

BOROONDARA

Bicycle Users Group

Newsletter August 2007

Boroondara BUG meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, except January. Next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 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 web site 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:

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 Boroondara BUG. All rides publicised in this newsletter are embarked upon at your own risk.

Features

Velocity 2007

At the last BUG get-together Paul McKay, one of Melbourne's early cycle advocates and a former General Manager of BV, reported on his attendance at the international cycling conference Velocity 2007 held in Munich at which he was a delegate. Here are the notes which he kindly supplied to the VicBugChat group.

There were about 900 delegates and many doing amazing things in cycling. I had a lovely time, got to meet some interesting people at lunch and dinner, drank some lovely beer, saw an amazing city in Munchen (why do we need to change this to Munich in English anyway - and the same for Bayern and Bavaria and Deutschland and Germany). The conference was superbly organised – German precision engineering.

However for the most part I am left kinda disillusioned by conferences and offer the following;

- What about an online conference on a specific topic where we don't all have to fly around the world and we can listen in over a pod cast or Skype or something. Much cheaper and might get a larger audience and grow new ways
- What about a speed dating type of meeting session. The most interesting bits for me were at coffee and dinner et al where I met some delicious folk. So what say we twist the speed dating concept and organise one minute meetings with people and we can swap business cards and work out who we want to catch up with later.
- I reckon they need a category of folk they actively invite and perhaps even pay for to attend and present. Some of the folk I would find most interesting (Sue from the Thunderhead Alliance (the umbrella US group), Suzanne form Velo Quebec (the largest cycling NGO in the world) and lots more were there but not presenting.

Some of the things I saw and heard that interested me were

- A "**Slow Up**" ride in Switzerland. A bit like a Cyclovia, except in a rural area. 30,000 people pedalling a circle route of about 30km. 10 villages dressed to the nines, no start times and no start place (you choose), closed roads, lots of roller bladers – simple and wonderful, cafes all over. <http://www.slowup.ch/>

- **Call a bike.** I had heard of these and it was super to see. Strange but useful bikes dotted all over the cities. If you want one you call or sms and give your credit card, they give you a code and the bikes is yours for 8 euro cents per minute up to a max of 15 euro per day.- see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Call_a_Bike. I see JC Decaux are playing with something here and there are questions around whether we are ready and how helmets are managed – fair enough questions and I would have thought eminently resolvable.
- Lots of interesting **bike parking rails** (makes us look really limited here) and routine accommodation for cycling on roads and trains and paths and all over
- Interesting to meet with the president of the **ADFC** the German cycling organisation with 100,000 members who have a program to get to 200,000
- An interesting presentation by some **marketing** students who suggested that cycling was a marketing issue rather than an engineering issue. Since 1987 cycling's modal share has fallen from 12% to 10% whilst there has been an investment in infrastructure. They noted that cars are sold with passion and sex and cycle commuting was not marketed and seen as drab and something my mother did.
- **Bike Licensing in Switzerland** – each year you pay an amount and get a sticker for your bike that means you are licensed and have some insurance – probably more like a fishing license than a car licence we are used to
- **Dublin cycling festival** – more like an art festival with bikes as the theme than a cycling festival with bike rides 'n stuff – sounded super and I loved lots of the creative ideas
- **Bikes on buses** – I know there is a view here that we want people riding bikes rather than sitting on buses with their bikes on the back but it works in the US with similar tspt physiognomy to us. There are over 100 transit authorities and bus companies that have implemented it
- Combined bicycle and helicopter paths in Poland. I enjoyed the presentation and this line to describe those paths that stop suddenly and start again down the road
- **London and NY** have a trail blazing leader. I suggest the city in the world that has done the most for cycling in a period of time is Bogota. This happened with the passion of the Mayor. London and NY have mayors pushing bike stuff so I am hopeful of real progress and also that these people pave a way for a genuine trail blazing leader in Aus.
- **Copenhagen** mayor – aiming at 60%. They have around 40% modal share and are aiming at 50% and then 60%
- **Footpath cycling.** Lots of the cycling in Deutschland felt to me like I was on a footpath (segregated pathways) and felt strange when I was both walking and cycling. Locals seemed to cope just fine so perhaps it was just me.
- The dough really is in **health**. I have been saying this for some time and it was great to meet a fella in the US who had read the same stuff as me and made the same conclusions – like wow there is someone else out there.
- Some silly helmet thinking. Where helmets are not compulsory, there are some really strange conclusions they make when the point to cycling in Melb. One guy had the poster demonstrating how compulsory helmets had ruined cycling in Melb and that cyclists were imprisoned for not wearing helmets...
- Touring – ahhhhhhhhh. This was my first love in cycling but has waned somewhat in Aus. My heart sang to see all the touring cycling and the facilities and gear.
- Politicians are the same all over. You could spot the politicians when presenting even before I turned the translator thingy on just by their demeanor and clothes and posture... And they seem to say the same stuff the world over.
- Cooking analogy. A Dutch fellow presented a sweet analogy between building cycling infrastructure and cooking – we have a range of ingredients and we don't always want the same meal....
- **European cycling federation** – wow – like a functional BFA. Most national organisations have formal relationship with state and local groups and it seems to work. They are all then members of the ECF and this seems to work too. I hear they have their fair share of politicking (both at a national level and at the ECF) but they seem to survive this and flourish.
- Lots of really interesting **Ride to Work** programs and numbers. I thought ours was pretty good but some of the tricks I hear of were real neat.

Paul McKay, M 0425 796 001 Some of Paul's current activities include:

- I am a somewhat active member of Morebug (when in town)
- Setting up some Great Rides in South Africa see www.greateventcompany.com
- Have put together a program of getting cycling mobility to poor folk in Africa see here for a video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KH2MdjA5TRA> and see here for details <http://www.greateventcompany.com/topic.php?a=15> and please contact me if you want to help
- Running a workshop at Australia's first conference of parliamentarians

See <http://www.velo-city2009.com/> for a promo video (~5min) for the 2009 conference in Brussels.

General News

Federation Trail Funding Boost

Media release from the Minister for Roads and Ports, Tuesday, 24 July, 2007

The Minister for Roads and Ports, Tim Pallas, today joined Bicycle Victoria CEO Harry Barber and local cyclists to announce a further \$250,000 for improvements to Federation Trail.

Mr Pallas said the funding boost would improve 10km of the Trail by providing a continuous asphalt and concrete surface for the entire length of the trail from Brooklyn to Werribee.

"Federation Trail has been a popular cycling and walking path since it opened last October, and this latest funding boost will make the facility even better to use," Mr Pallas said.

"At the moment, there is a mix of surfaces along the 23km trail, including short sections of concrete, asphalt and a coarse stone surface.

"With this funding, the sections of coarse stone surface will be asphalted, making the journey more pleasurable for riders. The surfacing work is expected to be finished in October this year, dependent of course on good weather."

Mr Barber said the improvements were welcomed by cyclists and pedestrians who use the path every week.

"Federation Trail provides cycling opportunities in the west, and this latest funding injection will make cycling and walking a more attractive recreational option," Mr Barber said.

"Many families living in the west have explored the trail whether walking, running or riding, and we have listened to their feedback and are acting to improve their Federation Trail experience."

Mr Pallas said the Federation Trail was the biggest ever single bicycle project in Melbourne.

"This \$12.5 million trail which connects to existing paths including the Werribee River Trail and the Western Ring Path, and provides safe off road access to the northern areas of Melbourne such as Tullamarine and Greensborough," he said.

As part of the \$10.5 billion *Meeting our Transport Challenges* plan announced last year, the Bracks Government announced new funding of \$72 million over 10 years to extend Victoria's bicycle networks and enhance pedestrian crossings and facilities across the entire state, the biggest commitment to bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the State's history.

A map showing the location of the Federation Trail is available online on www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/federationtrail or www.bv.com.au

Thanks to Graeme Stone for this item

Events

Film Night

Moreland BUG is holding a film night on Thursday 16th August at 7pm down at the Brunswick Velodrome, Roberts Reserve, Harrison St, Brunswick East. The Brunswick Cycling Club have most generously allowed us to use their clubrooms for the event so that we don't have to freeze outside in the cold, and Dave the Master BBQ Chef will provide warming culinary delights, fresh off the barbie.

The film will be the inspirational doco "How Cuba Survived Peak Oil" - kindly supplied by the City of Moreland - which I'm told is an uplifting look at just how much a community can achieve when people put their hearts and minds to it.

Bookings essential as places are limited RSVP: daebh@alphalink.com.au , and a gold coin donation will gain you entry (all proceeds to the BUG).

Anna Stempel

Rotary River Ride Sunday 28th October

Mark your diary now, and get your registration form in early.

Last year 570 riders enjoyed cycling along the beautiful trails beside the Yarra River. Choose 15km, 30km or 50km ride. Free coffee and jelly beans along the track. Starts and finishes at Hays Paddock, East Kew, BBQ and music afterwards. Register early – to go in the draw for a special prize.

This ride is organised by the Rotary Club of North Balwyn, and raises funds in support of the Olivia Newton-John Cancer Centre at the Austin Hospital.

See the website for details. <http://www.rotaryriverride.com.au/>

Boroondara News

Cotham Ward By-election

Congratulations to Phil Meggs, the new councillor representing Cotham Ward.

August Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting

The next Boroondara Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting will be held on Friday 24th August, 3-5pm. Meetings are held in the Council Offices at Inglesby Rd Camberwell, normally in Meeting room 1. Observers are welcome to attend but are asked to notify Julia Smith, Sustainable Transport Officer, prior to attendance so that she can insure that there is enough space available. Julia can be contacted on phone: 9278 4542 and her email address is: Julia.Smith@boroondara.vic.gov.au

Minutes of Boroondara BUG Meeting 11th July

Held at Swinburne, Hawthorn Campus, Room TD244

Present: Graeme Stone, Julia Blunden, Phil Crohn, John Parker, Jason den Hollander, Graham Ellis, Gordon Macmillan

Apologies: Don Glasson, David Leong

1. **Darebin Creek – Main Yarra Trail link:** JD reported that Parks Victoria will submit the remaining planning applications simultaneously this month to three of the councils involved: Yarra, Darebin, and Boroondara. Construction has begun on the section of trail from the rail line to Heidelberg Rd.
2. **Cotham By-election:** Candidates' responses have been posted on the BUG web site and published in the newsletter. Voting is now in progress. PC pointed out that the web site is currently confusing with material relating to the previous BCC election and the present by-election insufficiently differentiated. JD agreed to make some changes.
3. **Bike Strategy:** When contacted by JB Julia Smith indicated that the draft strategy would be complete either the Friday before the meeting or the one after. JB had still not received the draft at the time of the meeting but agreed to circulate it to all interested parties as soon as she receives it. JB also agreed to organise a special meeting at her place to discuss it.
4. **Road Safety Strategy:** JD reported that the 2002 BCC Road Safety Strategy is currently being updated and that there is much in it of concern to cyclists, especially in relation to accidents. JD is responding to BCC on behalf of BV and will circulate his response to BUG members for comment.
5. **BCC Budget:** JD reported that he has checked the BCC budget for the next financial year. It includes mention of various plans that may concern the BUG. JD offered to put together a list of these for consideration at our next meeting.
6. **Business Name and Bank Account:** GS agreed to investigate the availability of a cheap bank account at local branches of various banks.
7. **Gardiners Creek Path Missing Link:** GS reported that BCC landscape architect Caroline Martin is currently writing the report for the consultant on the study conducted by Stonnington. When this report goes to BCC stakeholders will have an opportunity to make representations.
GS has written about the BUG's concerns to Bob Stensholt with copies to Jim Hondrakis; BCC Solway Councillor Mary Halikias-Byrnes; Stonnington East Ward Councillors Anne O'Shea, Judy Hindle and Steve Stefanopoulos; Planning Minister Thwaites; BV; Parks Victoria and Tony Barton at VicRoads. Bob Stensholt responded by asking for more detail including maps.
It was agreed that GS would arrange a meeting between himself, BUG members David Arnold and Graham Ellis, and Bob Stensholt. Councillor Mary Halikias-Byrnes will also be invited to this meeting.
8. **A3 and A4 sized posters:** JD produced the finished posters which will be stored by JB.

9. **Liaison with Neighbouring BUGs:** JB reported that she had invited Darebin BUG to send a representative to the meeting. Kathleen Kemp had responded that she was unable to attend the July meeting but should be able to attend the August meeting. It was agreed that Councillor Luke Tobin should also be invited to this meeting.
10. **BUG Needs Survey:** GS reported that he had received input from several members and had returned the survey document to the CPF.
11. **Trail Names:** JP raised the issue of shared paths having different or even no names. He said that DSE has a register of place names with a category 'tracks' but that this currently does not contain the names of shared paths. The public is invited to contribute to this register. PC suggested that Parks Victoria and local councils do already have names for many of these paths. JD suggested contacting PV and also Tony Barton at VicRoads about this. The Place Names Committee may also be able to shed light on the matter.
12. **Wheel Truing Device:** GM demonstrated his ingenious, home-made wheel truing device. He also alerted us to the forthcoming closure of Abbotsford Cycles, from 10/8-10/9, as the proprietors will be traveling overseas.

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.

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

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

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

Ashburton Riders Club: contacts *Tony Landsell*' email: tony@diacher.com or *Justin Murphy*, email: murphij@au1.ibm.com web site: <http://www.ashburtonridersclub.asn.au/>

Finbar Neighbourhood House Rides: Contact Deb in the office on 9428 7668 or 0403 028 200

Council on the Ageing (COTA) Cycling Group: contact Janet Bennett, e-mail: janpeter@bigpond.net.au or COTA, phone: 9654 4443; web site: <http://www.cotavic.org.au/programs>

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

Manningham BUG: email: 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: <http://www.whitehorsecyclists.org.au/>

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

Darebin BUG: Rides and Events Coordinator, Doug Morffew, phone: 9499 7325 (AH), email: dougmorff@alphalink.com.au Download the [Darebin BUG rides flyer](#), with details of rides. (Word doc); web site: www.darebinbug.org.au

YHA: contacts: *Ride Co-Ordinator Kathy* on 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

Melbourne Bicycle Touring Club: contact Touring Secretary, Dave Cash, phone: 9817 3269, or email info@mbtc.org.au (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:

Membership Secretary & Treasurer:

Graeme Stone, 16 Jervis Street, Camberwell VIC 3124.
e-mail: graeme_stone@optusnet.com.au

Newsletter Editor & Minutes Secretary:

Julia Blunden, phone: 9853 5095
e-mail: jblunden@bigpond.com

Additional Contact:

David Leong: leongd@anz.com

Media Contact & Webmaster:

Jason den Hollander, phone: 0407 11 88 91
email: fdutch@gmail.com

Meeting Chair:

Phil Crohn: philcrohn@ozemail.com.au

Boroondara Bicycle Users Group

Membership Application Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Member of Bicycle Victoria? Y / N

Phone: (H): _____ (W): _____

e-mail: _____

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 *Graeme Stone*) along with this form to: Graeme Stone, 16 Jervis St , CAMBERWELL, VIC 3124