

BOROONDARA

Bicycle Users Group

Newsletter October 2006

Boroondara BUG meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, except January. Next meeting will be on Wednesday 11th October, at the Swinburne Hawthorn Campus in room TD244. The TD building is between Park and Wakefield Streets.

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.

Resources

Cycling Forums

If you haven't already done so have a look at the *Cycling Forums* web site at <http://www.cyclingforums.com/> Topics covered include every aspect of cycling, the City of Whitehorse sustainable transport officer being just one of the most recent.

Thanks to David Leong for drawing this to my attention

Events

CPF at Bicycling Australia Show Saturday and Sunday, 14 – 15 October at the Royal Exhibition Building, Carlton.

For the first time, in association with Sport and Recreation Victoria, we're running Women's Guided Tours of the Show. The tours will be led by the very experienced Emma Ringer: a bike commuter, cycle tourer, and competitor in road, track and mountain biking from club to state championships. She works in a bike shop and is a former journalist for Bicycling Australia, Mountain Biking Australia and Bicycling Trade magazines. The tours last an hour, include a drink and time for questions and discussion. They're on at 11am and 2pm both days, and cost \$20 which also includes entry to the Show. Please contact me if you'd like to book in for a tour: office@cyclingspromotion.com.au or 03 9818 5400.

We'll also be holding seminars: Saturday 14 October at 12pm Women and Cycling: Myths and Realities The seminar will feature a range of women ranging from a beginner through to an elite sporting cyclist who will share their experiences of cycling. Gain valuable tips including being safe on the roads, setting up your bike for comfort and finding great places to ride and people to ride with. Sunday 15 October at 12pm Cycling for over 50s: A fun way to get fit and live longer This seminar will feature a panel of speakers who will share their experiences of cycling, whether it be for pleasure, sport, fitness, therapy or mobility. You'll hear valuable tips on preparing yourself, being comfortable, purchasing a bike,

finding people to ride with and locating great places to ride. Both seminars are free with entry to the Show and bookings are not required. Entry to the show is \$15 or \$10 concession and kids over 10 or \$20 for families (kids under 10 are free).

Kathy Brunning, Executive Assistant, Cycling Promotion Fund, PO Box 3052 Auburn Victoria 3123, phone: 03-9818-5400; fax 03-9818-4535 www.rideabike.com.au

Bikeability Toolkit: Free Seminars for Local Government, BUG Members

The Bikeability Toolkit is a useful community resource consisting of a comprehensive checklist and resources package designed to help local governments to develop bicycle facilities and support cycling programs in their municipalities. The Bikeability Toolkit was developed with support from the Australian Greenhouse Office and can be downloaded from their web site at <http://www.travelsmart.gov.au/bikeability/index.html>.

The Bicycle Federation of Australia is running a series of half-day training seminars to present the Bikeability Toolkit and train local government staff and councillors, BUG members and other interested people in its practical use (for more details, see http://www.bfa.asn.au/bfanew/pdf/Bikeability_Checklist_workshop_flyer_23-09-06.pdf).

The Melbourne seminars will be held in the afternoons on the following dates:

Friday 10 October (Local Government) & Saturday 11 November (BUGS)

The seminars are free but places are limited. The program will consist of a visual presentation of the Bikeability Toolkit, inspection on foot of local bicycle facilities and a group workshop to apply the acquired skills. Afternoon tea will be provided.

To confirm your place in the seminar RSVP by email to BFA Executive Director, Peter Strang at execdirector@bfa.asn.au. Please make the wording in the Subject box "<Your Name> - RSVP <Your City> Bikeability Toolkit free seminar - <Date of Seminar you are interested in>". Provide the following information: Name, Council/BUG, Position, Phone, Email and write 'Yes I would like to attend the Bikeability Toolkit Training Seminar for Local Government/BUGS on <date of your seminar> 2006.

The Bikeability Toolkit Training Seminar is co-funded by the Australian Greenhouse Office and the Cycling Promotion Fund. Paul Magarey, Project Officer, Bicycle Federation of Australia, phone: 02 6248 5988, mobile: 0448 269 092, skype: Paul Magarey, email: projectofficer@bfa.asn.au, web: www.bfa.asn.au, post: PO Box 499 Civic Square ACT 2608

Thanks to Chris Star for passing on this information

North Balwyn Rotary Ride

This is an annual event organised to raise funds for the Oliva Newton-John Cancer Centre. It happens on Sunday morning 29th October and ends in Hays Paddock with a BBQ. There are three distances to choose from: 15/30/50km, and it makes for a great family outing. Register no later than the Friday before the ride to be in the draw for a bike to the value of \$500 from the sponsor *Bike Life*.

More details can be found at: <http://www.rotaryriverride.com.au/>

Nadiah Rengganis, Vice President, North Balwyn Rotaract (sponsored by North Balwyn Rotary), phone: 03 9256 3568; Fax: 03 9256 3477

Up the Warby Track and Back

Ride, walk or run the Warburton Trail: an overnight, weekend event, Saturday 11 November - Sunday 12 November. A Wandin Rotary Club community project.

Cost (includes dinner & breakfast): Couple \$195; Children under 14 years \$50 each; Adults \$100 each

Register before 8th November

Further Information: Fred, M: 0400 931 085; email: uptrack@bigpond.net.au

Beyond Boroondara

Track Notes

Wend Your Way out to Woodlands

There is now a shared path all the way from the city to the homestead in Woodlands Historic Park, a great destination for a Spring ride. Head out past Docklands and along Footscray Rd to pick up the Moonee Ponds Creek path. Follow this out past Westmeadows, and under Mickleham Rd until you come to the high cyclone fence of the Woodlands Back Paddock. Keep heading west alongside this and as you reach its corner you'll see the new yellow gravel path heading northwest and uphill. It's a pity that the surface is rather heavy going at present but one can't have everything, and hopefully in time it will bed down better. From the homestead you can ride east through the Back Paddock across to Gellibrand Hill for fabulous 360° views, and then coast, rather bumpily, downhill to the gate at the southeast corner of the park which brings you back to the Moonee Ponds Creek path. See http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au/resources05/05_0490.pdf for a map of the park that you can print for reference.

Lara the Gateway to Geelong

Geelong is another great Spring ride destination. If you're thinking of doing a ride in Geelong consider starting at Lara. You can ride down Rennie Street and under the Princes Fwy for a really delightful few kilometres through Hovell Reserve to reach first Limeburners Bay then Corio Bay. There's a pretty good bike route all the way from here to Eastern Beach, mainly off-road; the few sections on-road have bike lanes or are through quiet streets. Geelong has a number of off-road paths in addition to the one along the bay, notably along the Barwon River.

You can take bikes on any Geelong train, but if there are more than about four of you the best bet is the loco driven 7.47am from Southern Cross – a bit early, but not too bad at this time of year. Lara has a great coffee shop in the Centre Way that's open when the early train gets in.

Capital City Trail Woes Continue

Just as one bit of this trail gets fixed up another goes to pot! At present it's the link between South Wharf and Webb Bridge, never very flash but now a real disaster zone. Cyclists must ride out of the car park behind the wharf and into Lorimer Street then cross Montague Street at the pedestrian lights. They can then turn briefly left along the footpath before passing through a gap on the right to reach Webb Bridge. Apparently the old route under Charles Grimes Bridge will be open again soon. Let's hope they make the route a bit more obvious and give us a bit more space to get round the chain barrier.

Julia Blunden

Graeme's Media Grabs

***Bayside Leader*, 25/09/06; p.9: Conduct under review.**

A CODE of conduct for cyclists will be reviewed after the death of an elderly man struck by a cyclist in Beach Rd, Mentone. The Amy Gillett Foundation will conduct the review of the code, set up three years ago under the Shared Respect Initiative by police and bike users. Police held a bike safety meeting on September 11 with VicRoads, the Amy Gillett Foundation and other bicycle groups, to talk about safety on the Hell Ride. Proposals discussed included illuminated signs to warn cyclists of upcoming red lights.

***South Gippsland Sentinel Times*, 19/09/06; p.16: Bass coast uproar over bike project**

VicRoads has been accused of wrecking Phillip Island's bicycle strategy, which could result in deaths, two Bass Coast Shire councillors claimed last week. The strategy has allegedly led to cyclists and pedestrians facing dead-ends, and paths that are not linked. Some purportedly lead to main roads, which urgently require overpasses and other safe crossings. They said VicRoads ignored local knowledge and suggestions.

***Phillip Island and San Remo Advertiser*, page 4, not attributed**

Bicycle pathway pushes ahead Works to construct a shared bicycle and pedestrian pathway along parts of Phillip Island road and back Beach road began last week. The path will run between Sunderland Bay Rd and Dolphin Drive, at Smiths Beach. The works are part of a plan by the Bass Coast Council to link Phillip Island communities with a continuous bicycle and pedestrian pathway.

***Sunday Age*, Page 3, By Stephen Cauchi and Clay Lucas: Hats Off?**

Helmets increase cyclists' risk. HERE'S a road safety message you won't hear too often. Cyclists who wear helmets are more likely to be hit by vehicles than those who don't. Why? It seems drivers will give riders without helmets more leeway because they perceive them to be less experienced, says a study by Bath University in Britain. The research, published in the journal *Accident Analysis and Prevention*, is fuelling a debate in Britain as to whether helmets should be made compulsory (they currently are not).

3CR (Melbourne) City Limits – 13/09/2006 – 09:30 AM [Cont] Interview with Chris Star, Wheels of Justices, to discuss road safety for pedestrians and bicyclist.

Star says that drivers aren't taught to look for other road users. Healy says that in some European cities a bike lane has been created between the footpath and parked cars. Star says that strategy will be a part of Bicycle Victoria's plan called Copenhagen Lanes. Star says that's good in high use areas, however, cyclists and motorists still need to be taught how to work together. Star discusses the history and formation of Wheels of Justice. Healy says that VicRoads controls all the light cycles at intersections, but so often cyclists are not recognised by the triggers. Star agrees and says VicRoads have put loop counts on a number of off road bike parks. Star says 'this is something VicRoads are going to have to look at in more depth... we are a user group that should be taken more seriously than we are.' Healy asks how road regulations can be enforced against bicyclists. Star says that's a problematic issue, which neither Victoria police nor VicRoads are interested in. Comperes discuss how bicyclist deaths are reported in the media. Star says the lack of concern 'is repugnant.'

Bendigo Advertiser, Mon 11 Sept; p.7: Pedal power recharged.

Strategy makes cycling, walking easier. CITY of Greater Bendigo councillors last week adopted a cycling and walking strategy after consultation with communities and other organisations in the municipality. The strategy had identified works that needed to be undertaken to maintain present and future infrastructure and maintenance programs during the next six years. The strategy was developed with the State Government, Primary Care Partnership, Parks Victoria, Vic Roads, Department of Sustainability and Environment, and Department of Human Services.

Clay Lucas, September 3, 2006

MELBOURNE is to get its first taste of European-style bike lanes that separate cyclists and car traffic by putting a parking lane between them. The bike lanes, which will run along either side of Swanston Street from Melbourne University to RMIT, will cost more than \$500,000. If the trial is successful, VicRoads will consider rolling out more of the bike lanes across the city. The new-style lanes will be two metres wide and 50 centimetres lower than the footpath.

Under the design, named the Copenhagen Treatment by planners because it is common in that city, existing numbers of parking spots will be kept but moved away from the footpath and towards the middle of the street. Work on the scheme, aimed at reducing the number of cyclists being hit by cars on that stretch of road, is set to start at the end of the year. The area has become a bicycle black spot, with six cyclists admitted to hospital after being knocked off their bikes in the past five years. Under the City of Melbourne's cycling strategy released last week, installation of similar lanes on main cycling roads across the city is likely.

"This is the next stage of this city's bicycle lanes," said Harry Barber from Bicycle Victoria, which has worked closely with the council and VicRoads to get support for the new lanes. "Drawing a line to mark out a bike lane came first, over the last decade. Then they started painting bicycle lanes green, as we're seeing all over town," Mr Barber said. "Now they've reached the next stage: separating bikes and cars physically. "Australians all have bikes, and they love riding them, but most are reluctant to ride in traffic. These lanes will mean they don't have to." On average, 1000 cyclists a year are admitted to hospital after accidents. Some 200 end up in hospital after a collision with a car. On main cycling strips such as St Kilda Road, which has boomed as a cycling area since bike lanes were created in 1993, the number of cyclists in accidents with cars has stayed steady.

The Age, 2/10/06; p.1: If you're male and you ride, beware

MALE cyclists aged 30 to 39 are at high risk of being killed or injured in collisions with motor vehicles on weekdays from 4pm to 6pm. Nine out of 10 collisions happen on a straight stretch of road when the vehicle hits the bike by turning or parking. The facts are contained in a landmark study, jointly funded by Monash University Accident Research Centre and the Amy Gillett Foundation, which analysed 13,900 bicycle-vehicle crashes between 2000 and 2004.

The Age, 3/10/06; p.4: ROAD SAFETY. Sights on cyclists

AN AUSTRALIA-WIDE transport body is calling for a change to road rules to make cyclists safer. The National Transport Commission has published a draft regulatory impact statement for public comment that includes a national standard for "bicycle boxes". A bicycle box is a painted area on the road two metres beyond the stop line in bicycle lanes or shoulders at signalled intersections. It improves the visibility of cyclists and positions the bicycle for turning safely or travelling ahead of waiting traffic. Several Australian road agencies including VicRoads have successfully tested bicycle boxes.

Thanks to Graeme Stone for supplying the above items

Boroondara News

Gasworks Site Re-development

On Thursday 21 September BUG members Graeme Stone and Julia Blunden attended a meeting between Leighton, the developers, and various parties who had lodged submissions regarding this development. Jason den Hollander was also present wearing his BV hat. Graeme outlined the BUG's concerns about the relocation of sections of the Gardiners Creek path, and especially a proposed board walk section. A Leighton spokesman agreed to look again at the possibility that the path could remain nearer its current location obviating the need for the board walk. Boroondara Planning Officer, Anthony De Pasquale, assured us that if the board walk section goes ahead it will be built to a high standard. Jason indicated that BV would oppose any reduction in the number of bike parking places at the new Homewares Centre for either staff or customers.

Burwood Rd Church Street Intersection

The intersection of Burwood Rd and Church St, Hawthorn, just east of Hawthorn Bridge is a great improvement for eastbound cyclists heading uphill in High St. The carriageway is now wider and there is a bicycle lane marked. However, the bicycle lane is only marked for the short distance through what was a notorious "pinch spot". Elsewhere cyclists still have to jostle/ share with motorists. But the overall journey is now safer.

I have not really road tested conditions for westbound cycle traffic. The carriageway seems about the same, but the fearsome barrier between the motorists and the tramway may cause some motorists to track a little closer to the kerb and hence to cyclists.

Wasn't the westbound footpath over the bridge going to be a shared path? Has this happened, never going to happen or still a work in progress?

Malcolm Faul

Richard Smithers, Transport Coordinator at the City of Yarra, has given his support to the designation of the paths on either side of Hawthorn Bridge as shared footways. However VicRoads, who have the final say, have ruled against this on the grounds that the balustrades on the bridge fall short of the required height and thus put cyclists at risk of falling into the river. I have written to the VicRoads Manager concerned protesting against this decision. More letters could be helpful.

Julia Blunden

Minutes of Boroondara BUG Meeting 7.30pm Wednesday 13th September 2006

Held at Swinburne, Hawthorn Campus, Room TD 244

Present: Graham Ellis, Graeme Stone, Julia Blunden, David Leong, Peter Campbell

Guests: Dr Daniel Paez, Councillor Coral Ross

Apologies: Jason den Hollander, Phil Crohn

Cyclovia: Daniel Paez explained in some detail the concept and history of Cyclovia, (see www.cyclovia.org) We discussed possible locations for a trial in Boroondara (Burke Rd, Glenferrie Rd, Whitehorse Rd, or High St) and possible sources of funding and other support (State Government grants, local traders, Rotary, Council, BV). Daniel has already discussed the idea with Evan Bolutis and Cr Ross suggested that the BUG talk to him about it.

Tooronga Village Redevelopment: The Planning Panel's report with recommendations will be completed by the end of September and it must be made public no later than the end of October. Then it remains to be seen whether the Minister accepts the panel's recommendations.

Leightons Development on Gasworks site: GS and JB, as objectors to aspects of this planned development, have received an invitation to a meeting on 21/9 at which the applicant and respondents will be present. GS agreed to contact Jim Hondrakis to ask him if he will be present at this meeting.

VicRoads and the PBN: JD has spoken to Tony Barton at VicRoads who takes the view that checking developments for PBN implications is a council responsibility. PC suggested that it might be more effective to write direct to the CEO of VicRoads. JB offered to draft a letter and circulate this to members.

Bicycle Advisory Committee: JB has emailed Dick Menting regarding this and cc'd the email to Jim Hondrakis. She has had no response as yet.

Boroondara Bike Strategy: JB has emailed Jim Hondrakis but has as yet had no response.

Leonda Link: JB reported that she is still waiting for Jim Hondrakis to arrange a site visit. Cr Ross expressed interest in this issue as it is in her ward. She suggested that Adam Hall from Landscaping should be invited to attend any site meeting and offered to attend herself. It was agreed that Don Glasson should also be invited if he is back in Melbourne.

Newsletter: GS reported that the splitting of the newsletter into two files caused extra work for him in preparing the hard copy version, but agreed to continuation of the practice until all our members have upgraded to broadband.

BFA: Some of us received notice of motions to be put at the BFA AGM. These mainly concern classes of membership and financial contributions. It appears that our initial fee of \$55 may double next year. It was agreed that we cannot continue our membership if that is the case. Phil Crohn who has agreed to be our rep at the BFA AGM was not present but we do have another meeting shortly before the AGM to discuss this matter again.

Middleborough Road: PC outlined the current plans for the Middleborough Rd grade separation project in Blackburn/Box Hill. He is very concerned that a golden opportunity is being lost to include a bike route that, as well as being useful to locals, could form a section of an extended rail trail. JB agreed to forward the email address of David Hall, another strong supporter of this link, to PC.

Boroondara TravelSmart Map: GE reported that he had heard from Jim Hondrakis that the map is almost ready to go to the printer. 10,000 copies are being printed initially and Jim has plans for regular dated editions in the future.

Bike Path Maintenance: GE pointed out that with 32km of bike paths under the responsibility of Boroondara only 850m was redone in the year 2005/6 at a cost of \$250 per linear metre. Obviously the current budget of \$250,000 per year is insufficient and needs to be quadrupled at least in future. This is something that the BUG could press for in the planned Bike Strategy.

Next Meeting with Jim Hondrakis: It was agreed to try for another meeting on Friday 20/10 or 27/10. GE pointed out that this would mean only 3 meetings for 2006 instead of the planned 4. One major advantage of a BAC should be that the 4 meeting dates should be set at the start of each year and stuck to.

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, e-mail: jblunden@bigpond.com; web site: www.keypoint.com.au/~bbwinc

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

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

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

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

Maroondah Bushwalking Club: to obtain details of how to book on a walk and a copy of the current walks and activities program Contact **information officers:** Sandra, phone: 9728 3833; Aileen, phone: 9876 1104; web site: home.vicnet.net.au/~mbush/

Whitehorse Cyclists: e-mail: ejhopper@vicnet.net.au; web site: <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; e-mail: yhacycling@yahoo.com.au; website: <http://www.vicnet.net.au/~yhacycle>

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