



Newsletter November 2007

Boroondara BUG meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, except January. Next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 14th November, at the Swinburne Hawthorn Campus in room TD244. The TD building is between Park and Wakefield Streets. All welcome.

The Boroondara BUG is a voluntary group working to promote the adoption of a safe and practical environment for utility and recreational cyclists in the City of Boroondara. We have close links with the City of Boroondara, Bicycle Victoria, Bicycle Federation of Australia and other local Bicycle Users' Groups.

Boroondara BUG has a website at <http://www.boroondarabug.org> that contains interesting material related to cycling, links to other cycle groups, recent Boroondara BUG Newsletters and breaking news.

We also have two Yahoo Groups:

1. Send a blank email to: BoroondaraBug-subscribe@yahogroups.com to receive this monthly newsletter and occasional important messages.
2. Send a blank email to: BoroondaraBugDiscussion-subscribe@yahogroups.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.

Trail Notes

Wikipedia and Vic Bike Trails

An excellent resource for cyclists in Melbourne is the *Wikipedia* article 'Cycling in Melbourne' at:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cycling_in_Melbourne

The second section in the main article is entitled 'Melbourne Cycle Trails' and this is followed by a comprehensive list of trails each of which links to its own detailed entry.

Vic Bike Trails is another web site catering for Victorian cyclists. All the major off-road trails can be viewed using Google maps:

<http://www.bigyak.net.au/gmaps/vicbiketrailsmap.html>

Google maps can be slow and require some patience. The same information can also be viewed using the application Google Earth, which is far more responsive to the user and is preferred over Google Maps – refer here for more details:

<http://www.bigyak.net.au/bike/bike.html#melgel>

Various degrees of detail are presented as you zoom in and out. It's great for getting an overall picture as well as the fine detail, and should be a very useful aid for those planning both recreational and utility bike routes. There are about 700 pictures accessible taken at various points along the trails.

Boroondara BUG's John Parker has played a large role in writing many of the above *Wikipedia* pages. However the pages can be edited by anyone and we look forward to you adding your own edits. He has also been responsible for creating the *Vic Bike Trails* facility.

Notes by Julia Blunden with help from John Parker

Events

Kelly Country Classic - Wangaratta BUG & Northeast Health

Sat 10th November.

3 rides: 50km, 100, 150.

Entry fee: \$40, 50, 60. Proceeds to local hospital.

Enquiries: see www.nhw.hume.org.au - Community Newsletters, Media Releases.

Bicycle Film Festival

The Bicycle Film Festival will take place in Melbourne from the 5th – 9th December 2007. It is the first time this exciting international event has taken place in Melbourne, and is sure to become a much beloved feature on the summer event calendar.

Events Include:

Thursday 6th December - Opening Night BIKES ROCK! Kick-off Party

A ride-in event with bicycle valet parking at the heritage-listed Meat Market in North Melbourne, local and international bands will entertain 500+ guests at this once-in-a-lifetime gig.

Friday 7th – Saturday 8th December - Screenings at RMIT Capitol Theatre

The historic and glorious Capitol plays home to 9 screening sessions over 2 days, including local and international short and feature-length films, works by the Neistat Brothers, Lucas Brunelle and the Australian premier of Reginald Harkema's 'Monkey Warfare' – winner of the Special Jury Award at the 2006 Toronto International Film Festival. A foyer bar and lounge sustain the devoted bike masses through marathon screenings.

Sunday 9th December – Best Friends Forever Bike Parade Laneway Party

Cyclists of Melbourne in all shapes and sizes converge in Tattersalls Lane off Section 8 Container Bar to participate in Bike Swaps, Performances, Bicycle Beauty Pageants and general mayhem.

Sunday 9th December – Best of BFF DVD Screening & Closing Party at Rooftop Cinema

The sun setting over Melbourne will provide a stunning backdrop to cyclists and general enthusiasts alike enjoying a final night's screening and very special party, including BFF highlights of the past seven years, on top of the world.

We need volunteers to work at all of the above events. Volunteer roles will include:

Front of House

Ticket Sales

Ushering

Bar Work

Promotions

Bicycle Valet Parking

Distribution

Bump In / Bump Out

We also have two paid positions available – Ticketing Manager and Bar Manager, both of whom will be responsible for the management of teams of volunteers.

All volunteers will receive a special Bicycle Film Festival package including a t-shirt, festival pass and free entry to Bikes Rock!

To get involved please email Event Producer Pip Carroll on pip@ambiguoushorse.-com

Please include a one page CV, an indication of your availability and your daytime contact details.

Thanks to Anna Stempel for passing on this item

Weird Bike Rack Designs Competition

New entries to this competition are now closed but you can still vote, or just enjoy looking at the entries. See:

<http://bicyclefixation.com/rackhunt07popularvote.html>

If you want to vote, please see the Contest Page so you know what we're looking for, at

<http://bicyclefixation.com/bikerackcontest07.html>

And we urge everybody to view the APBP's Bicycle Parking Guidelines to help you with your judging, and to support your arguments for better bicycle parking when you speak to government officials, building managers, employers, and others to ask for bike rack installations:

<http://www.bicyclinginfo.org/pdf/bikepark.pdf> Because you can park a lot of bikes in the space that just one car takes up.

To see the products mentioned as prizes, go to: <http://bicyclefixation.com/shop.html>

Richard Risemberg, Bicycle Fixation, <http://www.bicyclefixation.com>

Audax Australia

Audax rides are non-competitive, long-distance tours by bicycle called *randonnees*. Road rides, which range from 50km to 600km, are based on a minimum average speed of 15km/h, including stops. Dirt (off-road) rides, from 35km to 100km, are based on a minimum average speed of 10km/h, including stops.

Audax ride are open to all reasonably fit and determined cyclists willing to take up the challenge. They must be a member of Audax, or of a club affiliated with Cycling Australia, or take out temporary membership on registration for a ride at a cost of \$5.

You can check out the Audax Australia calendar of rides to the end of 2008 and beyond online at

www.audax.org.au

Thanks to Gordon Macmillan for providing a print version of this calendar.

General News

Transport Act Review

DoI has launched a review of the Transport Act (1983). The Act provides the legislative framework for transport in Victoria including designating functions of the Department of Infrastructure and outlining the objectives of the transport system. As part of the community consultation phase of the review a discussion paper has been released for comment. It's available from:

Long link:

<http://www.doi.vic.gov.au/DOI/Internet/planningprojects.nsf/AllDocs/5B9DF9312B4B1037CA25735A000909DA?OpenDocument>

Shorter link: <http://preview.tinyurl.com/29m8ss>

From DoI: The Transport Legislation Review involves a comprehensive review of the current transport legislation in Victoria to determine whether it provides the optimum framework to meet Victoria's current and emerging transport challenges. Central to the review process is a discussion paper that seeks feedback from individuals and organisations on the objectives required for the transport legislation that will enable us to meet the challenges ahead. Submissions responding to the discussion paper are due on 14 December 2007. (More details at link)

Making a response to the discussion paper could potentially be a fantastic method for BUGs to get our opinions known and cycling's profile raised as viable sustainable transport.

Thanks to Chris Star for this item

BV's City of Yarra Bikescope Survey

Welcome to BikeScope. We are contacting you because we want to know more about bike riding in the City of Yarra. As a local, your opinion really counts so we have made a survey called 'BikeScope' just for you!

Go into the draw to win: A women's Vivente Rosa road bike (rrp \$1299), or a men's Novara Elite flat-bar commuter (rrp \$899). [Go to the Survey](#)

Your answers will help provide a better understanding of what could be done to improve the physical riding conditions in the City of Yarra. Your feedback will also assist local Council and other stakeholders to prioritise and implement the best bike projects in your area.

Please tell your friends, who ride in the City of Yarra, to complete the survey and go into the draw to win prizes.

Contact: Ben Douglas, Facilities Development Officer, Bicycle Victoria, campaigns@bv.com.au

City of Melbourne's Bicycle Account

<http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/rsrc/PDFs/WalkingSkatingCycling/MBACensus.pdf>

Warby Ghost Riders Tour of China

The ride report of the Warby Ghost Riders tour of China can be found in the link below. It's very interesting reading, with highlights like; a 35km continual downhill on a rough cobble stoned surface, a NZ rider who despite most of the trip being at an altitude of 2000 metres or higher used the one gear the whole trip. The report refers to the late John Green who had several rides with Whitehorse Cyclists several years ago.

<http://www.crossbow.com.au/bikes/China.php>

Thanks to Bruce Dite for passing on this information

Australian Bicycling Achievement Awards

The Bicycling Achievement Awards were established in 2002 by the Cycling Promotion Fund to recognise innovation and achievement and to inspire others. Nominations are now open for the 2007 Awards. The categories are:

- Cycling Promotion Award of the Year: Professional and Honorary categories
- Special Achievement Award for a Bicycle Organisation
- Local Government Award for Initiatives to Encourage and Promote Cycling
- Award for an Educational institution for Innovation in Encouraging Cycling to School
- Award for Bicycle Friendly Business
- Award for Contribution Towards Cycling by a Politician
- Award for Contributions Towards Cycling by a Bicycle Retailer

Maybe you know a person or an organisation that deserves recognition? All nominees will be included in a booklet that is distributed far and wide. Winners will also receive a cash prize of \$1,000.

This year we have set up a dedicated website to enable people to make registrations online.
www.cyclingawards.com.au

There are so many great initiatives happening around Australia and great people committed to promoting and encouraging cycling - please let us and the rest of Australia know about them. Deadline for nominations is the 30th of November 2007

Graeme's Media Grabs

Chain reaction, Age, 05/11/07, Education, Page 9, By: Vikki Leone

How popular is cycling? According to the Melbourne City Council, there has been a significant increase in bicycles entering the city. In March, bikes accounted for 7.9 per cent of all vehicles, an increase of 3.9 per cent since 2006.

Bridge plan unveiled, Geelong Advertiser, 01/11/07, General News, Page 5, By: Lauren Pike

Restoring part of the Barwon Heads Bridge to resemble its former 1927 glory is part of a VicRoads plan to breathe life into the icon. The plan, released yesterday, also includes using concrete and steel to modernise and reinforce the south side of the bridge for two traffic and two bicycle lanes.

Bike trails to be extended, Maroondah Journal, General News, 23/10/2007, Danica Harris, Page 4

BIKE riders could soon be pedalling a little further through Maroondah after funding to seven trails in Melbourne was announced by the State Government last week. The State Government will spend \$1.2 million to extend Melbourne's off-road trail network.

Death strengthens community resolve, *Williamstown Advertiser*, 31/10/07, General News, Page 9, By: Alex Kirkham

DEEPENING concerns following another death at the Anderson Street level crossing in Yarraville last week have made the community even more determined to pressure the State Government for a solution to the dangerous crossing. A 28-year-old cyclist was killed by an express train at the station last Wednesday.

Thanks to Graeme Stone for these news items

Boroondara News

Darebin Creek – Yarra Link

Boroondara BUG has sent a submission to Council supporting the Parks Victoria Planning Permit Application for the bridge. If the issue should finally go to VCAT, which is quite likely, only those who have made a submission are entitled to speak at the hearing. Individuals can send submissions in support of the application.

The address to send these to is: City of Boroondara, 8 Inglesby Road, Camberwell VIC 3124

The Planning Permit Application No is: PP07/00882

Address: 27 Willow Grove, Kew East

Description: Buildings and Works to an existing trail and vegetation removal in a public park and recreation zone environmental significance overlay significant landscape overlay and land subject to inundation overlay

Calming Device Provokes Cyclist

Dear Readers.

I've recently received a phone call plus a couple of emails from my old cycling mate Wayne of Glen Iris. Apparently Boroondara City Council have recently installed a new type of traffic calming device in Madeline Street, Glen Iris, between Clitus Ave and Chalyer Street, Melway 60 E8.

I have not yet visited the site myself, but Wayne described it to me on the phone as two kerb extensions decorated with sharp edged steel signs, forcing all traffic into the middle of the road onto a flattish speed hump apparently called a 'cushion'.

If it's as bad as Wayne suggests, then we should do all we can to support him and discourage the Council from installing any similar ones elsewhere.

An obvious simple solution would be to cut metre wide channels through each kerb extension, providing bicycle bypasses and facilitating drainage. Definitely something to discuss at this week's BBUG meeting.

Phil Crohn.

BFA News

Dear Readers.

On Thursday 20 September I participated by teleconference as BBUG delegate to a Special General Meeting of the Bicycle Federation of Australia. The meeting passed five administrative resolutions, three of which are of direct interest to the BBUG.

Firstly a slight fee increase. As a constituent organisation with less than fifty members, our annual subscription will rise from \$50 to \$55 plus GST. Secondly that fee will be due by 22 November, and I assume we will soon receive an invoice for that amount. At this week's BBUG meeting we should minute a resolution to pay that sum.

Thirdly the 2007 BFA AGM will be held by teleconference at 2 pm on Saturday 24 November. Unfortunately I'll be busy then handing out How to Vote cards so hope another BBUG member can participate. I'll bring printouts of relevant documents to this week's BBUG meeting and can email copies to anybody interested.

Phil Crohn

Minutes of Boroondara BUG Meeting 10th October

Held at Swinburne, Hawthorn Campus, Room TD244

Present: Julia Blunden, Phil Crohn, John Parker, Jason den Hollander, Graham Ellis, David Leong

Apologies: Graeme Stone, Alister Huth, Don Glasson, Peter Campbell

- Darebin Creek – Main Yarra Trail Link:** JB reported that she had attended a meeting of the Community Coalition on Monday 8/10. Although PPAs have been submitted by Parks Victoria to Banyule, Yarra and Boroondara Councils for the remaining sections of the link, none of the councils have advertised as yet and two have sought further information. When they do advertise there will be only two weeks to make submissions, but these can be lodged prior to advertising. It is therefore advisable to put in a BUG submission soon. Advice from PV's Richard O'Byrne was that the submission could be quite short but should address all issues that the BUG may wish to speak about, should the matter go to VCAT. JB had already prepared a draft submission to which various amendments were suggested. These will be made and the final submission sent on behalf of the BUG in the next week or so. Copies will be sent to all relevant bodies.
Graeme Martin indicated that he would seek a meeting with the new Boroondara councilor, Phil Meggs, and JB agreed to attend this and to try to arrange for David Hall to do so to put the case on behalf of walkers.
There was also discussion about a public demonstration, possibly on Sunday 18/11, but no decision had been reached on this when JB had to leave.
- Bike Strategy:** The new Transport Reference Group has still not looked at the draft strategy and the BUG is still waiting to receive it.
- Use of BUG Funds:** GS was absent and had sent no word about GVBR sponsorship. PC offered to contact the Ardoch Foundation to see if they had a suitable candidate for sponsorship and to report back to the next meeting.
- Gardiners Creek Path Missing Link:** GS has prepared a detailed table comparing four possible different routes for this link. JDH reported that there has now been acceptance by COB of the need to upgrade the Solway Bridge as part of the proposed link via Markham Reserve and the Anniversary Trail.
- BUG Marquees:** JDH will take BUG material to the BUG marquee on RTW day. JB will drop the materials in to his place before then. JDH suggested that it would be advisable to check that the BUG marquee will go ahead at the Go Bike Expo as the response has been poor. JB agreed to do this.
- Eastern Rail Trail:** There was support for the general concept of an ERT or at least an east-west bike route through Boroondara. JP offered to create a map showing the route in a fairly general way to be put on our web site. JP and JDH offered to draft some text to accompany the map. This can then be linked to Peter Campbell's quite detailed proposal which has not been endorsed by the BUG in its current form. It was agreed that the best way to proceed is to identify sections of the route that can be done relatively easily in the short to medium term.
- Web Site and Newsletter – possible new directions:** JP indicated that he is willing to produce new components for the web site, especially those requiring mapping content. JB suggested that, rather than sending the newsletter and rides supplement as attachments, it would be preferable if she could upload these to the web site and simply send subscribers a link as do many other organizations. JDH said that this could be arranged. JP and JB may both need to purchase a piece of software called 'Contribute'. JP offered to teach JB the skills required.
- BFA Membership:** PC reported that he had participated in a special teleconference convened to discuss a number of administrative matters including subscriptions. Subs for small organizations like the BUG will go up from \$50 to \$55. Our subscription will be due by 22/11. We will need to decide at our November meeting whether to renew. The BFA AGM will be also be conducted by teleconference on 24/11. With the creation of the new coalition of state cycling organizations including BV the future relevance and even existence of the BFA is in question.
- Trail Names:** JP spoke about the need for official registration of Victorian off-road trail names. This is desirable for a number of purposes, including explaining locations to emergency services, identifying trails when seeking council funding for improvements, and signing of trails. Those present agreed that this is an important issue and suggested that it needs to be taken up by a broader organization than the BUG, eg BV. It was suggested that JP write to BV's board and general manager about the matter. Another suggestion was that a message be posted to Vicbugchat including the list of trail names that JP has compiled. JB agreed to do this.
- Bike Signs:** A large number of blue and white bike signs have recently appeared around Boroondara's roads and streets, indicating destinations and distances. Concern was expressed that

the BUG had no input into this project and that it may not provide maximum benefit to cyclists for the money spent.

JP suggested that a list of projects worthy of funding should be put on our web site. JDH has already compiled a priority list. JB agreed to forward this list to JP so he can try to adapt it for this purpose.

11. **Christmas Break-up:** It was agreed that the December meeting/Christmas break-up will be held at JB's place this year.

Notes by Julia Blunden

Contacts for Rides

There are many BUGs, clubs and other organisations, several of them local, which organise rides. Below are some of their contact details. A separate supplement contains details of many of their forthcoming rides.

Ashburton Riders Club

Contacts:

Tony Landsell - email: tony@diacher.com

Justin Murphy - email: murphjj@au1.ibm.com

website: <http://www.ashburtonridersclub.asn.au/>

Banyule BUG

email: banyuleBug@yahoo.com.au

website: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~banylbug/>

contacts: Richard phone: 9459 8648, or Les phone: 9459 2701

Boroondara Bushwalkers

contact Julia Blunden

phone: 9853 5095

email: jblunden@bigpond.com

website: www.keypoint.com.au/~bbwinc

Camberwell Downhill Gourmet Bike Riders

contact Elva Parker, phone: 9836 6392

Council on the Ageing (COTA) Cycling Group

contact Janet Bennett

email: janpeter@bigpond.net.au or COTA,

phone: 9654 4443

website: <http://www.cotavic.org.au/programs>

Darebin BUG

Rides and Events Coordinator

Doug Morffew, phone: 9499 7325 (AH)

email: dougmorf@alphalink.com.au

Download the Darebin BUG rides flyer, with details of rides (Word doc)

website: www.darebinbug.org.au

Finbar Neighbourhood House Rides

Contact Deb in the office on 9428 7668 or 0403 028 200

Hawthorn Cycle Tours

contact Hawthorn Aquatic and Leisure Centre

phone: 9815 0988

email: lexbishop@bikerider.com

website: <http://www.geocities.com/perften/Hct.html>

Knox Bicycle Touring Club Incorporated

email: Mikeaatleisure@aol.com

website: home.vicnet.net.au/~knoxbike

Manningham BUG

email: seball@netlink.com.au,

H.Edwards@bom.gov.au

website: www.vicnet.net.au/~mannbug

Maroondah Bushwalking Club

To obtain details of how to book on a walk and a copy of the current walks and activities program Contact information officers:

Sandra, phone: 9728 3833, Aileen, phone: 9876 1104

website: home.vicnet.net.au/~mbush/

Melbourne Bicycle Touring Club

contact Touring Secretary, Dave Cash, phone: 9817 3269

or email info@mbtc.org.au (Note that this email address doesn't get checked every day - so don't expect an immediate response!) website: mbtc.org.au

Whitehorse Cyclists

email: ejhopper@vicnet.net.au

website: <http://www.whitehorsecyclists.org.au/>

YHA

contacts: Ride Co-Ordinator Kathy

rides@yhacycling.org.au or mobile 0425-792 574

or Secretary Voula on secretary@yhacycling.org.au

website: www.yhacycling.org.au has free registration

Boroondara BUG Contacts

Membership Secretary & Treasurer:
Graeme Stone
16 Jervis Street, Camberwell, Vic 3124
email: graeme_stone@optusnet.com.au

Media Contact & Webmaster:
Jason den Hollander
phone: 0407 118 891
email: fdutch@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor & Minutes Secretary:
Julia Blunden
phone: 9853 5095
email: jblunden@bigpond.com

Meeting Chair:
Phil Crohn
email: philcrohn@ozemail.com.au

Boroondara Bicycle Users Group

Membership Application Form

Name _____

Address & Postcode _____

Phone (H) _____

Phone (M) _____

Phone (W) _____

Email _____

Member of Bicycle Victoria? Please circle: Yes / No

Membership requires a one-off payment of \$15 per household. There is an additional charge of \$10 per annum for delivery of a hardcopy newsletter. Please send cheque (made out to Graeme Stone) along with this form to:

Graeme Stone
16 Jervis St
Camberwell
Vic, 3124