

# BOROONDARA

*Bicycle Users Group*

## Newsletter June 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 13<sup>th</sup> June, at the Swinburne Hawthorn Campus in room TD244. The TD building is between Park and Wakefield Streets. All welcome.**

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

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

We also have two Yahoo Groups:

Send a blank e-mail to [BoroondaraBug-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](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.

### Features

#### Round the Bay the Easy Way

Just because you're not up to BV's *Round the Bay in a Day* doesn't mean you need to miss out on this very satisfying circuit. I have ridden *half way round the Bay in two days* three times using quite different routes each time. This year one of my friends proposed something slightly different again – riding *almost round the Bay in three days*. In late May ten of us did just that, riding around 50-60km on each of our three days, quite enough with panniers in my view.

On day one, eight of us caught the train to Werribee to meet the two purists who had decided to ride all the way from the city. After stoking up on coffee and cakes at the Coffee Pot café, on its pleasant, sheltered deck overlooking the river, we headed off to Bulban Rd for the first leg of our ride to Geelong, straight into the teeth of a howling gale. I have ridden this very exposed route many times, always in the reverse direction hoping for a westerly wind to help us along, but never have I experienced one of anything like the force pitted against us on this occasion. We got some relief turning south into Little River and again from the trees lining Mill Rd on the last leg to Lara. Most of us abandoned our sandwiches to take shelter in a café in Lara for lunch. We then headed down to the path under the freeway and through Hovell Park to Corio Bay and followed the almost continuous off-road bayside route round to Moorabool St. Our accommodation for the night was at the National Hotel Backpacker Hostel, cheap (\$22 per head), central, and at this time of year almost empty so we were able to store our bikes in two of the dormitories. Dinner was in an Italian style restaurant in a converted bank building and breakfast, for those not self-catering, was in Banjos, both very close to our accommodation.

On day two we divided into two parties. After recent rain the unsealed Bellarine Rail Trail did not seem like a good option. Four of the stronger riders decided to take the longer, hillier and possibly more scenic route via Portarlington and Indented Head while the rest of us opted for the shorter and flatter route via Barwon Heads. Morning coffee for the latter group was in 'Diver Dan's' and featured cakes so large that some of us were unable to face lunch a couple of hours later in the delightful Garden café at Queenscliff. All of us found the going much easier than the previous day as the wind remained in the west. The Barwon Heads group caught the two o'clock ferry to Sorrento while the Portarlington group caught the three o'clock one. Fares are \$9 per person plus \$2 per bike and at this time of year there is plenty of space for both bikes and passengers. A bonus on the ferry trip was free *Age* newspapers which we all fell upon having missed out on our news, crosswords and sudokus pretty much since leaving home. The ferry runs hourly during the day in all weather, and the trip was remarkably smooth given the windy conditions. Accommodation in Sorrento was at the YHA hostel, a little more gracious and also a tad more expensive

(\$30 per head) than the Geelong backpackers, and again almost empty except for us. Dinner was at the charming Sorrento Hotel, down by the waterfront but unfortunately now deprived of its sea view by a large intervening building.

On day three we all rode together as far as Dromana where we stopped for refreshments. Most of the group decided to continue along the coastal road to Mornington. However three of us, somewhat spooked by accounts of the tunnel and the narrowness of this road, and hoping, in vain as it turned out, to find shelter from the still ferocious and now more northerly wind, decided to use the Nepean Highway instead. We met at *Banjo's* in Mornington for lunch then rode together along the highway to Frankston. The highway has a shoulder/bike lane or has three lanes for most of the two stretches we rode on it. Normally I would avoid Oliver's Hill by taking an inland route to Frankston but it was exciting to ride down it on this occasion and to view the wind whipping up the water in the Bay. Most of us opted to catch the train at Frankston but three of the party, made of sterner stuff, decided to ride on, one of them right back to his starting place.

Late autumn and winter may not seem like the ideal time of year for bike tours as daylight hours are short and the weather can be bleak. However there are some real pluses, especially when it comes to popular seaside resorts. Accommodation, eateries, roads and ferries are all much less crowded at this time of year, especially if you go mid-week as we did. I did book accommodation in advance as we were quite a large group but this really wasn't necessary. You could just watch the forecast and head off when conditions look favourable. Another beauty of this bike tour is that we were able to use suburban trains travelling against the peak flow and our large group with bikes presented no problems at all. So why wait for BV's *Round the Bay* when you can organise your own?

**Julia Blunden**

## **A Cyclist's Prayer**

From car doors opening in my face  
And drivers who misjudge my pace,  
Pedestrians stepping in my way  
And children careless in their play;  
Good Lord Deliver me.

From yobbo cyclists breaking rules  
So others think we all are fools,  
From drivers making gestures rude  
And shouting insults loud and crude,  
Good Lord Deliver Me.

From sudden potholes, glass and bogs,  
From oil slicks, tramlines, straying dogs,  
From weather foul and towering hills,  
From crashes, prangs, collisions, spills,  
Good Lord Deliver Me.

So let me cycle wide and far,  
Despising truck, polluting car,  
Pedalling bravely day by day,  
In country, city, suburbs, bay.  
Hallelujah!

**Rosemary West**

*This is Rosemary's last contribution to the newsletter before she quits Boroondara for the bucolic delights of Bend of Islands. Rosemary says her new address 'is not conducive to cycling (narrow, winding, hilly, dirt road and a long way to anything). However I shall continue to ride when I can and plan to catch a train to the big smoke when required and take my bike, getting off at convenient stations and riding to wherever I need to go.'*

*Many thanks Rosemary for all the letters written, phone calls made and meetings attended on behalf of cyclists' interests and for your support for the Boroondara BUG over a period of many years.*

## **Opportunities and Resources**

### **3CR Seeking Cycling Radio Announcers**

Are you a community minded, consciousness raising, gravel blazing cyclist with a yen to be on radio?! 3CR is considering having a cycling show that seeks to promote urban cycling as a viable means of transport to people and to campaign via the media to improve cycling conditions.

3CR is Melbourne's largest community radio station and is committed to providing media access to communities and campaigns traditionally denied access to mainstream media. All 3CR programmers need to be accepted as volunteers of 3CR, in alliance with the station's philosophy, undergo general radio training provided by 3CR, produce and present their radio programs off their own bat, be paid up subscribers and be actively involved in 3CR's annual fundraising drive.

For more information about 3CR listen in on 855AM or through webstreaming on [www.3cr.org.au](http://www.3cr.org.au). Read about our radical history and our mission at [www.3cr.org.au](http://www.3cr.org.au)

For more information contact Bree at 3CR on [specialprojects@3cr.org.au](mailto:specialprojects@3cr.org.au) or call 9419 8377 Tuesday to Thursday

*Thanks to Yarra BUG for passing on this item.*

## **Beyond Boroondara**

### **Graeme's Media Grabs**

### **Car park developments discourage cycling - Bendigo Advertiser, page 10**

WITH world-wide demand for oil increasing and new oil fields becoming difficult to find, oil will become a scarce resource. Nevertheless, expensive monuments to the age of cheap oil, such as the new multi-storey CBD car park, continue to be built. A regional city such as Bendigo has advantages that need to be exploited. The centre of Bendigo can be reached from most parts of Bendigo in fewer than 30 minutes cycling time. With the eventual increase in oil prices, more and more people will see bicycle riding as a legitimate way to travel in Bendigo.

### **New bike path for Phillip Drive - Sunbury Telegraph, Page 5**

A BIKE path on Phillip Drive, Sunbury, will be one of the new road safety features to be installed next financial year as part of the Hume road safety plan. Now in its second year, the plan was reviewed at a council meeting last Monday week. Goals reached included the expansion of a walking school bus program and the launch of a driver program. The council will be required to advocate government action on the Vineyard Road and Mitchells Lane intersection as part of the plan.

### **Safer cycling - Chelsea Independent, 08/05/07, Letters, Page 2**

ENVIRONMENTAL groups are pleased that MP Janice Munt has persuaded VicRoads to relinquish the gravel verge on the edge of Beach Road for a continuation of the Round the Bay bicycle trail. A bike trail utilising the verge will require a minimum amount of foreshore to meet the Australian Standards width for a bike trail, while leaving the soft-grassed areas for the 60-70 per cent of residents surveyed who indicated a preference for retention of informal walking tracks on the dunes and cliff tops free of cyclists.

### **Risky roundabout busier - Northcote Leader, 08/05/07, General News, Page 5 By: Julia Irwin**

Up to 30 per cent more people are riding bikes through the perilous St Georges Rd-Merri Pde roundabout than last year, Darebin Bicycle User Group says. The group has renewed calls for VicRoads to make the roundabout safer for cyclists after its annual survey showed 508 rode through the roundabout between 7am and 9am on March 21, compared with 392 at the same time last year.

### **Cycle boost bid - Warrnambool Standard, 05/05/07, General News, Page 6 By: Mary Alexander**

A plan to improve bike safety in Corangamite shire and encourage more people to take up cycling has been released for public comment. The cycling strategy, prepared by the Transplan consulting group, recommends more than \$216,000 in new bicycle facilities and improvements in the shire's nine towns.

### **Get on your bike - Warrnambool Standard, 07/05/07, General News, Page 5 By: Shane Fowles**

SOUTHERN Grampians Shire aims to improve pedestrian and cycling paths to encourage greater uptake of healthier travel options. The shire is one of seven councils to share in \$500,000 of State Government grants to complete small-scale infrastructure projects and develop innovative new school travel plans.

### **National Nine News - 1/05/2007 6:14 PM**

The lawyer for a cyclist accused of knocking down an elderly man after running a red light has said that the man's actions were reasonable. [which man??gs] Cycle Sport Australia are calling for a TAC style advertising campaign to educate the public on cycling.

### **Shoddy bike trail angers residents - Mail Maribyrnong, 25/04/07, General News, Page 14**

THE Federation Trail's state of disrepair has an Altona resident claiming its construction was no more than a means to garner votes before last October's state election. Geoff Mitchelmore said the \$12 million trail running through Hobsons Bay, Brimbank and Wyndham from Brooklyn to Werdbee was completed with little thought to its long-term viability.

### **Tuesday May 1, 2007 - \$247 MILLION FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENTS ACROSS VICTORIA**

The Bracks Government today announced \$247 million for roads as part of its campaign to keep improving the road network and reduce congestion across Victoria. Roads and Ports Minister Tim Pallas said the 2007-08 State Budget delivered on the commitments the Bracks Government made to Victorians to meet the challenges of the future.

"Investing in roads saves lives, cuts travel time, and delivers economic benefits through improvements to freight access," Mr Pallas said. "The Bracks Government has implemented more than 2000 road safety projects, treated over 1100 accident blackspots and made major improvements including the Tulla-Calder interchange. "Eastlink, Australia's biggest road project, is underway and we are upgrading the Monash Westgate corridor to make car journeys quicker and safer, but more needs to be done. "We promised to upgrade key freight and passenger routes to help reduce congestion and improve roads for commuters across Victoria, and we are delivering".

Mr Pallas said the 2007-08 State Budget included:

- \$103 million to upgrade key routes in Melbourne's outer suburbs;
- \$91 million to upgrade regional roads;

- \$30 million for a targeted Congestion Improvements program;
- \$13 million for local transport initiatives;
- \$7.3 million for bike and walking paths; and
- \$3 million to start work on a new motor registration and licensing system.

Last year, Meeting Our Transport Challenges committed \$72 million to walking and cycling, the largest injection of funds into these programs in the State's history. The State Budget delivers \$7.3 million over two years to projects including on-road bike lanes on Mount Alexander Road, Essendon and Commercial Road Prahran. "This commitment recognises that over 40 per cent of the trips people make in the metropolitan area are less than two kilometres long, and approximately two-thirds of trips are less than five kilometres. We recognise there is potential for more trips to be made via walking and cycling, which will help alleviate congestion," Mr Pallas said.

*Thanks to Graeme Stone for these items*

## **Boroondara News**

### **Help Needed from Readers**

#### **Express Your Support for BCC Spending on Cycling Infrastructure**

Many of you will have noticed the accelerated pace of improvements to both on and off-road cycling infrastructure in Boroondara over the past couple of years. Jim Hondrakis in Transport Management can take much of the credit for this. Largely due to Jim's efforts BCC's draft budget for next year includes \$408,000 for an upgrade to the Gardiners Creek Trail, and \$300,000 for bicycle and pedestrian trail upgrades and safety improvements; \$708K in total. That's quite amazing when you think that for the last 2 years it's been \$250K.

But this is just the draft budget and these allocations to cycling infrastructure could be reduced if not seen to be supported by the community. Readers who live in Boroondara can help ensure that this doesn't happen by letting their councillors know how pleased they are about this proposed spending. Ring them or email them to express your support for Jim and the work he is doing and your delight that more realistic funding is finally being allocated to cycling infrastructure.

#### **Bollards**

Bollards on shared paths are not only an annoyance to cyclists but can also be a serious hazard, particularly in poor light. Are there any bollards that you consider dangerous or unnecessary on any of the off-road paths you cycle in Boroondara? Jim Hondrakis, in the City of Boroondara's Transport Management section, is keen to work with cyclists to remove any bollards that are unnecessary and to make those that are necessary as safe as possible for those using the paths. If you have any suggestions you wish to make about bollards please email these to Graeme Stone at [graeme\\_stone@optusnet.com.au](mailto:graeme_stone@optusnet.com.au) Graeme will collate the information and pass it on to Jim Hondrakis.

#### **Bike Parking Rails**

It is very frustrating when you ride to the shops, the recreation centre, the station or wherever only to find that there is nowhere safe to chain up your bike. Julia Smith in the City of Boroondara's Traffic Management section is currently engaged in a survey of existing bike parking rails with a view to identifying places where new or additional rails are needed. Construction of a prototype roofed parking station for a sizeable number of bikes is also being considered to test the demand for such facilities. This could be in a supermarket car park, at a recreation centre or a shopping strip. If you have any suggestions regarding the type of parking rails you prefer, the locations where you think they are needed, or a possible site for a bike parking station please email Julia Blunden at [jblunden@bigpond.com](mailto:jblunden@bigpond.com) I will collate the information and pass it on to Julia Smith.

## **Minutes of Boroondara BUG Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> May**

### **Held at Swinburne, Hawthorn Campus, Room TD244**

**Present:** Graeme Stone, Julia Blunden, Phil Crohn, David Arnold, Alister Huth, John Piesse, David Leong.

**Apologies:** Jason Den Hollander, Graham Ellis

1. **Darebin Creek – Main Yarra Trail link:** JB reported that she had attended a meeting of the Community Coalition for the DC –MYT link on 30/4. It was agreed at this meeting that the Community Coalition would seek a meeting with all Boroondara Councillors, and possibly one with the local residents at a later date. JP explained his proposal that the link should run down the west side of the billabong rather than the east side as currently proposed by Parks Victoria. He said that approximately 50 people currently use the northern peninsula to run their dogs off-lead. It was agreed that this proposal deserved consideration as a path already runs along this corridor. GS agreed to draft a response to Mayor Phillip Healey's letter to BBUG on the subject of the link and to circulate this to members with a view to posting both letter and response on our web site.

2. **Bike Strategy:** We agreed that it is highly desirable that we have an opportunity to look at the draft strategy before the next round of consultations takes place. Ideally we would like to be able to discuss the draft at a BUG meeting and have the opportunity to formulate a response to before it goes to Council. JB offered to draft a letter to Jim Hondrakis along these lines.
3. **Priorities List:** It was agreed that two items should be added to this: the upgrade of the Hill'n'dale Park link and the Victoria Park link. JB suggested the addition of a Copenhagen style bike lane along Power and Denmark Sts between Burwood Rd and Kew Junction but GS said that measurements would be needed to check the feasibility of this.
4. **Agenda Items for BAC:** The following were suggested:
  - Solway Bridge – update
  - Darebin Creek – Main Yarra Trail link
  - Bike Strategy
  - Bollards on Anniversary Trail – GS's proposed treatment
  - Landscape Section – request for them to alert both Jim Hondrakis and the BUG to new projects/concept plans such as the one for Victoria Park that may have implications for cycling

JB agreed to forward this list to Jim Hondrakis

5. **Gardiners Creek Path Missing Link Stakeholder Meeting:** GS outlined what was covered at the meeting. JH outlined his plans for a connection between Solway Bridge and Warrigal Rd via Markham Reserve to connect with the Anniversary Trail just south of Alamein Station, ie all on the Boroondara side of the creek. While BBUG members and BV representatives present approved the plans for Warrigal Rd underpass they were not happy with the indirect nature of the link. The Stonnington representative present at the meeting could not give detailed reasons why any continuation of the path eastward alongside the golf course had been ruled out but cited only the flood prone nature of this land and the need for fencing, both of which are common to many shared paths. Solway Bridge was another contentious issue when it was revealed that Stonnington Council plans to secure the existing bridge rather than build a new one as had been planned. JH undertook to consult further with Stonnington on this issue. GS said that he would follow up with Caroline Martin, the planner who convened this meeting regarding questions raised about the Stonnington position.
6. **Liaison with Neighbouring BUGs:** JB reported that after the Community Consultation on the Bike Strategy Whitehorse Cyclists had raised the question of what mechanisms we had in place for liaison with neighbouring BUGs. It was agreed that we should invite representatives from these BUGs to future meetings beginning with Darebin. It was also agreed that Councillor Heinz Kreutz should once again be invited to attend a BUG meeting.
7. **Trail Names not in Emergency Services Database:** DA reported that he recently had occasion to call the police while on the Anniversary Trail. The person who answered his call was unable to pinpoint his location as it appears that the trail was not listed in the database. DA agreed to follow up on this.

*Notes by Julia Blunden*

## Contacts for Rides

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

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

**Boroondara Bushwalkers:** contact Julia Blunden, phone: 9853 5095, email: [jblunden@bigpond.com](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: [murphij@au1.ibm.com](mailto:murphij@au1.ibm.com) web site: <http://www.ashburtonridersclub.asn.au/>

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

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

**Knox Bicycle Touring Club Incorporated,** email: [Mikeaatleisure@aol.com](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

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### 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)

### Additional Contact:

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

## 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