

BOROONDARA

Bicycle Users Group

Newsletter April 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 April, 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.

Opinion

What about some multi million dollar cycling projects and a Melbourne cycling supremo?

Once again we hear of a grandiose scheme to facilitate road transport, this one an east-west tunnel linking the Eastern Freeway and Citylink costed at \$10bn. Noises are made about 'making Melbourne a city for cyclists' but where are the plans for spending millions of dollars to make this happen, and even if the money were made available who has the authority to oversee such a project?

At present responsibility for cycling infrastructure in Melbourne is dispersed amongst a multitude of agencies including local councils, VicRoads and Parks Victoria.

Parks Victoria has an excellent, visionary plan for Melbourne's off-road network detailed in its report *Linking People and Spaces*, 2002. Some of the actions listed in this report have been completed, but many of the so-called 5 year actions are still to happen, and others have timelines of 5-15 years and 15+ years.

A number of the planned actions have involved protracted negotiations with local councils, with small groups of local residents succeeding in blocking important projects for years. The link in the Bayside Trail at Brighton and the Darebin Creek –Yarra Trail link are only two of many possible examples. This is in stark contrast to the way projects such as Eastlink and the widening of the Monash Freeway and doubtless the proposed east-west Tunnel can be speedily pushed through regardless of all opposition from affected parties.

VicRoads too has a plan, for the Principal Bicycle Network of on-road bike lanes, which is making similarly slow progress. Many local councils are doing excellent work within severe budgetary constraints, but for others cycling infrastructure is a very low priority. Cooperation between neighbouring councils on cycle routes that pass between them is frequently lacking.

Almost everyone seems to agree that cycling should be promoted for the sake of both personal and environmental health, and to conserve dwindling oil supplies. What we need now is a State Government agency with a realistic level of funding and sufficient authority to provide the necessary infrastructure within a reasonable timeframe.

Julia Blunden

Trail Notes

Gardiners Creek Path Works

Works for the reconstruction of Gardiners Creek between Estella Street to June Crescent were due to commence on Tuesday 18 March 2008 and be completed within 3-4 weeks. All efforts were to be made to minimise the impact on users. For any further details please contact Jim Hondrakis, Team Leader Transport Management, ENGINEERING AND TRAFFIC, City of Boroondara, phone: 9278 4546; e-mail: jim.hondrakis@boroondara.vic.gov.au

Apparently signs direct path users to nearby roads but, as many readers will have discovered for themselves, the unsealed path on the Stonnington side of the creek makes a perfectly satisfactory alternative route.

Events

Melbourne Bicycle Touring Club's 25th MAD Ride!

Sunday, 6th April, Woodend

Join hundreds of other cyclists for this unique day, cycling through the hills and forests of the Macedon Ranges region. Choose one of three rides.

Routes

The routes are all within the Macedon Ranges region, about an hour's drive north-west of Melbourne. They require a reasonable amount of fitness and would appeal to those who are looking for a challenge.

60km Road Route

Experience nature far from the maddening crowds of bike paths. Pedal through rolling hills featuring open bushland and stunning granite outcrops. Enjoy country roads, open space and the fresh air! All sealed roads.

110km Road Route

A classic sealed road route including glimpses of Hanging Rock and the Cobaw State Forest. An ideal mixture of climbs and sweeping descents with great views on quiet roads. No traffic lights to worry about.

65km Mountain Bike Route

An off-road adventure for seasoned MTB riders on quiet back roads, and bush trails in the Wombat State Forest. Test your mountain bike mettle on parts of this scenic route. Smell the peppermints and keep an eye out for koalas! Enjoy being away from the traffic on this trek along roads and bush tracks.

All routes are fully supported with road marshals, signs and emergency services.

We provide you with a route map.

Online and Postal Entries are now Closed but you can still Enter On The Day at Woodend.

Boroondara Discovery Ride, Sunday 11 May

This is your opportunity not only to discover Boroondara's bike paths and their problems, but also to meet members of the Boroondara BUG and find out what drives them. Your hosts will be leader Phil Crohn, MBTC and Boroondara BUG member, and John Parker and Julia Blunden, both of the Boroondara BUG.

This is the first of two rides being organised by the BUG in conjunction with the Melbourne Bicycle Touring Club. Its purpose is not to cover lots of kilometres at high speed but rather to explore some of the deficiencies in the Boroondara bicycle network that the BUG is working to redress in conjunction with Council staff and others. We will also point out some of the more recent improvements that have been made along the way. And we'll certainly find time for a coffee or two as well as a lunch break.

This ride will begin by looking at the various options for closing the gap in the Gardiners Creek Path that currently exists between Solway Bridge and Warrigal Rd. We will then ride via the Outer Circle Trail to Willsmere Park to look at the proposed location for the bridge that is needed to close another even more serious gap, that between the Darebin Creek Path and the Yarra Trail. Along the way we'll look at the gap in the Outer Circle Trail itself at Riversdale Park and talk about options for closing it.

Meet at 9am at Ashburton Station in the west side car park.

In the event of any problems on the day contact Julia Blunden M 0408 501 082

Cyclovia is on Again

Sunday 13 April 2008, 8am - 2pm on Sydney Road from Bell Street, Coburg to Brunswick Road, Brunswick. Life to the street! Come and stroll, pedal, shop or relax over coffee and cake on Sydney Road free from motorised traffic. Enjoy this community space in a new way.

Consider volunteering as a marshal to help this event work smoothly. Contact nelliott@moreland.vic.gov.au for more information.

Moreland Council: http://www.moreland.vic.gov.au/news/whatson.htm#Cyclovia_Moreland_13_April_2008

2006 Cyclovia Pix: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/16115722@N00/tags/cyclovia/>

You Tube: Moreland Cyclovia: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XktvrrMBMi0>

General News

Bin the Bike Ban Follow-up Meeting

Ceres Café, Saturday 5 April, 1pm. Chris Star has convened this meeting to discuss developments since the bike ban on peak hour trains was lifted and possible follow-up that may be needed to ensure that promised improvements are actually implemented.

Boroondara News

Darebin Creek – Yarra Trail Link

Two good letters in this week's *Progress Leader* in support of the link. One, from community Coalition member Anthony Jones, stresses the importance of the link to students travelling from Alphington to Kew High School.

Minutes of Boroondara BUG Meeting Wednesday 12th March 2008

Held at Swinburne, Hawthorn Campus, Room TD244

Present: Jason den Hollander, Graeme Stone, Graham Ellis, Peter Campbell, Julia Blunden, John Parker, Alister Huth, Betty Weeks, David Leong, Don Glasson

Apologies: Phil Crohn

- Darebin Creek – Main Yarra Trail Link:** It was noted that both advertising and forms for submissions regarding PPAs appear biased towards objections to, as opposed to submissions in favour of, planning permits. JDH reported that BV's email to members had resulted in large numbers of letters in support of the link. GS pointed out that the fine detail of the plans is available on the PV web site. It was agreed that this issue needs to be on the home page of the BUG web site. JP agreed to arrange this. It was also agreed that the BUG submission to COB should be placed on the web site. JB agreed to do this. Other suggestions were to contact our own local councilors in the lead up to the issue going to Council's Urban Planning Committee for a decision, and for JB to obtain Anthony Jones' letter to the PL for placement on our web site.
- Bike Strategy:** This was raised at the Bicycle Advisory Committee where Jim Hondrakis commented on the number of detailed responses he had received, including those from the BUG and BV but also from individuals. It was agreed that JB should ask Jim if the BUG could see all the responses and also ask about timelines for the strategy.
- Gardiners Creek Path Missing Link:** JDH reported that BV has written to Ministers Pallas and Jennings, COB, DOI and VicRoads expressing concern that the link planned by COB is a local rather than a regional one, and as such should be funded by Council rather than the State Government. It was agreed that JB should contact Caroline Martin

and Jim Hondrakis to ask about the current status of the Master plan for Markham Reserve. Members could also contact Cr Mary Halikias-Byrne about this and explain why we do not support the current proposed link and want a proper investigation of other options.

4. **Eastern Rail Trail/East-West Trail:** Peter C reported that he is getting responses to his blog on this subject. He expressed his view that we need to build public support for this trail. He plans to develop a leaflet which can be placed in bike shops, libraries, etc to arouse interest in the project. It was agreed that we should write to Jim Hondrakis asking him to seek funding to scope the project. JB agreed to draft the letter and circulate it for comment.
5. **Web Site – Protocols for authorisation for editors/authors:** Peter C pointed out the need for both a disclaimer and a licence statement on our web site. JP agreed to include these, using PC's web site and the wikipedia as models. It was agreed that PC should be authorised as an editor/author. JP is currently the sole active Sysop but JDH has all the necessary information to take over if necessary, and JP agreed to supply details to JB for safe storage in case of need. It was agreed that the web site needs some re-organisation, with current news items on the home page and details of the BUG itself on an 'About us' page. The protocols for authorisation of web site editors/authors drafted by JB were amended slightly and will be placed on this page.
6. **Sustainable Living Festival:** It appears that both our laminated TravelSmart maps and our flyers went astray at this festival. JDH questioned the value of participating in such events, however JP suggested that the COB sustainable transport stall planned for the Farmers' Market on 19th April might present a better opportunity to recruit members
7. **Discovery ride to attract new members:** As Phil C is to lead this ride as an MBTC event he has asked that it be scheduled for a Sunday rather than a week day, the date to be agreed between PC, JP and JB. Details of the ride will be advertised in the next BUG newsletter as well as on the MBTC calendar. Participants will be offered a free coffee paid for from BUG funds.
8. **Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting:** As minutes of this meeting have not yet been received those present could only report in general terms. It was noted that Cr Heinz Kreutz is now a member and attended this meeting along with Cr Dick Menting. Council staff were also well represented. Jim Hondrakis signaled that he is planning an audit of the Yarra and Koonung trails and needs BUG volunteers. JP, BW, DG, GE and JB all expressed willingness to participate. JB agreed to contact Jim and let him know that we have a pool of BUG members who are interested and that we will let him know who is available when we have a firm date.
9. **New method of newsletter delivery:** JB reported that she had received two favourable responses and one cancellation after the new system was implemented. GS expressed concern as to how he would be able to pass on the newsletter in the new format to CDGBR members.
10. **Traffic management at annual/one-off events:** Alan Tonkin had communicated his concern that parking arrangements at the open day at the Guide Dogs centre had compromised the safety of path users. JDH commented that this was a recurrent problem with various events held in Boroondara, eg at Kooyoong, and elsewhere. It was agreed that this needs to be an agenda item at the next BAC meeting.
11. **Trail names:** It was agreed that this is one of many issues that would benefit from the creation of a statewide authority to manage cycling infrastructure. However there are local paths that Council needs to agree on names for.
12. **Meeting review:** At Peter C's suggestion those present expressed their view of the meeting. The consensus seemed to be that we were delighted with the attendance, that much useful discussion had occurred, but that we need to tighten up chairing of the meetings to limit discussion and speed up decision making. Placing time limits on agenda items was one solution proposed.

The matters of GVBR sponsorship and an alternative pre-dinner venue were deferred 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:
Julia Blunden
phone: 9853 5095
email: jblunden@bigpond.com

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 Graeme Stone) along with this form to:

Graeme Stone
16 Jervis St
Camberwell
Vic, 3124