

BOROONDARA

Bicycle Users Group

Newsletter August 2004

Next meeting: 7.30pm Thursday 12th August at Swinburne, Hawthorn Campus, TD building (between Park and Wakefield Streets) room TD246. (Bikes can be taken upstairs and safely parked near meeting room).

NOTE: BBUG meetings are on the 2nd Thursday of each month, except January.

The Boroondara Bicycle Users' Group (BBUG) is a voluntary group working to promote the adoption of a safe and practical environment for community 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.

BBUG has a web site www.vicnet.net.au/~bdarabug that contains interesting material related to cycling, links to other cycle groups and recent BBUG Newsletters.

We also have two Yahoo Groups:

Send a blank e-mail to BoroondaraBug-subscribe@yahoogroups.com to receive this monthly newsletter and occasional important messages.

Send a blank e-mail 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 BBUG. All rides publicised in this newsletter are embarked upon at your own risk.

Principal Bicycle Network Decision Time

Boroondara Cyclists - show your support on Monday August 9th 7.45 pm

Dear Cyclist,

Last year council asked for feedback on the plan for the Principal Bicycle Network and there was huge support.

A report on the bike lanes proposed as part of the State Government's Principal Bike Network (PBN) in Boroondara has been prepared by Council.

This report will be presented to Council's Services Special Committee meeting on Monday, 9 August 2004 commencing at 7.45pm in the Council Chamber at 8 Inglesby Road, Camberwell

It's important that as many people speak in favour of an improved bike network for Boroondara at the Council meeting. If you can, please come to the meeting and speak in favour. Your voice could make the difference.

For more information see Boroondara Council's website

<http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/yoursay/yoursay.asp?PageId=497> and Bicycle Victoria's website

http://www.bv.com.au/Content/NavigationMenu/Campaigns/Metro_Melbourne_campaigns/Eastern_suburbs_cycling.htm

Mary McParland, Campaigns - Bicycle Victoria. Ph 03 8636 8820

NOTE: To attend the Special Services Committee meeting next Monday enter by the usual public entrance to the council offices in Inglesby Rd / Camberwell Rd at the east end of the building near the Library. Bike parking rails are outside the entrance OR I'm sure we could use the excellent staff bicycle parking in the building – go past the lifts, to the left, near the toilets.

Public Bicycle Network Supporting Details and Report

From the Boroondara Web site (Find in *Council Meetings, All documents, Agendas and Minutes*) the following extracts from the council report are of interest. NOTE; The full report is available from the Council office with attachments. This council report provides all the background to Monday's meeting. Their recommendation goes to the full Council on 23rd August. **Bolding** by Editor.

[We need to be well represented and provide supportive discussion for the PBN in Boroondara. Are you free?](#)

Graeme Stone August Editor

COUNCIL OFFICER REPORT:

2. Purpose

To consider community submissions to the bike routes proposed within Boroondara as part of Melbourne's Principal Bicycle Network (PBN).

4. Background

The development of the PBN has a number of benefits to the wider community and to the immediate community. The key benefits to the wider community can be summarised as improved cyclist safety in riding along the road; encouraging additional cyclists; increased cycling leads to improved individual health, reduced greenhouse emissions, air pollution and congestion; reduced motorists' vehicle speeds along the road; improved amenity for abutting residents (through reduced vehicle speeds); providing connections to the existing PBN (in east-west and north-south directions).

The PBN was established in 1992 by the State Government through VicRoads and provides a plan for more than 2,000 km of on-road bicycle lanes and 1,300 km of off-road paths creating a connected and continuous cycling network within Metropolitan Melbourne. The PBN was reviewed in 2001 by VicRoads and Boroondara against the criteria of connectivity and directness; continuity; catchment. The existing and proposed bike facilities along the PBN are part of a wider strategy across the Melbourne Metropolitan area. A map showing the planned network of bike facilities along the arterial roads in Boroondara and the arterial roads in neighbouring municipalities is shown in Attachment A.

5. Issues

There are competing demands for the limited carriageway space within a road reserve such as pedestrians, cyclists, moving and stationary motorised vehicles. Many of the roads within Boroondara are not of ideal width to accommodate all competing user needs. Various bike lane options were developed by VicRoads, Council, Bicycle Victoria and Boroondara Bicycle Users Group to improve cycling safety using standard engineering treatments documented in the VicRoad's and Austroads' Guidelines and the Australian Standards.

The application of each type of bike lane considers the available road space, volume of the roadway, classification of the road network, connectivity, safety and parking activity.

The types of bike lanes developed for use mid-block are, from optimum to least optimum, exclusive bike lane, exclusive parking and bike lanes, shared bike and parking lanes, wide kerbside lanes (Refer Attachment B). Whilst a bike lane facility can be provided mid-block to increase safety, conflict with other road users may still exist on the approach to signalised intersections where road space priority has been allocated to optimise capacity of the motor vehicle. However, this needs to be viewed in the context that adult bike riders must ride on the road and the PBN provides a safety enhanced environment within which to ride a bike.

6. Communication/Consultation Process

Community feedback to the proposed PBN facilities was sought over a 4 week period in November 2003. The PBN map was placed in the progress leader, on the Boroondara web site and over 9,000 letters were distributed to all owner/ occupiers residing along those roads where on road bike facilities are proposed. A total of 300 responses were received of which 183 (61%) were in support of the PBN, 115 (38%) were opposed to the PBN and 2 were undecided. Attachment C details a summary of the level of support by street and Attachment D shows a summary of the main issues raised by the community. Feedback from the community as part of the Integrated Transport Strategy was found to be consistent with the responses received as part of this consultation process. The community has also been invited to present their views on the revised PBN to the Council at this meeting, through notices placed in the Progress Leader and on the Boroondara web site.

7. Financial and Resource Implications

Attachment F lists the roads within Boroondara which have previously been funded for PBN road markings and those which are yet to be funded. A total of **\$227,000** was provided from the State Government (through the VicRoads' Traffic & Transport Integration Program) for the installation of on-road **bike lanes along Highfield Road, Mont Albert Road, Greythorn Road, Union Road** north of Guildford Road and **Burke Road** north of Doncaster Road in 2003/04. This funding has now been

carried over to 2004/05, and recently the Minister for Transport announced an additional **\$341,000** was being provided in 2004/05, for new bike lanes along **Chandler Highway** west of Princess Street, Glenferrie Road south of Burwood Road and Tooronga Road.

8. Conclusion

That Council consider community presentations at the Services Special Committee meeting on 9 August 2004 and officer recommendations at the Council meeting on 23 August 2004. For the community's information, subject to the submissions made on 9 August, it is the officers' intention, at this time, to recommend that Council endorse the PBN as proposed in Attachment E

REPORT OFFICER: EVAN BOLOUTIS – TEAM LEADER, TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT

My Winter Riding – Why, How and Where?’

Rob Davey, our BBUG rural correspondent, responded to my request to winter riders with some tips for comfortable cycling. Rob rides from Wooreen about 10 km into Leongatha every day – now you know where Wooreen is! Thanks Rob.

As I ride all year round here's some winter tips.

1. Wear a headband around the ears , a cheap pair of ski gloves on the hands and some thick woollen socks on the feet.
2. Invest in a Gore-tex jacket and if the budget allows a pair of gore-tex pants.
3. Keep a spare pair of socks and a towel at the workplace.
4. When it's raining you can cover your shoes with rubber overshoes-can be bought at one of the large motorcycle dealers in Elizabeth Street, Melbourne-put some cheap plastic bags on your shoes first-this makes the overshoes easy to put on and pull off. Better still wear gumboots-yes I kid you not these are quite comfortable when riding and keep a spare pair of shoes at the workplace so you dont look like a dog wearing gumboots in the office.
4. Have a quality cup of coffee before you leave home and a cuppa soup or hot chocolate when you arrive at your destination.
5. If you're fortunate enough to have a life partner then you can drop a hint to have a hot dinner and warm fire ready for when you come back home. They could even fetch your slippers. We have a Labrador retriever who is only interested in pinching and destroying them but that's another story.

Cheerio from Rob.

Bike Bits

Editor Escapes

Our regular editor, Julia Blunden, is currently enjoying a holiday in Europe and you can be sure it is including lots of cycling. No doubt the follow up book on overseas cycle tours will be out in due course! (Have you seen Julia's recent release 'Bike Tours Around Victoria'?) Hope Julia and Ralph have a great time.

Graeme Stone August Editor

Recumbent Trike Wanted

Is anyone interested in discussing recumbent trikes ? I am in Seaford & looking to acquire one 2nd hand cos have back ache from mountain bike which has anyway now been stolen groan.

hannahrussell [hannannah@hotmail.com]

Cycling in Stonnington - enjoy the new smooth surface

The City of Stonnington has recently replaced approximately 115 metres of the shared path within the Malvern Valley Golf Course (North of East Malvern Railway Station/freeway bridge). Other works have included moving the protective fencing away from the path, removing Peppercorn trees from fenceline and replacing shared path signage. The project will be completed with centre line marking and the filling of the area next to the fence with a material suitable for riding and walking.

Thanks to Michael Sterling for this encouraging item

Major Trip Generators Near Boorondara

Cycling Potential at Deakin University Burwood

Cycling is rearing its head out of the proverbial sand at Deakin Burwood in 2004. While it may not rise as high as the multi-storey carpark on campus, nevertheless there was a pleasant introduction of ten fully enclosed and secure bike lockers near the Deakin cafeteria. They have even been decorated with funky lettering with the word 'bicycle' written across the lockers in over 5 languages.

As an unofficial audit of numbers of students and staff who ride to Deakin, figures have been at highest around 30 bikes on campus on one day. It is likely others have remained uncounted due to reasons such as staff who take bikes into their offices which are not visible to count.

Routes that Deakin attendees have been witnessed taking to the Burwood campus (while myself travelling there) have included from Burwood station in particular, Box Hill station, along with coming from both directions along Gardiners Creek.

So the challenge is now... reaching the latent deakin cycling potential. Deakin is a major trip generator that would benefit greatly from an increase in cycling. The two major challenges seem to be raising the profile of cycling to Deakin, and enhancing the level of safety in riding to Deakin- especially for those who ride from Burwood Station and dare to take on Burwood Highway...

If you're someone who rides to Deakin and wants to know more (or do more) about cycling at Deakin, please contact me.

Safe cycling,
Anne Marie Malesic
anniem@rocketmail.com 0407 228 344
Fairview Av Camberwell
Deakin Student

Cycling in Melbourne – New Release - The Facts

Do you know how far cyclists ride? Where are they going? What is the age profile? The answers are in the VicRoads publication *Cycling in Melbourne- Ownership, Use and Demographics. 1997-1999*. It is a companion to the 1994-1996 edition using data from the Victorian Activity and Travel Survey. VicRoads also plans to distribute a report on cycling to work in Melbourne by the end of September 2004. *Cycling in Melbourne* will be available on www.vicroads.vic.gov.au or from the Bookshop on 9854 2782.

BV Campaigns Night

Take 1: On Wednesday 27 July I attended BV's campaigns workshop and information night at Melbourne Town Hall, along with about 100 other cyclists including several BBUGgers.

Travelling by foot and train I had no need of bike parking, but must commend BV for providing secure bike parking in a room right next to the meeting room. Admittedly I arrived about fifteen minutes late, but there was no sign of food - just stacks of clean cups and saucers near the urns. We sat ourselves on tables of eight, each equipped with a bowl of mints, eight glasses and a jug of iced water - with 9o Celsius and rain outside! So much for the advertised 'light supper'. However the seats were comfortable and the company amenable, so overall a tolerable evening. 9/10 for bike parking, 2/10 for catering, 7/10 for general ambience = 6/10 overall. Satisfactory but much potential for improvement.

Notes by Phil.

Take 2: Richard Smithers as key speaker presented the inspirational achievements in the city of Yarra. A commitment in any council budget for cycling is great but then to hear that it went from an expectation of \$100,000 to in fact \$160,000 per annum of Council's money was something others dream about. Richard demonstrated the facilities that had been installed with an informative 'slide' show. City of Yarra (and no doubt others too like Darebin) have set valuable benchmarks for not only appropriate spending but also for commitment to cycling from Councillors through to officers. City of Yarra's Bicycle Advisory Committee was a recognised factor in 'oiling the wheels' of progress. It was good after the talk to then share our issues with new fellow cyclists in the workshop but

the prioritising of these issues did get a bit tedious despite Bart's very good compilation skills. Hopefully BV campaigns staff will have got some of the feedback they need. I look forward to hearing of even more success stories next time and like Phil I think a heap of party pies (and vegie burgers) would be good value too!

Notes by Graeme

Minutes of Boroondara BUG Meeting Thursday 8th July 2004

Meeting held at Swinburne, Hawthorn Campus, Room TD246

Present: Graeme Stone, Phil Crohn, David Leong, Jason den Hollander, Graham Ellis, Jacques Fievez, Julia Blunden

Apologies: Janet Bennett, Peter Read

Prior to the commencement of the meeting proper Jacques Fievez showed those present a map detailing proposed changes to a roundabout at the intersection of St Georges Road and Merri Parade in Northcote and invited their comments. A stronger curve is being introduced into the roundabout to slow traffic down which will presumably make it safer for cyclists.

1. **Web Site:** Brett Robson has undertaken to revamp the web site in the near future. As Brett was not present at the meeting JD offered to liaise with him about this task. DL agreed to have a look at material on 'The Bicycle' on the current web site and carry out any necessary editing. GS and JD have also agreed to write material for the site.
2. **GVBR Sponsorship:** Peter Read was not present at the meeting but had reported that Leonie Gibson at BCC had been unable to help with identifying a suitable beneficiary and had offered to ask Leanne Field 'who does individual sponsorships'. PR had also offered to contact Preshil. JB offered to ring a contact at Hawthorn Secondary College.
3. **PBN:** So far as we know there has still been no date set for the Council to make a decision on whether or not to proceed with the next batch of PBN routes. BUG members are asked once again to contact their own councillors urging them to support the roll out of the PBN if they have not already done so. JB agreed to post the email she had sent to Meredith Butler to the Discussion group as a guide.

GS offered to ring Evan Boloutis about this matter and advised members to call in at the Council offices in Camberwell at every opportunity and check Council agendas and minutes. BUG members need to be ready to attend the relevant Council meeting. GS also agreed to send out a precis of the BUG's proposed treatments for the PBN routes on the Discussion group again.

4. **Media Release on \$341,000 New Works in Boroondara:** Puzzlement was expressed as to why these new works can be announced, as apparently definite projects, while the PBN routes need Council approval. This issue will be raised at the forthcoming BV campaigns night, see below. It was proposed that a letter be sent to Peter Bachelor thanking him for this bounty and asking for a timeline. GS offered to seek further information first. Concerns were also raised about the safety of the proposed bike lanes on the Chandler Highway, in particular at points where cars exit and enter the highway.
5. **Shared Footways on Bridges:** JB reported that the response of the Yarra BAC to our proposals for shared footways on Hawthorn and Victoria bridges had been generally favourable and that these are likely to go ahead soon.
6. **Barkers Road Cutting:** JD reported on this. In addition to footways on the bridge, ramps off and onto Barkers Road are needed. BCC seem sympathetic to this but Yarra Council will also be involved. JD offered to continue pursuing this with Patrick Reed at BCC. Regarding the detour on the south side of the cutting, a ramp to Harrison Crescent is unproblematic. However there is a driveway near the lane on the Myrtle Street side of the lane and parking is in short supply so we are not likely to get a ramp there.
7. **Possible Survey of BCC Candidates:** JB has proposed surveying BCC candidates prior to the next council election due 27/11/04. There was general agreement with this proposal. Suggestions included contacting BV who have done such surveys in the past, and Trevor Larsen who has done a previous survey in Boroondara. It was suggested that the survey be carried out initially by email, to be followed up by a phone call if there is no response. The Victorian Electoral Commission could provide information about deadlines for nominations etc.
8. **Logo:** It was decided that the BUG should adopt the logo in Boroondara colours (not blue and yellow!) designed by JD based on an idea of Brett Robson's. As well as featuring on the new web site the logo can be incorporated into the newsletter title, any new flyers and possibly a business card for distribution.
9. **BV Campaigns Night 28/7:** It was reported that Richard Smithers will be one of the speakers at this. GS, PC, DL and JD all said they would attend. Agenda items to be forwarded to BV for inclusion are council elections and amendments to the *Road Management Act* providing for VicRoads to reclaim management of roads from councils.

10. **Bicycle Advisory Committee:** PC suggested that JB follow up her report on the Yarra BAC in the newsletter with a letter to BCC councillors and another shorter one to the Progress Leader. GS read out a letter received from Duncan McGregor, chairman of the Whitehorse BAC suggesting cooperation with our BUG. It was agreed that GS should invite Duncan to our September meeting as JB will be away for the August meeting.
11. **Chandler Highway- Main Yarra Trail Connections:** JD met with Patrick Reed (BCC) and Mary McParland (BV) in the week before the meeting to work on improvements for cyclists in this location. One proposal was for a new formal path between the eastern side of the Chandler Highway and the MYT near the Guide Dogs Centre, to replace informal paths already created. The new path should join the MYT on an acute angle, creating a Y-shaped intersection. PC suggested that this path could be made wide enough for trucks used by maintenance workers obviating the need for a second track. On the western side of the Chandler Highway the suggestion was for a ramp from the road onto the footpath near the 'goat track', with road markings to discourage parking at this point. A possible second ramp near the steps seemed less important. There has been no final agreement from BCC to proceed with these works yet but they will be scoped.

Notes by Julia Blunden

Contacts for Rides

There are many BUGs, clubs and other organisations in and around Boroondara with interesting ride programs. Below are some of their contact details. At the end of this newsletter is a separate section with details of some of their forthcoming rides.

[Sorry for the lack of ride detail this issue – you will have to go direct to the contacts below Ed.]

Camberwell Downhill Gourmet Bike Riders: contact Elva Parker, phone: 9836 6392

Boroondara Bushwalkers: contact Julia Blunden, phone: 9853 5095, e-mail: jblunden@bigpond.com; web site: www.keypoint.com.au/~bbwinc

Hawthorn Cycle Tours: contact Hawthorn Aquatic and Leisure Centre, phone: 9815 0988; e-mail: lexbishop@bikerider.com; website: <http://www.geocities.com/perften/Hct.html>

Council on the Ageing (COTA) Cycling Group: contact Janet Bennett, e-mail: janpeter@bigpond.net.au or COTA, phone: 9654 4443.

Knox Bicycle Touring Club Incorporated, email: Email: Mikeaatleisure@aol.com Web site: home.vicnet.net.au/~knoxbike

Manningham BUG: e-mail: seball@netlink.com.au, H.Edwards@bom.gov.au; web site: 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; web site: home.vicnet.net.au/~mbush/

Whitehorse Cyclists: e-mail: ejhopper@vicnet.net.au; web site: home.vicnet.net.au/~wcycle

Darebin BUG: contacts: Kathleen Kemp, phone: 9482 3276; Ray Davis, phone: 9470 –3029; e-mail: darebinbug@yahoo.com.au; web site: www.darebinbug.org.au

YHA: contacts: Claire, phone: 9726 5421 or Jane, phone: 9525 6462; e-mail: yhacycling@yahoo.com.au; website: <http://www.vicnet.net.au/~yhacycle>

Melbourne Bicycle Touring Club: contact Touring Secretary, Dave Cash, phone: 9817 3269, or e-mail info@mbtc.org.au (Please note that this e-mail address doesn't get checked every day - so don't expect an immediate response!) Web site: mbtc.org.au

Boroondara BUG Contacts:

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Boroondara Bicycle Users Group	Membership Form
Name: _____	
Address: _____	
Postcode: _____	Member of Bicycle Victoria? Y / N
Phone: (H): _____ (W): _____	
e-mail: _____	
<p>Membership requires a one-off payment of \$10 per household. There is an additional charge of \$10 per annum for delivery of a hardcopy newsletter. Please send cheque (made out to <i>Graeme Stone</i>) along with this form to: Graeme Stone, 16 Jervis St , CAMBERWELL, VIC 3124</p>	

Past and Forthcoming Rides

Camberwell Downhill Gourmet Bike Riders - 15th August 2004 Ride

WHERE: Meet at Glen Waverley Railway Station (Coleman Parade Car Parking area next to railway) and ride to Carrum Beach via Jells Park. Melways Map 71 C2 **DISTANCE:** Approx 33kms.

TIME: Meet at 9.45am for 10.00am Start. Returning by train from Carrum to Glen Waverley Station around 4.30pm.

DETAILS: Heading off from the Glen Waverley Railway at 10.00am ride along secondary roads to Waverley road crossing at pedestrian crossing and linking up with shared bike/foot path next to Springvale Road which we will then cross at the next set of pedestrian lights and again link up with Scotsman's Creek Bike Trail. We will then find our way through some very hilly streets to Jells Park linking up to the Bike path which will then take us on to Dandenong. Crossing over Princes Highway we will then link up with the Bike path which will then take us through to Carrum riding on top of the levy banks alongside the Patterson River.

WHAT TO BRING:

All food and drinks for mid-morning stop and lunch would be wise. (When we did this ride earlier in the year there were no shops or cafes open as has been in the past). Wear wet weather gear or at least take wet weather gear. This ride is out in the open especially from Dandenong to Carrum.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES: These are located at Jells Park Kiosk (where last chance of food purchases can be made) our next stop being Dandenong and at Carrum near the kiosk and also at both railway stations.

ENQUIRIES: Contact David and Geraldine Powell **after 7.00pm** any night on 9561 0584.

LAST MONTH' S RIDE:

Seventeen riders enjoyed a sunny day of riding around the Docklands and Williamstown. The weather stayed dry and the wind was minimal which added to the pleasure of the day. It was also a lovely surprise to have Janet's three little nephews riding with us too – no hills and a very even surface for them which they managed with ease. Thank you Elva for organizing this day which was by all accounts ..'a beaut day' and was enjoyed by one and all.

Council on the Ageing (COTA) Cycling Group - Rides Program

We will ride every 2nd and 4th Wednesday in the month. We will meet at 10 am at the place specified. If the weather forecast given for the day is above 30°C the ride will start at 8am and conclude by 12midday. Every effort will be made to find a coffee stop midmorning! We will generally take our own lunch and picnic together. Some rides are on rail trails in the country and the starting times for these rides will be specified if different. Riders are welcome to join the ride along the way if it is closer to home. Please contact Janet Bennett on 9853 9808 to discuss any details.