ride through Geelong (*75 kms ridden*) (you actually have to steer around some corners :). Lorraine and I missed the green light, with the rest of the Team making it through the left hand turn. It was tempting to follow through after

them, but we did the right thing and stopped, whilst some idiot (*who gives all cyclists a bad name*) blatantly ran the red light. The light turned green and we were off, only to see a policeman around the corner writing out a fine to the cyclist who had just run the red light.

Unfortunately in Geelong, I got a rear wheel puncture and told the rest of the team (including Murray and Matt who later caught up) to ride on and I'd meet them in Leopold. There was what looked like part of the short end of a staple protruding into the inside of my tyre. Even though I carry a pair of tweezers in the saddle bag, I couldn't get enough of a grip to pull it out. At first I thought I would have to walk back to the Geelong rest area and buy a new tyre, but then I decided I would try to sand it down with the valve nut. After a while, I thought it had worked because there was no trace of the staple, so I put in a new tube and Time Trialled (TT) it to Leopold (*87 kms ridden*).

I'm glad the team had the sense to push on without me and left Ed to ride with me. He said, "We're going to have to hammer it to get on the same ferry as the rest of them". I was already exhausted from my TT efforts to Leopold, but we latched onto a group who were on a training ride and they towed us to their Point Lonsdale turnoff.

We arrived at Queenscliff (*107 kms ridden*) and met with 3 familiar volunteers (all of whom are Bicycle Network Life Members: Harry Barber, John Pyle, and Loris Jackson) and Tania had the good sense to hold the team off from collecting a ferry ticket until the rest of us arrived, so that we would all be on the one ferry. Because of the strong tail wind, we were on an earlier ferry than normal, and this was despite a couple of punctures.

On the ferry we met Chris (*a member of what we like to call our "Greater Zedder's Alliance"*), and we were all feeling unusually fresh due to the tail wind. As we rode off from Sorrento into the traditional 'crash zone' that is the section from Sorrento to Dromana, we were all wondering what had happened to George and assumed he was in some Sorrento cafe waiting for us. Then my phone rang, and it was George, he had taken the wrong turn and ended up on the 250km route (*he's no newbie either*).

Graham at this point says to me, "Your tyre looks pretty low on air". My concerns at Geelong had been confirmed; I hadn't actually managed to grind down the staple, all I had done was push it back into the tyre and since then, it had made its way back out and again punctured the tube. There was no point changing the tube as what I needed was a new tyre, so I continued to ride with an increasingly flatter rear wheel until the next rest area with mechanical support which would not be until Frankston.

We'd decided earlier that instead of staying on the official Nepean Hwy route between Dromana (*125 kms*) and Mornington, we'd take the left fork and ride up the more picturesque Esplanade with its ocean views. It was at this fork in the road that we met up with more 'Greater Zedder's Alliance' partners, Antonin and Cat who had ridden up Arthur's Seat. Normally I say that ATBIAD really starts in Dromana with the hill climb when fatigue sets in. However, because of the tailwind on the way down and the change in terrain with the detour, I really enjoyed this leg of the day. It was a brief break from the frenetic pelotons of Around The Bay, but not everyone shared my sentiments; some found the combination of heat, undulating and unfamiliar terrain and the narrow road a challenge.

At Mornington (*150 kms*), it was back onto the Nepean Hwy and back amongst the thousands of cyclists. My rear tyre was getting really flat by now and any large bump in the road caused that unwelcome metal rim on bitumen feeling. I just had to nurse it to Frankston and I wasn't looking forward to the Oliver's Hill descent. I made it to Frankston and headed straight for the mechanics. They had some tyres to sell, none of which was what I really wanted, and since I had spare tyres at home, I wasn't too keen on buying a new one, so I asked if they might have a better chance of getting out the staple. Luckily after a few attempts with a pair of pliers, we got the staple out, but we were never sure that we had got all of it out. They couldn't believe that I had ridden all the way from Geelong with a staple in my rear tyre.

At Frankston (*160kms ridden*) it was great to catch up with some more volunteer marshalls, Graeme Stone (Boroondara BUG founder) and Rob whom I have ridden and volunteered with on the Great Victorian Bike Ride over many years. I could've stopped and chatted for hours but we still had another 50km to go so we headed off once again. It was at least now very familiar territory, we'd trained all winter along this stretch, but somehow it always feels quite different on the day of ATB, with the afternoon sun, heavier traffic, large pelotons, fatigue and this year, the HEAT.

We made a quick stop at Mordialloc (*185 kms ridden*) to fill up our bidons, and pushed on. It was at this point that we hit the strongest head winds of the day and I went from feeling okay to pretty ordinary. Beach Road heading towards St. Kilda is rarely easy at the best of times and certainly not on a windy 32 degree ATB day. Now it was a case of get into survival mode and count down the landmarks: Black Rock clock tower, Sandringham, Brighton, Elwood, St. Kilda, the Lower Esplanade was chaotic, the warm weather having brought out all the Beach goers, and Beaconsfield Parade was just as dangerous. We were all

hanging out for that right hand turn that takes you out of the wind and into Port Melbourne and onto the final stretch to the finish line. It was great riding over the finish line in the Alexandra Gardens.

Darren and David A. (*also work colleagues*) had ridden in the opposite direction, Sorrento Ferry. The head wind on the way back between Geelong and Melbourne was shocking that day. To make matters worse, Darren was attacked (not seriously) by a Maltese Terrier in the Altona/Williamstown area - *not what you need towards the end of a long day on the bike!*



David Leong

Beechworth and Beyond

On Friday 24th October 'Don's Party' set off from Wangaratta for an easy ride to Everton. Easy, in that a car shuttle took us on to Stanley 8 km out of Beechworth. Two lovely holiday houses in the heart of Stanley catered well for the 14 cyclists and 2 drivers. [See a glowing and accurate write up for *Plane Trees* in Age 26th October].

Saturday saw us cycling from the old Railway Station in Wodonga to Tallangatta on the High Country Trail. We regretted that we heeded the suggestion in a 'Ride On' article about starting at the old Rail Station. There is good pamphlet for the Trail which we didn't have at the start (our fault) but there was no Rail Trail signing so we meandered out and along Thomas Mitchell Drive on service roads until we found a shared path on the south side of the road which eventually took us to a signed Trail. The old Railway Reserve from the refurbished old Wodonga Railway Station to the Kiewa Valley Highway has yet to be made into a Trail. We believe this must happen to create a workable link to Wodonga.

The Trail was suitably signed after the Kiewa Valley Highway, however the surface quality was poor in many spots with loose stones on some slopes down to bridges on the Kiewa River and creek crossings. The Trail surface comprised rather large stones with insufficient fine material for much of the length up to the Sandy Creek bridge. It is an uncomfortable ride and needs attention to make this a much better trail. The surface from Sandy Creek on is good gravel. With the sun shining and a light tail wind we certainly enjoyed cruising along with views over Lake Hume. Small settlements and reserves such as Huon kept the ride interesting. At Huon remnants of an old diesel rail motor reminded us of the busier days when the line carried freight and passengers before closure in 1981.

The Sandy Creek bridge is an attractive and very welcome asset although it is hard to appreciate the architect's intention of the non-structural red vertical girders projecting 'the movement and rhythm of a steam train'! By chance we arrived in Tallangatta to be greeted by a Fifties Festival including a regular Elvis impersonator so our drivers were able to relax while waiting for us cyclists to appear.

Sunday was an all-too-easy ride from Beechworth to Milawa – a nice finish to a great social cycling weekend.

Suggestions for High Country Trail: start at Bandiana to avoid the suburban road section; read the pamphlet beforehand so that you are aware of places of interest such as the Army Museum, Bandiana and Bonegilla historical cultural centre which weren't signed on the Trail but could be worth a visit.

PS: We would recommend *Plane Trees* if you are seeking a restful country break, but not perhaps for a budget cycling holiday. We would have loved to stay on another day and soak up the ambience of the cottage and the gardens while sitting on one of the verandas or perhaps in the hammock.

PPS: North East Tourism publish a 130p booklet 'Victoria's High Country CYCLE Guide' covering road, mountain and recreational cycling from Mansfield to Rutherglen and Tallangatta and covering accommodation, food, and trip planning.

Graeme Stone

Events

Mudgee Bike Muster 2014

Mudgee, NSW - Easter - 18th - 21st April

Registration for the Mudgee Bike Muster 2014 is NOW OPEN!

Check out our website for all the info on what's on the program and what's included and if you have any questions, shoot me an email and I'll be happy to help.

Our friends at GIANT Bicycles have very kindly donated another fantastic bike for us to give away as a registration prize - everyone who registers before January 31, 2014 is automatically entered in the draw for to win a GIANT Defy 3 road bike valued at \$999.00 - so don't delay.

We hope you can join us in April next year for what is always a great weekend in the country.

Register Online Here. <https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/Register.aspx?E=10460>

Peter Scott
Bike Muster
www.bikemuster.com.au

Boroondara News

Minutes of Boroondara BUG Meeting, Wednesday 9th October 2013

Elgin Inn, Hawthorn

Attendance and Apologies

Present: David Leong, Alister Huth (Chair), Gordon Macmillan, John Parker, David Farrow, Julia Blunden, Glennys Jones, Jill Young, Peter Campbell

Apologies: Alan Tonkin, Ken Parker, Hank van Apeldoorn, Mal Faul

Correspondence:

In

- Letter from Boroondara Mayor re Gordon Barnard Reserve shared path
- CFA flyer 'Fires safe cycling in the Dandenong Ranges' (multiple copies)
- Sundry commercial offers

Out

- Email to Boroondara Councillors asking about Council's position on East-West Link
- Email to Cr Jane Addis inviting her to one of our meetings

Matters Arising:

1. **Hawthorn to Box Hill Trail:** At the September BAC meeting we learned that a feasibility study of the route was to be funded by Council. John P reported that Cookson St is now good to ride on even if not an official shared path. Julia B reported that the Box Hill to Ringwood Path is making good progress and promises to be almost entirely off-road.
2. **Golfers Choice and Urban Bush Path:** Glennys J reported that the Gardiners Creek Trail audit had provided an opportunity to spruik these projects with the VicRoads representative.
3. **Darebin-Yarra Link:** Julia B reported that the Community Coalition met with the VicRoads team again on Monday 30/9. They have divided the project into two sections: the northern section, which includes 3 bridges over Darebin Creek, and the southern section, which includes the bridge over the Yarra. The Yarra bridge will be a simple truss design with the deck inside the truss and will be 3m or 4m wide. The CC will push for 4m. Current plans are for the northern section to be tendered out late 2013 and constructed during 2014 and the northern section tendered out in 2014 and completed by the end of 2015. There is a complication with Melbourne Water planning to replace the Alphington sewer, which crosses the path alignment at the La Trobe Golf Club practice fairway. VicRoads will ensure that the design makes provision for a link from Alphington, but maintain that this link is not part of their project. The CC will approach City of Yarra to take up this cause.
4. **Belford Rd Underpass:** Council has allocated funds for geo-engineering. **David F** will promote this at the RTW breakfast.
5. **Dights Falls Trail:** Julia B reported that she had not as yet received a reply to the BBUG email re Council's position on the East-West Link, but she had received one to her own letter, indicating that they are seeking further information before reaching a decision. It was pointed out that other councils have been able to take a stand based on the information currently available. **David F** is still working on his submission to go to the Linking Melbourne Authority. It was agreed that it would be useful to provide a short version as well as the full 7p version, and that the Opposition Leader and Transport Shadow Minister should be cc'd into this. David will be promoting the DFT at the RTW breakfast, and at the City of Melbourne Forum on Wednesday 23/10.
6. **Stonnington Matters:** John P reported that Stonnington Council's Bicycle Reference Group cannot initiate projects, and minutes of their meetings are not made public. Communication with Stonnington officers continues to be problematic.
7. **Domestic Animals Management Plan:** Glennys J reported that she has complained to Council about an attack on her dog by an off-lead dog and steps are being taken to follow up on this.
8. **Outer Circle Trail at Harp Junction:** Alister H suggested that this issue be dropped from the agenda, but **David F** offered to make a further attempt to get information from VicRoads. **Julia B** agreed to ask Mick Nolan to follow up with the local MP, Andrew McIntosh.
9. **Jacka Trail/North Balwyn Leisure Trail:** **Julia B** reported that Lou Will and Nicola Harvey are preparing a petition in support of the construction of this trail. She agreed to forward the draft petition to BBUG members who took part in the recent ride through for comment. There was agreement that the Balwyn Rd crossing needs to be included and that paper petitions should be used as well as an electronic petition on Change.org.
10. **Invitation to Councillors to Attend BBUG Meetings:** Julia B reported that she had not had a response to her invitation to Cr Jane Addis. It was agreed that the last couple of meetings for the year are not the ideal time for such invitations. It was also agreed that Cr Steve Hurd would be the next invitee, early next year, and **Jill Y** offered to make contact with him about this.
11. **Treasurer's Report:** Mal Faul was not present.

New Business

1. **BAC Meeting Friday 20th September:** In the absence of Jim Hondrakis Evan Bolutis chaired this meeting. Observers were placed in the back stalls and required to refrain from interrupting proceedings, which made for a somewhat strained atmosphere. Many issues were covered. The missing link in the AT/OCT at Camberwell High is making very slow progress with relocation of the car park in Riversdale Park currently under consideration. The issue of cycling in local parks is still being looked at; the Local Law as it stands is ambiguous and needs clarification. BBUG reps pressed for greater use of sharrows to alert drivers to the presence of cyclists on roads, specifically at the approach to the squeeze

point in Prospect Hill Rd where the centre refuge has been installed. The possible raising of the level of the GCT at the Toorak Rd underpass is still under investigation with Melbourne Water. The new bridge across Gardiners Creek in the HA Smith Reserve has been delayed because of issues with land ownership under the Monash Fwy.

2. **Gardiners Creek Trail Audit:** Glennys J and David F were the BBUG reps on this. They found it a valuable exercise but were frustrated that Stonnington did not agree to cooperate. They agreed that, given the high usage of this trail, a 4m path width should be the aim in all future works on the trail.
3. **Ride to Work Day, Boroondara Community Breakfast:** A number of those present indicated that they would attend and some would assist with the pedal-powered fruit smoothies. The possibility of conducting a survey was raised but it was agreed that Chris Hui, who is organizing the breakfast, should be contacted to see what he is doing in this regard. **David F** indicated that he planned a display relating to several of our projects along the Yarra Trail and it was agreed that BUG funds up to \$100 could be used for printing and laminating for this. **Julia B** agreed to spread the word about the breakfast to neighbouring BUGs.
4. **Bicycle Wayfinding Working Group:** Alan T's piece in the October newsletter put the case for intersection numbering which is generally supported by our members. **John P** is working on a submission to the BWWG on this. There was general agreement that the key to achieving greater uniformity on path signage is the identification of a central authority to set and enforce standards. It was agreed that someone should submit a question to the BNV AGM asking what their position is on the issue of wayfinding.

Other Business:

1. **Bike It! Eastern Inter-School Bicycle Skills Competition:** **Glennys J** reported that this is being jointly hosted by Boroondara and Whitehorse again on Wednesday 23rd October, and that she will be attending. See <http://www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/Bike-It.html> for further details.
2. **BBUG Facebook Page:** Jill Y has set up a Facebook page for the BUG. Most of those present had had minimal contact with Facebook but agreed that this could help attract new, younger members, or at least alert younger cyclists to our existence. **Jill** agreed to run a workshop for the group at the December meeting. In the meantime she encouraged members to send her material for the page. She also needs to source a white screen for the workshop. John P has created a QR code for the page.

Next meeting: Wednesday 13th November

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

website: www.darebinbug.org.au

Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre

Phone: 9890 2467

Email: info@surreyhillsnc.org.au

Website: www.surreyhillsnc.org.au

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

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>

Newsletter Editor & 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 payment of \$15 per household which covers 3 years. 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