

# BOROONDARA

*Bicycle Users Group*

## Newsletter March 2007

**Boroondara BUG meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month, except January. Next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March, at the Swinburne Hawthorn Campus in room TD244. The TD building is between Park and Wakefield Streets. Glenferrie Ward Councillor Meredith Butler will be a guest at this meeting. 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](mailto:BoroondaraBug-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) to receive this monthly newsletter and occasional important messages.

Send a blank e-mail to [BoroondaraBugDiscussion-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto: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

#### Darebin Creek – Main Yarra Trail Link

This is still very much a live issue with articles and letters in the last several issues of the *Progress Leader*. Cyclists have waited a long time for this vital link so it is important to ensure that now that funding is available to complete it the project is not blocked by Boroondara Council caving in to the wishes of a small group of opponents.

Although Council previously agreed to the plan Mayor Phillip Healey now argues that the proposed location for the link in Willsmere Reserve around the Kew Billabong is too environmentally sensitive and that the link should be moved further downstream. The problem with this is that there are insuperable difficulties on the other side of the river, namely La Trobe Golf Club which Parks Vic has no power to overrule. If the link is ever to happen it must be around the Kew Billabong location. It is important to remember that it is Parks Victoria pushing for this link which will benefit a large number of both utility and recreational cyclists and walkers, not some greedy developer trying to make a killing.

For more details see our website: <http://www.boroondarabug.org/pages/darebin1.htm>

What can you do to help? Write letters: to the *Progress Leader* (email: [progress@leadernewspapers.com.au](mailto:progress@leadernewspapers.com.au)) which has run a very biased front page article putting the case against the Kew Billabong location, and, if you are a Boroondara resident, to Major Phillip Healey (email: [Phillip.Healey@Boroondara.vic.gov.au](mailto:Phillip.Healey@Boroondara.vic.gov.au)) and to your own ward councillor (check on the following web site for name and email: [http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/council/crs\\_wards/councillors](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/council/crs_wards/councillors)), or better still the whole council. If you type an email you can send it to all of them in one go. (Always cc any correspondence of this nature to Bicycle Victoria, email: [campaigns@bv.com.au](mailto:campaigns@bv.com.au))

Below is the letter I wrote to the PL which appeared last week with some minor editing. See also the Boroondara BUG web site: <http://www.boroondarabug.org/> and the Darebin BUG web site: <http://www.darebinbug.org.au/>

## **A Bridge too late**

The lead article 'A bridge too far?' (6/2) presents an extremely biased view of the project to complete the long awaited link between the Darebin Creek Path and the Main Yarra Trail. The reason that the plan was 'shelved' in the past was lack of funding. Boroondara Council approved the application for the bridge near Kew Billabong in 1997 and this approval was extended again in 1999. Now at last the State Government is providing money for much needed improvements to the off-road bicycle network and there is a real prospect of completing the link which is of critical importance to cyclists. The nearest alternative river crossing point for cyclists is the Chandler Highway which only the very brave tackle.

Parks Victoria has the support of the Cities of Darebin, Banyule and Yarra, the relevant Bicycle User Groups and a wide range of other community groups for proceeding with the link in the proposed location near Kew Billabong. Other options have been explored and found to present greater problems. Those opposing the project are a small but vocal group of locals who are playing the environmental card for all it is worth. This is not a wilderness area but a park with numerous existing paths, a playing field and a clubhouse. Cyclists already ride along one side of the park on the Main Yarra Trail.

Mayor Phillip Healey should think again about his position on this issue. I supported Council in its stand against government intervention over Tooronga Village, which is essentially a local issue. This time I believe that wider community interests are at stake and I hope that the State Government does exercise its power to overrule Council.

*Julia Blunden*

## **Minister Vetoes Proposed Copenhagen Bike Lanes for St Kilda Road**

No sooner had Melbourne City Council announced its visionary proposal for Copenhagen style bike lanes in St Kilda Road than Roads Minister Tim Pallas announced his plan to block this from even proceeding to public consultation.

MCC:Copenhagen bike lanes <http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/info.cfm?top=70&pa=1154&pg=3476>

News articles from

The Age: Elms to be replaced on St Kilda Rd <http://www.theage.com.au/news/national/elms-to-be-replaced-on-st-kilda-rd/2007/03/01/1172338796101.html>

Herald Sun: Road plan to push bikes <http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun/story/0,21985,21310065-661,00.html>

Online poll – middle of page, scroll down to below American Express ad:

<http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun/opinion>

Many of us will remember all those nice election statements made in last year's Transport and Liveability Statement. Should Tim Pallas now be questioned to whether these were core or non-core promises that still include cycling as an important transport option?

Steve Bracks: Transport and Livability Statement – 17 May 2006

[http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/Newsroom/Speech\\_item.asp?id=143](http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/Newsroom/Speech_item.asp?id=143)

BV: Transport and Liveability Statement <http://www.bv.com.au/change-the-world/12064/>

Please show your support for improvements to one of Melbourne's most popular bicycle routes, and immediately contact Tim Pallas, as well as VicRoads, Yarra Trams, Department of Infrastructure, Melbourne City Council, Port Phillip Council and Bicycle Victoria.

Tim Pallas – Minister for Roads and Ports

Ministerial Office, Level 23, 80 Collins St, Melbourne Vic 3000

Tel: 9655 6210, Fax: 9655 6641 Email: tim.pallas@...

Bicycle Victoria

PO Box 426, Collins St West, Victoria 8007

Ph (03) 8636 8888, Fax 8636 8800; Freecall 1800 639 634 (country callers)

Email: campaigns@bv.com.au...

City of Melbourne

PO Box 1603, Melbourne Vic 3001

Tel: 9658 9658, Fax: 9654 4854

Online contact page: <http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/info.cfm?top=23&pg=3454>

VicRoads

Online Feedback & Enquiries:

<http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/Home/AboutVicRoads/ContactUs/FeedbackAndEnquiries.htm>

Yarra Trams

Online Form: <http://www.yarratrams.com.au/default.jsp?xcid=42>

DoI:

Online Contact form:

<http://www.doi.vic.gov.au/doi/internet/home.nsf/HeadingPagesDisplay/Contact+Us?opendocument>

Port Phillip Council: [http://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/contact\\_us.html](http://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/contact_us.html)

***Thanks to Chris Star for these links and contact details***

## Events

### Celluloid Cycles

Hello folks,

We've returned from the drawing board and rounded up a new batch of cracking cycling films for 2007. A couple keepers from last year that a lot of people missed out on and a load of new ones. Tunes, food, drinks, the 2nd Annual Celluloid Cycles Literary Award and all the colours of cycling's rainbow jersey represented on film.

We'll also be doing some sneak previews at the Theatre Royal on the Friday night of the Castlemaine Fat Tyre Festival (Labor Day weekend). If you are inclined in the fat tyre way, the Rocky Riders club have organised a great long weekend of bicycle fun and games.

Everything you need to know about Celluloid Cycles is at [www.celluloidcycles.com.au](http://www.celluloidcycles.com.au)

See you there,

Tim Sheedy

***Thanks to Ian Scott for passing on this information. Ian comments 'It's a popular event so people shouldn't rely on getting tickets at the door on the night. There's a real mixture of films on offer this year from the serious to the seriously quirky. (PS I'm not affiliated with the organisers! I just enjoyed the night I went last year, and I'm sure it had nothing to do with the beers in the foyer beforehand!'***

### The Steinbecks Host Melbourne's First Bike Only Gig

31 March 2007 4pm, Brunswick Velodrome (Just past CERES on the Merri Creek Bike Path)

Usually when you think of Rock & Roll on the road it's trucks and roadies and denim and bulging mid riffs. Time to think again. The Steinbecks are set to host a fully-fledged open-air show with pumping PA and full drum-kit and the whole thing – the PA, the amps the guitars, the drums and of course the audience – all transported by the wonderful bicycle.

Ahead of the April release of their new album Far From the Madding Crowd, Melbourne pop disciples The Steinbecks will play this bike access-only, free gig at the Brunswick Velodrome, past CERES heading North on the Merri Creek Bike Path.

Everything will be transported by bikes! To provide inspiration to others and to publicise bike events the ride, set up and performance will be filmed for editing into a later Steinbecks/bike promo video clip.

The band will play a 45-minute set. It's BYO picnic and drinks. There will be a free bike repair stall, staffed by the good folk from Bike Fix, and other fun bike related stuff.

For more information contact Joel Meadows 9429 2193; [info@thesteinbecks.net.au](mailto:info@thesteinbecks.net.au); [www.myspace.com/steinbecks](http://www.myspace.com/steinbecks) [www.microindie.com/steinbecks](http://www.microindie.com/steinbecks)

***Thanks to Chris Star for passing on this item***

## Help Needed

### 1950s Bikes Needed

I've been contacted by Vanessa who is helping group making a low budget film. They need four 1950s bikes (either all male or 3 male and 1 female) for a segment they hope to film next week. Can anyone help??

They can scrape together a small amount to pay for hire. Please contact her directly with any assistance or ideas where she could try to find suitable bikes

Tel: 0433 172 552; [ness.aguilar@gmail.com](mailto:ness.aguilar@gmail.com)

*Thanks to Charlie Farren for passing on this item*

## Beyond Boroondara

### Graeme's Media Grabs

#### **Channel 9 (Melbourne) A Current Affair – 15/02/2007 6:37 PM 'Traffic Madness'**

An ACA report into ways to get around gridlock. VicRoads monitors traffic cameras around Melbourne while the RTA does so in Sydney. ACA asks a bicyclist, a motorist and a train commuter to test who can travel the fastest into Melbourne's CBD: the bicyclist wins. Interviewees: Phil Acres, RTA; Ted Vincent, Vic Roads, Traffic Management Centre; Vox Pops, Commuters

#### **Cyclists: roundabout ignored Sunbury Leader, 13/02/07, General News, Page 5**

Cyclists from Sunbury and the Macedon Ranges say VicRoads has overlooked an opportunity to make bicycle travel safer in the area. Dolores and Gabriel Stafrace, who regularly cycle through Oaklands Junction along Sunbury Rd with many other cyclists, say the strip from the cutting through Bulla to the merge with the Tullamarine Freeway has never been bike-friendly.

#### **Two wheels good, four wheels bad Age, 12/02/07, Education, Page 12**

Only a few decades ago, about 80 per cent of children walked or cycled to school now the figure stands at just 20 per cent. So why the decline? According to Bicycle Victoria's chief executive manager, Harry Barber, it's partly due to parents "wanting to be nice" and their fears about safety.

#### **Rudd calls for Lean, green federal machines Sunday Herald Sun, 11/02/07, General News, Page 11**

Federal Opposition Leader Kevin Rudd has vowed to make the Commonwealth's car fleet environmentally friendly. Mr Rudd said a Labor Government would turn to hybrid vehicles and use ethanol fuel.

#### **Love affair with cars is choking us Geelong Advertiser, 10/02/07, General News, Page 37**

CARS are not only the dominant mode of transport in this region (as in Australia) but are almost the obligatory mode of transport. For the sake of a sane approach to urban living, we need to deal with car dependency. This issue is global and local. Road transport, led by cars, is one of the fastest growth sources of greenhouse gas emissions.

## Boroondara News

### Inaugural Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting

The new Boroondara Bicycle Advisory Committee met for the first time on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February. Councillor Dick Menting is the BCC representative on the committee. Meetings are chaired by Jim Hondrakis, Team Leader Traffic and Engineering and other council staff members includes representatives from Parks and Gardens, Strategic Planning and Leisure and Culture. BBUG representatives are Graeme Stone and Julia Blunden. Jason den Hollander attended as a Bicycle Victoria representative. There is also a Public Representative, currently Emily McLean, an RACV staff member. Julia Smith from Engineering and Traffic took minutes of the meeting.

Agenda items for the first meeting included: the Boroondara Bicycle Strategy, Gardiners Creek Path missing link, Solway Bridge, Darebin Creek – Main Yarra Trail link, Bicycle Counts, reconstruction of

Gardiners Creek at Dorothy Laver Reserve, Wellington St bike lanes, various crossing facilities, plans for improvements to the Anniversary Trail at Warburton Rd/Myrtle St, and Ride2School Day.

The BBAC is to meet quarterly, with the future dates suggested by JH: Friday 25 May, Friday 24 August and Friday 30 November. Meetings are to be held between 3–5pm in Meeting Room 1 on these dates. Dates are to be confirmed; however the suggested dates were received well by the present BBAC members.

Observers are permitted at meetings, however anyone intending to come as an observer should contact Jim Hondrakis before the meeting to ensure that adequate space will be available.

Congratulations to Jim Hondrakis on a very well-organised and productive first meeting and on his obvious commitment both to improving cycling infrastructure in Boroondara and to consultation with BBUG and the cycling community.

*Julia Blunden*

## **Solway Bridge**

The Solway Bridge has now been out of action since April 2006 due to instability of the footings. Responsibility for this bridge actually lies with the City of Stonnington. Their original plan, to build a new bridge a short distance upstream, has now been abandoned and the old bridge is to be repaired. This was to have happened by mid-March.

## **New Bike Parking Rails**

I have recently spotted two new bike parking rails in Glenferrie: one on the west side outside Dobsons, just a couple of doors from the Sara Bistro, and the other outside the erstwhile Pharmore Chemist shop, on the east side near the pedestrian crossing. The southern end of Glenferrie is now reasonably well supplied with bike parking rails but as far as I could see the northern end still has none.

*Julia Blunden*

## **Minutes of Boroondara BUG Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> December 2006 held at Phil's Place**

**Present:** Phil Crohn, Julia Blunden, Jason Den Hollander.

**Apologies:** Don Glasson, Rosemary West, Marion Green, Alister Huth, Graham Ellis, Graeme Stone

**1. Newsletter on Web Site: Possibility of JB uploading file directly** JD has looked into this. As there is no easy way for JB to upload the file it was agreed to drop this idea. JB pointed out the advantage of encouraging people to subscribe to the newsletter rather than simply viewing it on the web site, which is that subscriber numbers can be used as one indicator of support for the BUG. JD agreed to look again at the wording on the web site to ensure that this message gets across.

**2. Sustainable Living Festival 16–18 February 2007:** As no progress had been made in producing the A3 and A4 posters previously discussed JD agreed to produce some and deliver them to JB for use at the festival. JB offered to collect a box of TravelSmart maps from Camberwell and to ensure that these and the posters were delivered to the CPF marquee at the festival. BUG members who had committed to staffing the BUG stall were GE (Saturday) and JB (Sunday).

**3. Inaugural BAC Meeting 23/2:** JB agreed to be one of the two BUG representatives. JD indicated that he would attend meetings in his BV role. It was agreed to ask GS if he would agree to be the other BUG representative with GE as reserve.

It was also agreed that agenda items submitted by the BUG, as per Jim Hondrakis' request, should not be too numerous for this first meeting. The following were agreed to be the highest priority:

- **Procedures for the BAC:** timing of meetings, generally 9 days after BUG meeting excellent as was call for agenda items just before our meeting; can we expect to receive draft minutes within a week of the meeting?
- **Updates on the Gardiners Creek link and Solway Bridge**
- **Darebin Creek – Main Yarra Trail link:** reasons for Council's about face? BUG position on this
- **Bike Counts:** Excellent idea and great to have the opportunity for BUG input; BUG suggestions for locations to conduct counts and cautions about interpretation of these

4. **Darebin Creek Link:** Apart from raising this at the BAC it was agreed that BUG members should do everything possible to encourage all cyclists they know to write letters to the *Progress Leader* in support of Parks Victoria's proposed route and to do so themselves.

5. **Kew Junction:** JB reported that RW has been making input on behalf of cyclists into long-term planning for the junction, but has found it difficult to come up with solutions to the serious problems the junction presents. All suggestions welcome.

6 **Chandler Highway:** PC raised once again the problems for cyclists using this route posed by the lights at the on and off ramps. It was agreed that further investigation of this issue is needed.

7 **Trail Etiquette:** PC also raised the continuing problem of conflict between the different groups of users of shared paths but we agreed that there were no easy solutions other than long-term education campaigns.

8. **Guest for Next Meeting:** It was agreed that the practice of inviting BCC councillors to our meetings has been generally worthwhile and should be continued. Cotham Ward Cr Lachlan Williams is to be invited to our next meeting.

As GS was not present items regarding VicRoads, Planning Applications and the PBN; the BCC Road Management Plan; and Boulevard Re-surfacing have been deferred to the March 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. 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](mailto:jblunden@bigpond.com); web site: [www.keypoint.com.au/~bbwinc](http://www.keypoint.com.au/~bbwinc)

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

**Ashburton Riders Club:** contacts **Tony Landsell** email: [tony@diacher.com](mailto:tony@diacher.com) or **Justin Murphy**, email: [murphjj@au1.ibm.com](mailto: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](mailto:janpeter@bigpond.net.au) or COTA, phone: 9654 4443.

**Knox Bicycle Touring Club Incorporated,** email: [Mikeaatleisure@aol.com](mailto:Mikeaatleisure@aol.com) web site: [home.vicnet.net.au/~knoxbike](http://home.vicnet.net.au/~knoxbike)

**Manningham BUG:** email: [seball@netlink.com.au](mailto:seball@netlink.com.au), [H.Edwards@bom.gov.au](mailto:H.Edwards@bom.gov.au); web site: [www.vicnet.net.au/~mannbug](http://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/](http://home.vicnet.net.au/~mbush/)

**Whitehorse Cyclists:** e-mail: [ejhopper@vicnet.net.au](mailto:ejhopper@vicnet.net.au); web site: <http://www.whitehorsecyclists.org.au/>

**Banyule BUG:** email: [banyuleBug@yahoo.com.au](mailto: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](mailto:dougmorf@alphalink.com.au) Download the [Darebin BUG rides flyer](#), with details of rides. (Word doc); web site: [www.darebinbug.org.au](http://www.darebinbug.org.au)

**YHA:** contacts: Ride Co-Ordinator Kathy on [rides@yhacycling.org.au](mailto:rides@yhacycling.org.au) or mobile 0425-792 574 or Secretary Voula on [secretary@yhacycling.org.au](mailto:secretary@yhacycling.org.au); website: [www.yhacycling.org.au](http://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](mailto: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](http://mbtc.org.au)

## Boroondara BUG Contacts:

### Membership Secretary & Treasurer:

Graeme Stone, 16 Jervis Street, Camberwell VIC 3124.

e-mail: [graeme\\_stone@optusnet.com.au](mailto:graeme_stone@optusnet.com.au)

### Newsletter Editor & Minutes Secretary:

Julia Blunden, phone: 9853 5095

e-mail: [jblunden@bigpond.com](mailto:jblunden@bigpond.com)

### Additional Contact:

David Leong: [leongd@anz.com](mailto:leongd@anz.com)

### Media Contact & Webmaster:

Jason den Hollander, phone: 0407 11 88 91

email: [fdutch@gmail.com](mailto:fdutch@gmail.com)

### Meeting Chair:

Phil Crohn: [philcrohn@ozemail.com.au](mailto: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