

BOROONDARA

Bicycle Users Group

Newsletter March 2013

Boroondara BUG meetings are normally held on the 2nd Thursday of each month except January. Our next meeting is on Thursday 14th March. It will be held in the function room at the Elgin Inn, corner 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 Network Victoria, 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 details of our next meeting, and very occasional other 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 the Rides Supplement are embarked upon at your own risk.

Features

A Look at the Peninsula Link Shared Path.

The many sections making up Peninsula Link shared path have been finally been bought together to form a new spine for the bicycle network in the local area. Have the tax payers got their money's worth?

Perhaps like the Curate's egg the new link is a mixture of good and bad. In the north there are two new bridges. One at Thompsons Rd replaces the existing pedestrian crossing. There is another footbridge connecting the Seaford Wetlands to Maple St, outperforming an older footbridge just nearby to the south. Both these new bridges make the path seamless from Patterson River at Wells Rd to the Dandenong Valley Highway - and a nice ride too.

Heading further south things fall apart on the approach to and at The Pines Flora and Fauna Reserve. While there was no problem putting a multilane highway through the centre of the reserve, building the associated shared path has meet with "complications". Hopefully this will be resolved in the near future - it's a beautiful area.

The easiest way to reach the Reserve at this time is to use the Boggy Creek Trail from Dandenong Valley Highway to Ballarto Rd. The local Council must have realised this, as they are currently busy doing some work on the trail. The removal of some bollards at the west end of Shearwater Reserve and the installation of pram ramps at Lyrebird Drive would be very welcome.

At the Boggy Creek Trail/Ballarto Rd intersection you need to follow a compass heading of 190 degrees from true north. A few well-placed temporary signs and the judicious use of some Lilydale Toppings could have ensured the uninitiated did not become bushwhacked in the surrounding wilderness. Take a compass and/or GPS - no road bikes! Alternatively go further east along Ballarto Rd to the cut through to Hutchins Way and then on to the busy McClland Drv to Skye Rd.

The freeway underpass for the local fauna in the middle of the Reserve is a genuine attempt to facilitate animal movement between the two sides. I naively asked how long it would take before the fauna learnt to use the route and was told quite firmly; three and a half months. I suspect however most humans will never learn the way through the Reserve, as it currently stands!

Onwards to the south; the path crosses Skye Rd, with an easy detour to the McClland Sculpture Garden and then Cranbourne-Frankston Rd, where a new sculpture is determined to evade all but the most determined graffiti artist.

A tad further south the trail intersects the Frankston-Baxter Trail. The taxpayers' dollars went a little astray at this point. Rather than a train line bridge combined with a footbridge, a whole new separate footbridge was built, resulting in a more circuitous route. From here to the Baxter-Tooradin Rd, the Peninsula link path duplicates the pre-existing Frankston-Baxter Trail. The new duplication is lot more hilly than the Frankston-Baxter Trail.

I would suggest the money on that section should have been used to connect the Frankston-Baxter Trail to ... errhhh well Baxter - instead of stopping at Golf Links Road like it does now. This would have left money over for a connection from Baxter to the quiet heavily populated area of Somerville connecting to the existing trail to Stony Point. So why did that not occur? A quick guess would suggest that such a path would have to be built on the railway easement where, as we all know, "none shall build".

The new trail stops down near Eramosa Rd and Moorooduc Hwy, which is certainly nowhere particularly useful at this time. The trail is however mooted to continue along the train line easement to Mornington at some time in the distant future.

The trail has some good new features, such as continuing the path paintwork through the road intersections, with Robinsons Rd being a good example of how this increases path legibility.

Peninsula Link is a great new asset and will just get better over time. The completion of an off road link to Somerville and completion of the Baxter trail would be very welcome additions.

John Parker

Goulburn River High Country Rail Trail – Correction

The piece on the GRHCRT in the February issue of the newsletter included the statement: 'A highlight of the trail is the 200m Cheviot Tunnel, the only tunnel on any Australian rail trail'. In fact there are other tunnels on Australian rail trails including the 180m Fernleigh tunnel as part of the Fernleigh track in NSW and another tunnel on the Fernvale Rail Trail in Brisbane.

Julia Blunden

Trail Notes

Fire burns La Trobe Uni bridge

An arson attack has closed the bridge on the shared path between the Darebin Creek Trail and LaTrobe University. The bridge suffered serious damage and has been closed until further notice.

The City of Darebin is examining options for re-instating the structure. Due to the scale of the damage it is possible the bridge will need to be replaced, which could take some time.

The alternative routes are along Clingin Street on the west side and Kylta Road on the east side. [Click here](#) for the alternative route map prepared by City of Darebin.

Events

UCI World Cycling Tour Masters Qualifier Perth

Registrations for the UWCT Perth will close on **Wednesday April 3, 2013**.

There are two official UWCT Perth events for you to take part in with several different registration options;

The 20km Individual Time Trial on Friday 12th April at Rottnest Island

- Time Trial Race Entry Only - \$75 (does not include accommodation and ferry transfers)
- Time Trial Day Package - \$175 (includes ferry transfers and presentation lunch)
- Time Trial Lodge Package - \$345 (includes 1 night accommodation, ferry transfers, pasta dinner, breakfast and presentation lunch)
- Time Trial Chalet Package - \$285 (includes 1 night accommodation, ferry transfers, pasta dinner and presentation lunch)
- The 112km Road Race on Sunday 14th April at Perry Lakes.
- Road Race Entry Only - \$100

Corporate Packages are still available, contact info@cicevents.com.au. To register, visit the UWCT Perth website [here](#).

Boroondara News

Minutes of Boroondara BUG Meeting, Wednesday 14th February 2013

Elgin Inn, Hawthorn

Attendance and Apologies

Present: Peter Campbell (Chair), Julia Blunden, Hedley Finger, Ken Parker, Hank Van Apeldoorn, David Farrow, Glennys Jones, Gordon Macmillan, Alan Tonkin, David Leong, Graeme Stone, Malcolm Faul, Jenny Henty, Alan Tonkin, Mick Nolan (Lighter Footprints)

Apologies: Alister Huth, David Leong, John Parker, Carole Ingvarson, (Lighter Footprints)

Correspondence:

In

- Emails from Chris Hui re closure and re-opening of Walmer St Bridge
- Email from Matthew Austin re use of space in Grace St where toilet block is to be demolished, possibly for bike parking
- Three emails from 'The Squeaky Wheel' re Bike Fest 2013
- Email re 'Custom sublimation cycling shirts'
- Email re Australian Bicycle Clothing clearance
- Email re partnership with winemaker to raise funds for our club
- Email from Vimost Garment Co, sportswear manufacturer
- Email re Mudgee Bike Muster
- Email re Cycle Laos: Mother's Day Challenge
- Letter from Ted Baillieu acknowledging ours re Darebin-Yarra link

Out

- Letter to Matthew Guy thanking him for funding the Darebin-Yarra link and asking for the timeline to be shortened to two years.
- Letter to Terry Mulder asking for stats to be kept of accidents on shared paths

Matters Arising:

1. **Hawthorn to Box Hill Trail:** A meeting with Boroondara councillors has been scheduled for 6pm Thursday 28th February. This will consist of an information session followed by a minibus tour of some key locations along the proposed route. So far there have been five acceptances from councillors. Lighter Footprints members who will attend are **Jenny H, Hank V and Ken P**. BBUG members attending are **Peter C, Graeme S, and possibly John P**. To prepare, these people will meet at 6.30pm on Wednesday 20th February at Jenny's house, 37 Alta St, Canterbury.

Peter C has undertaken to write to Terry Mulder pointing out the need to implement the sections that form part of the PBN. **Hank V** hopes to have the brochure completed by our next meeting.

2. **Golfers Choice and Urban Bush Path:** Glennys J reported surveying activity along Warrigal Rd in the vicinity.
3. **Gasworks Site Redevelopment:** Glennys J reported that the traffic lights have been installed and that final fencing is underway. Cycle access from the GCT is most unsatisfactory with a bollard blocking access for anything but standard bikes and unnecessary right angle turns. Glennys has already reported this issue to Council and been told it will be followed up.
4. **Darebin-Yarra Link:** Julia B reported that Boroondara Council will shortly vote on extending the Planning Permit for the bridge over the Yarra. A serious problem is that the original permit contained a number of conditions one of which specified a maximum height for the bridge, and Melbourne Water requires the bridge to be 40cm higher than this. Julia B had prepared a written submission to go to all councilors and received approval to send this. It was agreed that as many supporters as possible need to attend the relevant Council meeting, probably the UPSC meeting, 6.30pm, 18th March but this is still to be confirmed. We need to be there early and complete forms indicating that we wish to speak. As speakers get only 2 minutes, and it is important not to repeat what others have already said, **Julia B** agreed to let everyone know when the meeting date is confirmed and to list the key points that need to be made and allocate these amongst those who undertake to attend and speak.

The Community Coalition for the Link will be meeting with VicRoads who are now managing the project on Monday 4th March. One of the matters that will be raised will be the design of the bridge and whether this can be modified in such a way as to reduce the height.

5. **Belford Rd Underpass:** Nil to report
6. **Dights Falls Trail:** David F reported that he received a favourable response to the proposed trail from VicRoads Metro Southeast who indicated that they would be referring it to Metro Northwest and the City of Yarra. The next step is to get it onto the agenda for a Yarra BAC meeting.
7. **Stonnington Matters:** Nil to report
8. **Proposed Changes to Local Laws re Riding through Parks:** Julia B reported that there have been no new developments. Mick Nolan has still not heard about the composition of the Hays Paddock Advisory Committee.
9. **Anniversary Trail Pedestrian Refuge at Prospect Hill Rd:** Alan T reported that there have still been no improvements for cyclists riding along Prospect Hill Rd here despite his letter to Council. This needs to remain on the agenda for the BAC meeting. Graeme S reported that there is a new VicRoads report out on sharrows.
10. **Incorporation:** It was agreed that in view of the need to focus on the Hawthorn to Box Hill Trail and the Darebin-Yarra link campaigns over the next month a decision on incorporation will be deferred until the April meeting. Hank V hopes to identify a way of voting online for this by then.
11. **Domestic Animals Management Plan Review:** **Alan T** has prepared a very comprehensive submission on this. The plan will be discussed at the Council meeting on 25th March after which there will be public discussion. It was agreed that Alan should send his submission now, prior to the Council meeting, and that we should be prepared to make an additional submission in response to Council's report if this seems called for.
12. **Invitations to Councillors to Attend BUG Meetings:** As all councillors have been invited to the combined LF/BBUG meeting on 28th February it was agreed that invitations to BBUG meetings be postponed until the April meeting.
13. **BBAC Meeting Friday 13/12:** Minutes of this meeting were still not available.
14. **Council's Disability and Inclusion Plan:** Glennys J has made a submission to this in her own name but has had no response as yet.
15. **Need to Collect Stats for Incidents on Shared Paths:** Alan T has written, in his own name, to Terry Mulder about this but has had no response. It was agreed that Alan should resend the letter on behalf of BBUG.
16. **Treasurer's Report:** Malcolm F reported that the BUG currently has \$1335.96 in the bank after BV deposited \$240 on 19/1/13, as well as our \$3,038.75 term deposit.

New Business

1. **BBAC Meeting Friday 15/3:** Agenda items for this will include: Darebin-Yarra link, Prospect Hill Rd Pedestrian refuge, bitumen vs concrete for shared path construction – cost-benefit analysis, update on Toorak Rd underpass, access to the Masters site from GCT, fencing policy, possibility of using carbon credits as a means of boosting cycling,
2. **Victorian BUGs Meeting Wednesday 6th March:** **David F** agreed to do a presentation on the Dights Falls Trail at the meeting. Other agenda items suggested were: Domestic Animals Management Plans, the new Victorian Cycling Strategy, Crash stats on shared paths, Conduct of group rides on shared paths, Possible changes to rules for riding on footpaths.
3. **Kew Festival, Victoria Park, Saturday 23rd March:** Jenny H reported that Lighter Footprints will be having a stall at the festival and have paid for Public Liability Insurance. She invited BBUG members to share the stall. **David F** said he would attend to promote the Dights Falls Trail and would contact Alister H and John P to see if they would be available to assist him. **Peter C** may also attend.
4. **BBUG Contacts:** Names and contact details of key BUG people are needed for various purposes. The following agreed to their details being made available: Peter C, spokesperson; Julia B, secretary; Malcolm F, treasurer.

Other Business:

1. **Riding on Footpaths:** It was agreed that any submission on this should go to the National Transport Commission, and that it should be an agenda item for the forthcoming Victorian BUGs meeting.
2. **Possible Petition on Anniversary Trail Toorak Rd Overpass:** **Glennys J** offered to draft a petition to go to the state government for funding for this project to be considered at our next meeting.

3. **Fencing Policy:** Glennys J reported that Parks and Gardens have been replacing bollards alongside parklands including Ferndale Park with post and rail fences. These are dangerous and undesirable both because the railings are hard to see and the fences force everyone, dog walkers and cyclists alike, to enter the park through the same narrow entrance. Glennys had been in contact with Council to try to stop further such works but was not sure as to the final outcome.
4. **Short Term Works Needed:** David Farrow has created a list of short term works on which he would like feedback. The ideas are photograph based and the file size is 54MB. It has had to be placed on the drop box. Just press on the following link. It will take a long time (about 5 minutes) to download in the day time but is much faster at later in the night.
<https://dl.dropbox.com/u/94539668/Short%20term%20work%20ideas.pptx>
5. **Boroondara BUG Cycling Development Plan:** Peter C has created a document listing key projects the BUG needs to promote. This needs to be checked against the list of standing items on the BAC agenda and some may need to be added to that.
6. **Measuring Benefits of Cycling:** Ken Parker raised the need to measure the benefits of cycling to assist with lobbying. Glennys J referred to work being done in England by *The Times* newspaper See <http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/public/cyclesafety/> and <http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/public/cyclesafety/pledge/>
7. **Bike Parking in the Redeveloped Ashburton Recreation Centre:** **Graeme S** raised this issue and offered to send an adapted version of the letter used for the Kew and Hawthorn Rec Centres. It was agreed he could send this on behalf of the BUG. There will be two public meetings in the multi-function room at the Centre, on Saturday 23/2, 2.30-5pm and Tuesday 26/2, 6.30-9pm. Register with Council.
8. **Next meeting:** This is currently scheduled for Thursday 14th March.

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

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:

Malcolm Faul

Phone: 9853 1369

Email: malfaul@alphalink.com.au

Address: 38 Grove Rd, Hawthorn, 3122

Media Contact: Peter Campbell

Phone: 0409 417 504

Email: <http://greenlivingpedia.org>

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

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

Newsletter Editor & Minutes Secretary:

Julia Blunden

phone: 9853 5095

email: jblunden@bigpond.com

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 payment of \$15 per household which covers 3 years. Please send cheque (made out to Boroondara Bicycle Users Group) along with this form to:

Malcolm Faul

Phone: 9853 1369

Email: malfaul@alphalink.com.au

Address: 38 Grove Rd, Hawthorn, 3122