

BOROONDARA

Bicycle Users Group

Newsletter February 2007

Boroondara BUG meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, except January. Next meeting will be at 6.30pm on Wednesday 14 February at the home of Phil Crohn, 2/255 Mont Albert Road, Surrey Hills, Melway 46 G10. BBQ from about 6:30 pm, formal meeting around 8 pm. Phil will provide veggie-burgers, some bread and salad and soft drinks. BYO meat and alcohol if desired. RSVP 9836 3329 or philcrohn@ozemail.com.au All welcome.

The Boroondara BUG is a voluntary group working to promote the adoption of a safe and practical environment for commuting 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.

Opinion

Bikes Miss Out When Buses Replace Trains

Over the Australia Day long weekend, busses replaced trains between Camberwell and Ringwood, but the busses refused to carry surfboards, bicycles or dogs other than guide dogs. A phone call to Connex customer relations assured me that low floor busses can carry wheelchairs and prams, but refused to give a reason why they cannot also carry other bulky items which can be carried on trains.

On a typical summer weekend, hundreds of cyclists use trains to get into the city, or out to the Warburton Rail Trail and mountain bike trails beyond Ferntree Gully, but we were unreasonably inconvenienced by Connex's weekend intransigence. Luckily I was able to make alternative arrangements in time, but I suspect that a number of other travellers were stranded. What can we do about this discrimination against cyclists when trains are replaced by busses?

Phil Crohn

This is an important issue and even more so where V/Line is concerned. On the Melbourne Cup Weekend last year many cyclists aiming to catch the train to Bairnsdale and ride the East Gippsland Rail Trail were turned away because V/Line had not thought to add a D-car to the train to cater for this very predictable demand. Sprinter trains and the new so-called very fast trains have very limited space for bikes. Some lines have no old-fashioned loco-driven services at all and those that do operate are not necessarily at the most convenient times for cyclists. V/Line maintain that we need to ring and warn them we are coming but often when we do no record is made of the information. *Ed.*

Events

Sustainable Living Festival

The Sustainable Living Festival is on February 16–18 at Federation Square. Opening hours are:

Friday: 10am – 6pm (mainly school groups and businesses)

Saturday: 10am – 6pm

Sunday: 10am – 5pm

Entry cost: Free

For more information on the festival visit: Sustainable Living Festival: <http://www.slf.org.au/festival/>

The Cycling Promotion Fund has booked a large marquee space to ensure a good cycling presence at the Festival and to enable Bicycle Users Groups to have a shared display at no cost to themselves. This will be a great event for promoting cycling and BUG's – with an estimated 100,000 visitors over the weekend.

Boroondara BUG along with many others will have a presence in the CPF marquee. This is a great opportunity to come and have a chat to BUG representatives and to collect copies of useful publications such as TravelSmart maps.

Melbourne Summer Cycle Event Sunday 25th February

How about planning a fun filled Sunday and take part in an inner Melbourne circuit! You will you start at Alexandra Gardens and have the thrill of riding over the West Gate Bridge and finishing with live entertainment at Piazza Italia at Argyle Square, in festive Lygon St, Carlton! This is a fully supported event, where you can choose the option of a 45km or 30km circuit.

The main purpose in staging the event is to raise the public awareness of Multiple Sclerosis in Melbourne and to raise funds for the ongoing provision of programs and services to people with MS in Victoria.

To find out more: www.melbournesummerycycle.org.au.

Contact: Amy MacCormack, Event Coordinator, MS Society Victoria, email: amaccormack@mssociety.com.au

Bike Path Discovery Day 2007

Bike Path Discovery Day 2007 is on Sunday 4 March 2007 and provides an exciting way to find new places to ride your bike car free. Join us – registration is free!

Your chance to explore

Bike Path Discovery Day 2007 is a great opportunity to see something new in your area and ride car free. It is also a chance to win some great prizes! We will give you some ideas on where you can ride, then you can design your own outing. You can take in some wetlands, pat some ponies at the Collingwood Children's Farm, stop at one of the many cafes, have a picnic in the park, listen to some Jazz (see Jells Park) or spot some native Australian birds, just to name a few of the free things you can do all within Parks and bike paths.

Bring along a friend who has never ridden along the world-class paths and trails of Victoria and watch the smile spread across their faces when they realise how much fun it can be.

How it works

Registration

[Register](#) for Bike Path Discovery Day 2007 early! Registration enters you into the draw to win prizes and entitles you to a Passport. To receive your Passport **prior** to Bike Path Discovery Day, register **before 28 February**.

You can still register after Bike Path Discovery Day to be a part of the Triple Trail Challenge and the Triple Trail Student Challenge.

All registrations close on **29 May**.

Passport

Your Passport is your "ticket to ride" and has maps for the rides that you can do. Each of the bike paths in the Passport will be marshalled by the "Discovery Team" who can help you along the way and provide directions if you are not sure where to go. The Discovery Team will be stationed along the paths from **10am to 4pm** on the day.

At the end of the ride on Bike Path Discovery Day, you will receive an official stamp in your Passport from the Discovery Team Leader who will be located at the Ride Hub for each ride. You can choose to do any of the rides in the Passport, or make your own itinerary based on the maps in the Passport.

Ride Hubs

The Ride Hubs are at the following locations:

[Brimbank Park \(Keilor\)](#) [Balyang Sanctuary \(Geelong\)](#)
[Waterfront City \(Docklands\)](#) [Jells Park \(Wheelers Hill\)](#)
[Westerfolds Park \(Templestowe\)](#) [Yarra Bend Park \(Fairfield\)](#)

Each of the Ride Hubs will have special activities on the day from **10am to 4pm**. Click on any of them to find out more.

Triple Trail Challenges

Take full advantage of your Passport and website ride notes to keep discovering. Collect three stamps from three different Ride Hubs to be in the draw to win the [major prizes](#). The Triple Trail Challenge is open to all participants who register up to 29 May, and the Triple Trail Student Challenge is open to under 16 year olds who register up to 29 May.

Reproduced from the Bicycle Victoria web site at <http://www.bv.com.au/join-us/30553/>

Resources and Opportunities

Families of the Future Course

The Families of the Future – the two wheel revolution' course which is made up of two sessions about 'cycling with kids on board' 0–4 years old, and another two sessions on 'cycling with kids along side' is now ready to be rolled out further afield. If you are involved with a council, neighbourhood organisation, BUG or local school who might be interested in hiring our facilitators to deliver the course contact me to discuss your needs, fees apply. This course is available for delivery across Metropolitan Melbourne and beyond.

Contact: Rachel Carlisle, Sustainable Transport Projects Coordinator, Environment Victoria; email: rachel@envict.org.au; phone: 9341 8107; fax: 03 9341 8199; postal address: PO Box 12575, A'Beckett St, Melbourne, Victoria 8006

Video on Separated Bike Lanes

If you haven't already seen this short New York video, it's worth a look. It can be accessed at either of the following websites. It may give local councillors some ideas on what's possible.

<http://www.streetsblog.org/2007/01/02/the-case-for-physically-separated-bike-lanes>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ONS2ptAR4mo>

Referenced from article in Bicycle NSW's February 2007 newsletter "PushOn"
(http://www.pushon.com.au/downloads/PO_3102.pdf)

Many thanks to Ian Scott for passing on this information

Help Needed

Calling Inventive Types

I am looking for someone to make me a pedal-powered gadget to pump water from my bathtub to my garden. Getting really imaginative, maybe it could be adjusted for 'storing energy' to run a fountain later on. I hope for something with an Edwardian look, or at least a 1950's domestic girlie look. Beauty is the main priority.

Because I want something that is art as well as machinery, it will probably be expensive. Leasing and exhibiting it to gain the creator some fame-time is one way. Now I am a balcony garden teacher, and hold showcases here and there. It's unlikely, but if I got this contraption in time for my Sustainable Living Festival display, it would be thrilling for me, easy to get media attention. I hope for something with an Edwardian look, or at least a 1950's domestic girlie look. Beauty is the main priority.

Cecilia Macaulay [mailto: ophelia@ocean.com.au](mailto:ophelia@ocean.com.au) (message passed on by Charlie Farren)

In Box

Round and about

Gold Cross Cycles have opened a new branch in Victoria Gardens Richmond. They have some good 'opening specials'. It is a very large shop with lots of products but, more to the point, I have found them very friendly and helpful. They offer the usual BV discount and also bicycle maintenance courses. I also had occasion to get some work done at Abbotsford Cycles, which as many would know is at the Richmond Railway Station. This is an intriguing shop as they do not sell bikes but are prepared to do almost any alteration or repair and seem quite creative when it comes to making sure you have what you want. Whatever it is, they will try to accommodate you.

Over the summer break I came across an interesting web site that I did not know about. It is www.bikely.com. This has bike routes in all sorts of areas and many different countries. It is by no means comprehensive but certainly gives you an idea of what is available. Finally a wonderful item I read in the *Guardian Weekly*. The woman who died recently at the age of 122 and who was at her death the oldest person in the world, rode a bike until she was 100. It just goes to show that if the cars and pot holes etc. don't get you, bike riders may well live a very long life!

Rosemary West

Beyond Boroondara

Darebin Creek Trail Issue

Help Darebin BUG prevent delays to the completion of the Darebin Creek Trail by writing to the Mayor of Boroondara Council.

Background

In 2006, the State Government committed to the completion of the [Darebin Creek Trail](#) link to the Yarra Trail, by 2010. This project is supported by the Parks Victoria, the Cities of Darebin, Banyule, and Yarra and the Darebin, Banyule, Yarra and Boroondara Bicycle User groups, along with a wide range of community groups.

The completion of this path would bring great health and recreation opportunities and benefits to many residents of Melbourne, particularly those in the northern suburbs, as it would provide a walking and cycling connection from the Darebin Creek Trail, which runs south from Bundoora, to the extensive path network south of the Yarra. It would also enable a safe travel route to school for children both north and south of the Yarra.

A Problem

However, the timely completion of this community resource for all Melbournians has been placed in doubt by the apparent self-interest of a few residents in the City Of Boroondara. In the January 24 edition of the *Melbourne Times*, the Mayor of Boroondara, Phillip Healey, is reported as having stated that Boroondara Council and residents had 'considerable angst' about the location of a key bridge to be built to connect the Darebin Creek Trail to the Yarra Trail, in Willsmere Park (Melways 45 E1).

It is understood that a small, but vociferous, group of Boroondara residents oppose the path entering Willsmere Park. It is difficult to understand the reasons for this opposition, since it is simply proposed to add another concrete path on one edge of a park which already contains numerous concrete paths, a playing field and a clubhouse building.

It is even harder to understand the opposition of the Mayor of Boroondara to the timely completion of this bridge, as he is on record as having strongly supported the completion of the path before his election to the council in 2005.

Help Us Solve the Problem

Darebin Bicycle User Group members and other concerned citizens are therefore urged to write to the Mayor of Boroondara (and other councillors) and strongly urge that Boroondara Council immediately cease its opposition to this project. Those writing might also care to ask the Mayor how his views fit with the fact that he lists cycling as one of his interests on the [Boroondara Council website](#).

Mayor of Boroondara, Phillip Healey Contact Details

Telephone: 9852 7967; Mobile: 0437 374 773; Fax: 9852 9654

Email: phillip.healey@boroondara.vic.gov.au

Postal Address: Private Bag 1, Camberwell VIC 3124

[Other Boroondara Councillors' Contact Details](#)

This excellent summary of an issue of vital importance to Melbourne cyclists has been reproduced from the web site of the Darebin BUG. See Boroondara BUG web site and the front page of this week's 'Progress Leader' for more details. Our readers, especially those who live in Boroondara, are urged to ring or write to Phillip Healey expressing your support for the link in the location selected by Parks Victoria.

Graeme's Media Grabs

Cyclist numbers up, deaths down: Weekend Australian, Sat 13 Jan, p.6

FEWER cyclists are crashing on the roads, even though the number of bike riders is increasing as commuters leave their cars at home because of high petrol costs or parking fees and a desire to improve their fitness. Research has shown that while there are more cyclists on the roads, casualty numbers in the battle between motorists and cyclists for road space are down, with experts handing the credit to greater awareness among drivers.

Rego? On yer bike: Herald Sun 17/1/07 P17

INCREASING bike sales and declining sales of locally made cars are a sign of the times. For the seventh consecutive year, Australians have bought more bikes than cars. This has sparked calls for bike riders to pay registration fees. The argument is that the fees would reduce driver antagonism towards cyclists. – But, there are important reasons why charging registration fees for cycling would be bad policy. No other countries charge their cyclists such a fee.

Bicycle group demands safer riding : Brimbank Advocate 16/1/07 P6

A BRIMBANK bicycle group is calling for increased safety and better facilities as the number of people riding to work surges. BrimBUG (Brimbank Bicycle Users' Group) is a group of cycling enthusiasts who meet once a month to discuss riding issues and organise rides. Keilor Downs resident and keen cyclist Fernando Olmos said Brimbank needed a major overhaul of its substandard riding facilities. "There are lots of cyclists in the area, but we have poor facilities compared to the eastern suburbs," he said. Mr Olmos joined BrimBUG last August in a bid to change things. "I wanted to promote cycling in the west as I feel it's poorly serviced."

Transport future: Frankston Independent 16/107 P1

FRANKSTON and Mornington Peninsula residents can have a say about the transport needs of the region over the next 25 years. Councils covering the two neighbouring municipalities have released a draft transport plan called "Mornington Peninsula Access and Mobility Study" or MPAMS. Main themes covered by the study include the growth of travel, the ageing population, and better public transport, tourism, protecting the environment, improving freight transport, and Improving safety. The two councils are now offering residents the chance to comment on the 153-page study put together by consultants Booz Allen Hamilton. Founded in the United States, Booz Allen Hamilton claim to help government and commercial clients solve their toughest problems.

Share and share alike: The Age, 31/01/07, page 6

Cars, trucks, motorbikes, cyclists, trams — even pedestrians — are competing for space on our congested roads SHARING the road is often not uppermost in our minds as we jump in the car to rush to work, school pick-up, a meeting or dinner. What driver has not sighed in frustration as the pedestrian lights ahead turn red, two-abreast bike riders push out on to the road, a tram blocks the right-hand turn arrow, or a motorbike suddenly appears out of the blind spot? Yet sharing — gracefully and willingly — is exactly what governments, VicRoads and most road user groups are increasingly focused on, as greenhouse gas emissions, soaring petrol prices and road congestion force us to re-think. There's widespread recognition that building more and more roads is not the answer: like small children, we must learn to share. But everyone wants a bit extra: motorbike riders are pushing for access to bicycle lanes; tram companies would love to barricade their tracks, cyclists want kerb-side bike lanes; pedestrians don't really want to share with anyone; and car drivers just want to get from A to B without getting stuck in a traffic jam.

Drive talked to representatives of the main road users, as well as VicRoads, to find out what they think about happily co-habiting. Traffic flow "Sharing is what it's all about," says the general manager of traffic and transport integration at VicRoads Ted Vincent. He oversees the unenviable task of trying to keep all types of users happy on the 22,000 kilometres of arterial roads and freeways that VicRoads manages (suburban streets are the responsibility of local councils). Some of the tools at VicRoads' disposal include marking separate bicycle lanes on main roads and "bicycle boxes" at some intersections, which allow bike riders to move in front of the cars at a red light. Other changes are behavioural: a television campaign to educate car drivers about motorcyclists — "Look right, look left, look bike" — and making sure car drivers understand that trucks sweep out in a wider arc when turning and need a greater distance to stop. Mr Vincent says two problems that truck drivers complain about are cars cutting in front of them before red lights and slow cars sitting in the middle lane of a three-lane highway, where medium-paced trucks should be travelling. At the same time, car drivers complain about trucks hogging the faster right-hand lane. "They're all equally difficult issues — our job is to balance them," he says. There is, however, one issue on which many road users agree: kerbside parking for cars is a waste of precious space that could be better used to improve traffic flow. "The least efficient use of road space is parking," Mr Vincent says, citing congested arterial roads such as Chapel Street and Toorak Road as prime examples.

Cycle CBD push: The Herald Sun, 02/02/07, page 14

THE number of cyclists riding through the city centre would more than double in the next five years if the council's draft bike plan succeeds. Despite limited road space, it wants more bike lanes on city streets. The City of Melbourne Bicycle Plan 2007-2011 also calls for more safety measures: drivers who open car doors cause most bicycle accidents in the city. The draft plan will go to the council next week. Bike groups and cyclists made 45 submissions to the review.

Boroondara News

Minutes of Boroondara BUG Meeting 13th December 2006

BUG members enjoyed a barbecue at Jason den Hollander's place during which there was much talk of cycling issues but no formal business was conducted. Thanks to Jason and Angela for their hospitality.

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. At the end of this newsletter is a separate section with 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: murphjj@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.

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: dougmorf@alphalink.com.au Download the [Darebin BUG rides flyer](#), with details of rides. (Word doc); web site: www.darebinbug.org.au

YHA: contacts: Claire, phone: 9726 5142 or Jane, phone: 9525 6462; email: yhacycling@yahoo.com.au; website: <http://www.yhacycling.org.au/>

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