

BOROONDARA

Bicycle Users Group

Newsletter September 2009

Boroondara BUG meetings are normally held on the 2nd Thursday of each month. However our next meeting is on **Wednesday** 9th September. It will be held in the function room at the Elgin Inn, cnr Burwood Rd and Elgin St, Hawthorn (Melway 45 B10). Optional dinner at 6.30pm, meeting starts at 7.30pm.

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. Two of the positions on the Boroondara Bicycle Advisory Committee, which meets quarterly, are assigned to Boroondara BUG members.

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. Our email address for communications to the BUG is boroondarabug@gmail.com

We also have a Yahoo Group: Send a blank email to: BoroondaraBug-subscribe@yahoogroups.com to receive notification when the latest monthly newsletter and rides supplement have been placed on the web site and very occasional important messages.

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

TravelSmart maps

Those new TravelSmart maps just keep coming. The latest addition to the list is Stonnington. Stonnington maps should be available from Service Centres, Libraries and Aquatic Centres in Stonnington, as well as selected bike shops in both Stonnington and Boroondara, but you can also ask Council to send you one – see contact details below. Knox, Hobsons Bay and Bendigo are other recent arrivals on the scene.

TravelSmart maps are designed not just for cyclists, but also for walkers and public transport users. The maps are based on *Melway*, however the colours used have been changed to give greater emphasis to public transport routes and bike facilities. For example shared paths are shown by a continuous blue line, unlike the red dashed line in *Melway*. The main additions are on-road bike lanes, shown by a dashed blue line alongside the road; and informal bike routes shown by a dotted blue line. *Melway* map numbers are marked on the maps and adjoining map numbers shown in the margins.

These maps have been a cooperative project between DOI and local councils. They are available by contacting the relevant council – just ring or email and they'll send you one (or often several if you ask) at no cost.

City of Banyule	03 9490 4222	enquiries@banyule.vic.gov.au
City of Boroondara	03 9278 4444	boroondara@boroondara.vic.gov.au
City of Casey	03 9705 5200	caseycc@casey.vic.gov.au
City of Darebin	03 8470 8888	mailbox@darebin.vic.gov.au
City of Hobsons Bay	03 9932 1100	customerservice@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au
City of Knox	03 9298 8000	knoxcc@knox.vic.gov.au
City of Maribyrnong	03 9688 0200	email@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au
City of Melbourne	03 9658 9658	enquiries@melbourne.vic.gov.au

City of Moonee Valley	03 9243 8888	council@mvcc.vic.gov.au
City of Moreland	03 9240 1111	info@moreland.vic.gov.au
City of Stonnington	03 8290 1333	council@stonnington.vic.gov.au
City of Whitehorse	03 9262 6333	customer.service@whitehorse.vic.gov.au
City of Yarra	03 9205 5555	info@yarracity.vic.gov.au
City of Greater Bendigo	03 5434 6000	info@bendigo.vic.gov.au

A limited stock of TravelSmart maps is also available from the Information Victoria Bookshop at 505 Little Collins Street, Melbourne. You can also submit an email request at Information Victoria's website or by phoning 1300 366 356.

Individual TravelSmart Maps for Universities (Deakin University, La Trobe Bundoora and Monash Clayton) are available from Student Information Centres on the relevant campus.

As well as these Nillumbik have published an 'Active Community Map' which has a very similar format. Their contact details are: Phone: 03 9433 3111; Email: nillumbik@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

For the latest information on TravelSmart maps check out:

<http://www.travelsmart.vic.gov.au/web4/tsmart.nsf/headingpagesdisplay/resourcestravelsmart+maps?Open&Expand=6.1.9&>

Julia Blunden

Cycling in Toronto

From the wikitravel site - sound familiar?

There is a lack of clear understanding about regulations regarding bicycles, and as a result there can be hostility between automobiles and cyclists. Generally speaking, if you are on the road you are expected to obey the same laws as cars, and you are not allowed to ride on the sidewalk. In reality, cyclists have all sorts of driving styles, and there is often very little respect shown for the rules of the road. Many cyclists are not even aware that the rules of the road apply to them; expect the unexpected. The city is predominantly flat, aside from a general climb away from Lake Ontario, and post-and-ring locking posts are present throughout the city. There are many bike-only lanes on major roads and threading through various neighbourhoods and parks. The city publishes a cycling map, available on the city website. Several businesses offer rentals.

It is provincial law that cyclists must wear a helmet, and ride a bike with reflectors and a bell. This tends to only be enforced when the police go on their annual "cycling blitz".

Some dangers:

Beware of parked cars - often accidents are not caused by moving cars, but rather by careless drivers or passengers who unexpectedly open their driver's side door. However, by and large Toronto is about as safe for bikers as most European cities, and certainly safer than most U.S. cities. Here, at least, cyclists are often expected and respected by drivers. Be cautious of street car tracks as bike wheels can be easily caught and cause a spill. Although you will certainly see large numbers of locals riding the streets year-round, be warned that biking in the winter months is enjoyable only with proper equipment and reasonable skills; winter weather does get cold, it can be quite windy, and snow removal is often imperfect.

Tram lines and all...

Thanks to Jacques Fievez for passing on his daughter's discovery

Trail Notes

East Malvern Station Bridge Re-opens

The East Malvern Station Bridge re-opened as planned on Thursday 20th August. Minister Tim Pallas did the honours and there was a good showing of local MPs and Monash Alliance staff. Despite the rather grim weather there was also a good turn out of cyclists to applaud the re-opening, including a number from both Boroondara BUG and Whitehorse Cyclists.

The new bridge is a rather more solid affair than the one it replaced, with high metal walls on either side of the span over the rail line and freeway. However holes in these walls mean that cyclists still have a view of what they are riding over. The northern approach to the bridge is wide and gradual so despite its several bends it is easily rideable. The southern approach is now of a noticeably inferior standard.

Merri Creek Detour is no More

The Merri Creek Path south of Rushall Station has re-opened. Grades are a tad gentler than they were previously and excellent new signage has been erected according to my informant.

Manningham St Bridge Now Open

The new bridge across Manningham St that connects with the Flemington Bridge is now open, and the tortuous detour across Flemington Rd is a thing of the past. This eliminates at least one of the many problems on the Capital City Trail. Unfortunately the hairpin bends at the western end of the Flemington Bridge remain but you can't have everything.

Thanks to Iain Palmer for the above two updates

New Detours

Just as some detours close others are put in place. If you are riding the Sandridge Trail from Southbank down to Beacon Cove you'll now find a detour in place round the Southbank Tram Depot. The detour takes you on the north side of the depot along Normanby Rd. Continue along this to Ingles St before turning left rather than turning as I did at Montague St.

On the inland path between Mordialloc and Carrum there's another detour between Edithvale Rd and Thames Pk. Like so many detours it's not particularly well signed and the route we found may not have been the most direct. A map comes in handy!

Events

Benalla's Better Bike Hike

Sunday 11th October 2009; 125, 60 & 26km; Website www.bbbhride.org.au

Tandems at Floriade

Bring your tandem to Canberra for Floriade, Canberra's spring flower festival - for a friendly weekend of tandem riding on Saturday 19-20 September 2009, organised by Fitability ACT.

Each day begins at Floriade, Commonwealth Park, off Commonwealth Avenue Acton, before setting off to explore the iconic buildings and gardens of Canberra. Plenty of free time to enjoy Canberra and the Floriade experience after the rides, and to socialise at a dinner on Saturday evening.

Details from the Pedal Power website, <http://www.pedalpower.org.au/events> or contact Judy, 02 6231 0895 or email cbrtandems@gmail.com.au

Rotary River Ride

Sunday 25th October

New Route for 2009. Along the Koonung Trail through Ringwood up the Mullum Creek Trail and return.

Riders of All Abilities. For families and young children as well as experienced riders. Choice of distances (15km, 35km and 45 km). Safe. Most of the ride is on sealed shared walking/riding trails. Plenty of signage and marshals along the way.

Register on-line and go in the draw to win one of 5 \$100 vouchers from Top Gear Cycles. <http://www.rotaryride.com.au>

Rise Tours

RISE Tours is a program of Future Cambodia Fund (www.futurecambodiafund.org), an Australian run grassroots non-profit organisation working in Cambodia. Future Cambodia Fund works with disadvantaged communities in Cambodia to create brighter opportunities for the future.

We run bike tours through South-East Asia, travelling responsibly and sustainably, and giving riders the opportunity to give their time and support to grassroots projects that are empowering communities, and creating positive change!

This is your opportunity to give something back to the global community, to contribute to sustainable development and to challenge yourself! All donations go directly to supporting grassroots community development programs in South East Asia

If you are interested in obtaining a detailed itinerary and further information on one or more of the tours email contact@risetours.org , mail: P.O. Box 2147, Fitzroy Vic 3078 or call Lauren: 0419 490 039, or Jo: 0414 836 162.

Kelly Country Classic

Sunday 8th November 2009, Glenrowan Reserve, Old Hume Highway, Glenrowan

It will be 'kerb-to-kerb' lycra in Glenrowan's main street on Sunday 9th November, when cyclists again converge on the town, for the 2009 Kelly Country Classic. Following in the footsteps of the legendary Kelly Gang, the ride will start and finish in Glenrowan, with the choice of four routes designed to suit a range of rider abilities and fitness levels.

Following in the footsteps of the legendary Kelly Gang who roamed the region in the 1880's cyclists will pedal past vineyards, farm gates and historic villages with strong links to the Kelly story. All rides will start and finish in Glenrowan, a town that resonates with the raw, bittersweet memory of Australia's most famous bushranger and his gang.

This year sees the introduction of the "Ned Kelly Challenge", a gruelling 210km ride that leaves Glenrowan and heads over the Warby Ranges before joining the 150km ride route. If you're looking for a personal challenge this is definitely the ride for you. On completion of this strenuous ride, participants will be issued with a limited edition commemorative t-shirt to wear with pride.

The difficult 150km "Dan Kelly Ride" will cover Kelly Country from Glenrowan to Winton, Lurg, Benalla East, Tatong, Molyhullah, Moyhu, Greta and back to Glenrowan. Still challenging, but not quite so arduous, riders can choose the 100km "Joe Burn Jaunt" from Glenrowan to Lurg, Myrree, Moyhu and returning to Glenrowan. The 50km "Steve Hart Spree" option will take cyclists from Glenrowan to Greta, Moyhu and back to the town made famous by the Kelly Gang's Last Stand.

To participate in the 2009 Kelly Country Classic please open and print and post or fax back the registration form, available at <http://www.nhw.hume.org.au/pages/community-participation/donations-fundraising/kelly-country-classic.php>

Boroondara News

Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting

The next BAC meeting will be held on Friday 11th September, 9.30-12 in the Acacia Room in the newly renovated Council Building in Inglesby Rd. Observers are welcome but if you plan to come please contact sustainable Transport Officer Yee Hunyh, Telephone: (03) 9278 4542, Email: Yee.Huynh@boroondara.vic.gov.au so that enough chairs can be provided.

Minutes of Boroondara BUG Meeting Thursday 13th August

Elgin Inn, Hawthorn

Present:, Julia Blunden, Glennys Jones, Graeme Stone, Graham Ellis, Malcolm Faul, Phil Crohn, Jason den Hollander, John Bales, Ken Morrison, Gordon Macmillan

Apologies: John Parker, David Leong, Alister Huth

Guests: David Hall and Michael Hassett, Whitehorse Cyclists Inc

Correspondence:

- Email from Yee Huynh confirming that there will be another community breakfast for Ride2Work Day and that this will be on the agenda for the next BAC meeting
- Email from Jill Stansfield, Hawthorn Community Chest, re possible BUG involvement in a bike ride on 'Say G'Day to Your Neighbour Day' next March – We agreed that we should participate. **Malcolm Faul** offered to be the contact person and **John Bales** offered to assist.
- Email from Ann Grauer about an accident she had on the Koonung Creek Trail as a result of her bike being bowled over by an off-lead dog – **Julia B** agreed to check the status of the Domestic Animal Management Plan, and to list this as an agenda item for the next Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting.
- Documents detailing the VCAT decision in favour of Darebin Creek – Yarra link!
- Email from Mark Brennan re Council's decision on the Glenferrie Oval, Grace Park & LE Bray Reserve Concept Master Plan
- Email from Maurie Abbott of Banyule BUG re the draft Banyule Bicycle Strategy – Julia B had already circulated a draft BBUG submission. Any further suggestions should be emailed to Julia.

Matters Arising:

1. **M1 Widening and Golfers Choice Shared Path** – John P was not present to report on this, but see next item.

2. **East Malvern Station Bridge:** Glennys J reported that the bridge is to re-open on Thursday 20th August at 10.45am and that Minister Tim Pallas will do the honours. Both Julia B and the Whitehorse Cyclists are planning their rides so as to be present with groups of cyclists. The York St bridge will not re-open until September.
3. **Anniversary Trail at High Street:** Glennys J reported that Council is investigating how the issue of the door opening onto the trail can best be dealt with.
4. **Web Site Copyright/Licensing Issues:** Peter C was not present to report on this.
5. **Trail Names:** Julia B reported that after sending the BBUG submission she had been contacted by a Parks Victoria staff member. They have a working party on trail names which has not met for some time but will reconvene soon, and will include signage in their scope. John P has written to the working party and received a response indicating that he will be contacted for feedback on their plans.
6. **Next Boroondara Discovery Ride:** Phil C and Malcolm F have agreed on a route and on meeting arrangements. It was decided not to publicise the ride in the *Progress Leader* as large numbers could pose problems. However **Julia B** agreed to list the ride at the top of the News page on the web site.
7. **Maranoa Gardens event, Saturday 15/8:** Phil reported that he had contacted Council about using this opportunity to distribute TravelSmart maps.

New Business

1. **Agenda items for Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting 11/9:** Items to be forwarded to Jim Hondrakis include: Ride2Work community breakfast; Domestic Animals issue; Capital works in budget; Bluestones; Bollards; Off-road signage; Lighting levels in tunnels. Any further items should be emailed to Julia B before the end of August.
2. **Brixton Rise bollards:** **Julia B** agreed to draft a submission to Stonnington Council about the bollards, as well as the broader problems of Brixton Rise and the Stonnington side of the Gardiners Creek Path generally.
3. **Whitehorse Cyclists Inc. Cycle Facility Advocacy Group:** David Hall and Michael Hassett explained the background to the formation of their group. Concern over the lack of provision in the Middleborough Rd and Springvale Rd grade separations for cyclists travelling east-west along the Belgrave/Lilydale rail line was the original catalyst. Their intention is to continue to work for a cycle route along the rail line through Whitehorse. They plan to prepare a plan for this part of the Eastern Rail Trail themselves as the government has refused funding for this. They intend to work within Whitehorse Cyclists for the present.
4. **Review of Principal Bicycle Network:** Jason D explained the background to this. The original PBN was a grid designed to cover the metropolitan area in an equitable fashion. This is still only about 30% complete. The review is intended to redesign the PBN to focus on trip generators and will relate especially to the CBD and the five Central Activity Districts. The draft review is now complete and should go to public consultation before the end of the year.
5. **Meeting Invitations:** It was agreed that no councillors would be invited to our next meeting.
6. **Ideas for involving inactive members:** Apart from our forthcoming Discovery Ride other opportunities identified were the 'Say G'Day to Your Neighbour Day' next March. The Rotary River Ride, and Wattle Day, 30/8. Graham E said that the Whitehorse Cyclists stall would be operating from 12-3 at Wattle Park and BBUG members who are also WC members can share this stall. **Graham** is organising delivery of Boroondara TravelSmart maps to the stall.

Other Business

1. **Yarra Bend Sports and Recreation Plan:** **Glennys J** reported that this plan is now available on the council web site and agreed to send members present the link. There is the possibility that the par 3 golf course may in future be converted to cycling facilities including a BMX park and criterium circuit. Our support may be needed for this at some stage.
2. **Child Care Centre cnr Ferndale and Summerhill Rds:** Glennys J reported that the VCAT decision on this has been postponed. Her concern with the centre is that traffic congestion caused by users could pose dangers for cyclists who use this route.
3. **Lighting in tunnels:** Ken M raised the problem of uniformly high levels of lighting throughout tunnels on the Koonung Creek Trail at night, which causes cyclists passing through to be momentarily blinded as they emerge. It was suggested that this may be an issue for VicRoads. **Julia B** agreed to send Ken Tony Barton's email address so he can try contacting him about this problem.

Next meeting: Thursday 10th September.

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

Email David & Geraldine Powell: dgpowell@internode.on.net

Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre Bike Riding Group

Contact: Robin Kendrick, phone: 9853 3126

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/_data/assets/pdf_file/1006/cota_cycling_brochure_jul-dec_2007.pdf

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

Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre

Phone: 9890 2467

Email: info@surreyhillsnc.org.au

Website: www.surreyhillsnc.org.au

Boroondara BUG Contacts

Membership Secretary & Treasurer:

Graeme Stone

16 Jervis Street, Camberwell, Vic 3124

email: graeme_stone@optusnet.com.au

Newsletter Editor & Minutes Secretary:

Julia Blunden

phone: 9853 5095

email: jblunden@bigpond.com

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/>

Finbar Neighbourhood House Rides

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

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

Media Contact & Webmaster:

Jason den Hollander

phone: 0407 118 891

email: fdutch@gmail.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 Boroondara Bicycle Users Group) along with this form to:

Graeme Stone
16 Jervis St
Camberwell
Vic, 3124