

BOROONDARA

Bicycle Users Group

Newsletter September 2012

Boroondara BUG meetings are normally held on the 2nd Thursday of each month except January. Our next meeting is on Thursday 13th September. 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

Bells Ain't Bells

I was riding the Anniversary Trail from Chandler up to Harp when I happened upon a blind man with a white cane walking towards me. As a matter of courtesy, I thought I'd give him a bell to forewarn him of my approach. To my shock he immediately walked across the path in front of me. I headed for the paddock and got around him and kept going. But..... I thought I should go back and apologise for giving him a scare and to ask him what I should do in future. We got chatting and it turns out that the tone of the bell on my bike was confusing to him hence his reaction. He admitted that at times he finds it difficult to position himself on the Shared Path, plus he has had conflicting opinions as to which side of the path he should walk.

It turns out he has a Cannondale Tandem and gets out for a ride now and again. Barry gave me his number as I have had a bit of experience on Tandems which I got when attending Vision Australia's 'Try a Tandem Day' as a rep from Beach Road Cycles www.beachroadcycles.com.au, Tandem Specialists, where I used to work and who supported the event. I thought by role was to simply adjust helmets and seat heights for the riders, but when I got there they said they wanted me to ride up front - El Capitan ☺

I had never ridden a Tandem before so they gave me a quick verbal lesson and then paired me up with an older lady who had lost her vision later in life but prior to that had ridden her own motorbike. She was a great teacher and well balanced ☺

After a few circuits of the park we headed off to Fed Square. Negotiating the off ramp from the suspended Gardiners onto the Yarra Boulevard was a heart in the mouth moment, but we manage to adjust to the extra length and relative lack on manoeuvrability. The most exhausting part of the ride was providing the running commentary – Slowing, Stopping, Bump, Overtaking a pedestrian, Downhill coming up, Uphill coming up, Relax the pressure – changing gear, Bend to the right, Duck - low branch and so on.

Since this experience we have bought our own Tandem and have ridden around the Shared Paths and Rail Trails a bit. Currently we are having one custom made by Ewen Gellie <http://www.gelliecustombikeframes.com.au/> with SS couplings for

ease of transport on planes and a better lay-back saddle position for me (off the shelf Tandems and Bike Fridays the Captain is too up-right). We plan to ride from Portsmouth UK (my birth place) to Budapest (Maria's dad's birth and now resting place).



Back to Barry. I have yet to tee up a ride with him and I have bought a new brass bell that can be as soft or as loud as I choose, depending on how far I flick the clanger. It resonates for ages. Sounds like a real bell should sound http://allegrobikes.com.au/product_images/parts/brass_bells/le_brass_bell_lrg.jpg

☺

Alan Tonkin

Opinion

Bikes in Parks – Keep Status Quo

Boroondara Council recently passed a motion to have council officers ‘investigate the current local laws that apply to the use of pathways within Council’s reserves and parks network by cyclists, pedestrians and other users ... to better align with the provisions of the regulations made under the Road Safety Act.’ These regulations do not permit adults to cycle on footpaths unless they are accompanying children under 12, are Australia Post workers, or have a relevant medical certificate. A report and recommendation are to be presented to Council no later than March 2013.

Boroondara BUG is strongly opposed to placing any additional restrictions on where cyclists may ride. Some of the paths we ride through parks are specifically designated as shared paths and would therefore not be affected by the proposed changes to the local law. However there are also many paths through parks that provide useful connections for cyclists but which are not official shared paths. Many of these are shown on the TravelSmart map by either blue dotted lines or red dashed lines.

One good example is the Ferndale Trail, which provides a useful link from the Anniversary Trail at Ashburton to the Gardiners Creek Trail at Nettleton Park. The paths through Hays Paddock and Stradbroke Park, that form part of a link between the Koonung Creek/Yarra Trail corridor and the Anniversary Trail, provide another. But there are parks both large and small all over Boroondara that provide useful off-road routes for cyclists. These links often enable less confident cyclists to stay off the main roads and may make the difference between them taking their bike or the car on any given journey.

Boroondara BUG believes that Council would be acting in contravention of its own Bicycle Strategy if it introduces measures which will discourage cycling, especially amongst the groups it singled out as currently under-represented amongst cyclists, viz school students, women and seniors.

We believe that the push for these changes has come from a vocal minority of dog walkers who wish to exclude cyclists from what they see as their local parks. These people are wont to exaggerate the danger that cyclists pose to pedestrians. At the same time they are somewhat blind to the danger that dogs pose to cyclists as well as to other pedestrians. They also fail to take into account the far greater dangers to cyclists on our roads where cyclist deaths and serious injuries are all too common.

For a fuller statement of the arguments against the proposed changes to the local law you can view the submission that the BUG has made to Council on this subject at: http://boroondarabug.org/w/images/a/a1/Submission_re_cycling_in_parks.pdf

What Can You Do?

If you agree with the BUG’s position on this issue please let your local councillor know. And in the lead up to the Council elections in October make sure you let any candidates for your ward also know your thoughts on this, as well as on other important cycling issues in Boroondara in general and in your ward in particular. Also watch out for any opportunities to participate in surveys or attend meetings relevant to this issue in your area. It would be most helpful if you could notify the BUG about these as well. Finally you could write letters to the various local papers in defence of cycling through parks.

Julia Blunden

Trail Notes

Moonee Valley Walkers and Cyclists

Moonee Valley Council advise the Moonee Ponds Creek Shared Path will be closed near Strathmore Secondary College from Friday 21 September to allow an upgraded path to be installed.

The detour follows an unsealed path on the Moreland (east) side of the creek.

Ring Road Path

This is the latest news from the Tulla Sydney Alliance

1 SUP below M80 at Moonee Ponds Creek – this section on the path will reopen before Christmas.

2 SUP between Merlynston Creek and Sydney Road - We were originally aiming to get this section of the path reopened around October this year. Unfortunately, we have encountered a number of issues which means this timeframe can't be met. We advised Moreland Council of this last week.

The original design for the retaining wall under Upfield Rail line was not constructible due to the depth of piles required and the proximity to the HV transmission lines. This has required considerable redesign work which has resulted in the pressurised sewer main needing to be relocated as well as the shared user path on the western side of Upfield Rail Line needing to be lowered. The relocation of the sewer has to be done by Yarra Valley Water and they are unable to complete this until October. After this, we still need to complete the excavation, rebuild the path and install the safety screening fence. This means we are unlikely to be able to reopen the SUP until the end of January 2013.

Due to the above issues, it's not possible to temporarily reopen the path during the Christmas period.

3 SUP at Gowanbrae - The shared user path from Bush Mews to Coventry Street was closed for some time for development works at the Gowanbrae Retirement Village. This section of the path remained closed when the Alliance started works to realign the shared user path near Gowanbrae. We believe that the Stockland works are complete and that once Alliance works are finished before Christmas, the closed section of path can reopen. We will confirm this with Stockland and let you know if this is not the case.

4 Retention of temporary paths installed during construction – There are three main sections of temporary path we have installed during construction. In addition, a section of SUP was installed on Box Forest Road in conjunction with Moreland City Council for the detour route between Merlynston Creek and Sydney Road.

At this stage, one section of path is designated for removal once the SUP reopens under Moonee Ponds Creek bridge.

Consideration is being given to retaining other sections of temporary path. However, these sit on land earmarked for future road development (as noted in Melways) and the paths were not designed for permanent retention. We are still working through the various issues involved with VicRoads and have also had some discussions with Hume City Council. We have noted the feedback of path users.

Events and Activities

BNV Bike Futures Conference: Free Public Forum

Koen van Waes is the Bike Coordinator at the City of Den Bosch in the Netherlands. Den Bosch is the current Dutch Cycling City of the Year. Koen will be in Australia as one of the keynote speakers at Bicycle Network's Bike Futures Conference 2012, to be held at the MCG, 17 - 19 October.

Forum Venue: Bicycle Network Victoria Offices, Level 4, 246 Bourke Street, Melbourne, 3000

Date: Tuesday 16 October, 2012

Time: 7.00 - 8.00 pm

Free entry - but please arrive in good time to be assured of a seat.

For further details see <http://www.bicyclenetwork.com.au/general/bike-futures/93457>

Chiltern Tourism & Development Inc would like to challenge you!

On Sunday 25 November 2012 we will be conducting the inaugural MoRide in Chiltern.

We would like to invite you and your members to join the event.

MoRide is a participation ride raising money and awareness for Prostate Cancer and Depression, catering for all riders from professionals to families:

- 100/60/40kms on low traffic roads for the road rider;
- 40/25kms within the magical Chiltern-Mt. Pilot National Park for mountain bikers; and
- 1-2km circuit for family riders, disabled riders, mobility scooters, walkers and prams.

Challenge yourself... challenge other clubs, but whatever you do – participate and help raise funds for men's health.

If you would like hard copy flyers or any more information, we would love to hear from you.

Matt Williams
MoRide Coordinator
Email to: bikeriders@chilternvc.com.au
Mail: Mo Ride 2012, PO Box 74, Chiltern 3683

General News

Victorian Road Safety Strategy September 2012 - Have Your Say

Here is an opportunity to have your say on safety for cyclists.

'Victoria's Road Safety Strategy – Have Your Say' is a key step in developing this strategy. We encourage everyone in the state to contribute. Road safety affects us all. Whether it is taking the kids to school, heading away on holidays or driving to work, a safe road network is vital to all Victorians.

What you tell us will contribute to a Road Safety Strategy that will guide road safety in Victoria for the next 10 years.

<http://roadsafety.vic.gov.au/>

Pages 22 and 23 of the discussion paper focuses on cycling and can be found at

http://roadsafety.vic.gov.au/files/pdf/rss/GDS_09119_HAVE%20YOUR%20SAY_WEB.pdf

Link to survey: <http://www.myviews.justice.vic.gov.au/ministerial-council-for-road-safety.html>

Submissions and survey closing date is 3 October:

Boroondara News

Josh Frydenberg's Kooyong Community Forum

This forum will provide an opportunity to come together to discuss issues of interest. It is hoped many local organisations will be represented, including those from the not-for-profit sector, local sporting clubs and small business.

Also in attendance on the night will be the Member for Kew and Minister for Corrections, the Hon. Andrew McIntosh MP, and the Mayor of Boroondara, Cr Heinz Kreutz. Having all three tiers of government represented ensures issues raised can be addressed by the appropriate representative.

Details for this event are as follows:

DATE: Thursday 27 September 2012
TIME: 6.45pm for 7pm-9pm (light refreshments will be served at the close of the forum)
VENUE: Kew Heights Sports Club, 397 Barkers Road, Kew.
PARKING: Onsite parking available
RSVP: Thursday 20 September 2012

Please [click here](#) to download the flyer which should assist in the promotion of this important forum to all interested parties within your organisation. To ensure that you receive an email reminder about this event and to receive information about future events, please send your email address to claire.ewart-kennedy@aph.gov.au or [click here](#) to download a community update form.

Please RSVP for the forum to Claire Ewart-Kennedy on 03 9882 3677 or claire.ewart-kennedy@aph.gov.au by Thursday 20 September 2012.

Minutes of Boroondara BUG Meeting, Thursday 9th August 2012

Elgin Inn, Hawthorn

MINUTES

Attendance and Apologies

Present: Ken Morrison (Chair), John Parker, Alister Huth, Malcolm Faul, Gordon Macmillan, Julia Blunden, David Farrow, Glennys Jones; Hedley Finger, Alan Tonkin, Jenny Henty and Mick Nolan (Lighter Footprints)

Apologies: Peter Campbell, David Leong, Phil Crohn, Carolyn Ingvarson (Lighter Footprints)

Guest: Garry Thompson (Council Candidate for Solway Ward)

Correspondence:

In

- Letter from Ted Baillieu in response to ours protesting at cuts to bike funding (Julia B reported that this was similar to other letters we've seen and failed to acknowledge the severity of the cuts.)
- Email from Deepdene U3A re help with cycling group (Julia B reported that she had provided various contacts but indicated that the BUG can't help with leading rides.)
- Email from Chris Hui asking for BBUG support for a grant application for construction of ramp from the AT to Mt Albert Rd (Julia B reported that she had reminded Chris of correspondence with DSE after construction of the Barnsbury Rd steps in which they indicated their intention to seek funding for such a ramp.)

Out

- Nil

Matters Arising:

1. **Hawthorn to Box Hill Trail:** There was a pre-meeting discussion of this issue with Peter Campbell and the Lighter Footprints people present. Mick N's proposal to progress this campaign is to organise a coffee and talk about the HBHT with BBUG and LF, Heinz Kreutz (CoB Mayor), Adam Hall (E&SL CoB), and maybe Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre Manager, Inner east Interchange to keep building understanding and discussion. Meet for coffee at Maling Road, then walk 1km east, and ride 2 to 3kms west, looking at concept. Timing depends on Adam and Heinz's availability but preferably in 4 weeks or so. Glennys J suggested including CoB's Hywell Rowlands, Strategic Planning and Joshua McDougall, Environment and Sustainable Living, and she also recommended keeping CEO Phillip Storer in the loop. It was agreed that at this stage the emphasis needs to be on the need for a route rather than on one specific route. **Mick and Peter** to organise this.
2. **Golfers Choice and Urban Bush Path:** Nil to report
3. **Stockland Tooronga Village Development:** Nil to report.
4. **Gasworks Site Redevelopment:** Glennys J reported that development proceeds apace but there is no sign of the GCT detour as yet.
5. **Belford Rd Underpass:** Nil to report.
6. **Darebin – Yarra Link:** Julia B reported that no request for a Planning Permit extension has yet been received at Boroondara. However there have been reassurances that this is in train and there are still a couple of months after the original permit expires for the extension to occur.
7. **Anniversary Trail/Outer Circle Audit:** Glennys J reported that she is still waiting for the final report on the second stage of the audit. These reports are very useful when it comes to monitoring progress with implementation of recommendations.

8. **Dights Falls Commuter Route:** David F has continued to work on this and his document is now stored in a drop box. It was agreed that while those members present should be given access to this and invited to comment it should not yet be made available on our web site or to any outsiders. To sum up the project, the nub of it is a 2.75km route between Willsmere Park, Kew and Roseneath St, Clifton Hill that will provide a much more appealing commuter route than the Yarra Trail does in its current state. Once David F's document is finalised and approved by the BUG the next step will be to communicate the gist of it to sustainable transport officers at the various councils which could benefit. John P moved a motion of thanks to David for the considerable effort he has put into this project, which was endorsed by all present.
9. **Submission to the Metropolitan Planning Strategy:** Julia B reported that the web site is short on details including timelines, and unclear where a new state cycling strategy fits in. **Mick N** offered to query Bill Chandler (who is he?) to find out more about this.
10. **Stonnington Mattes:** John P reported that plans have been announced to spend \$1M on Chapel St but indicated a degree of scepticism about this.
11. **Treasurer's Report:** Malcolm F provided an annual financial statement which he offered to email to anyone who wants a copy. He moved that this be accepted, seconded by Alister H, and passed unanimously. Financial membership now stands at 30.

New Business

1. **Bike Crash Summerhill Rd:** There was no certainty about the details of time or place of this accident. These should appear in the VicRoads database. It was agreed it should be an agenda item at the next BAC meeting. John P said that the BUG needs to identify danger spots for cyclists on Boroondara's roads and write to Council about these.
2. **Proposed Changes to Local Laws:** Julia B reported seeing mention of this in local papers. Research by Glennys J ascertained that the proposed changes include restricting cyclists' use of paths in parks, in the name of bringing the local law into line with VicRoads restrictions on riding on footpaths. It was agreed that this is a very serious issue which warrants a BUG submission to Council. **Julia B** offered to draft a submission. It was also agreed that we need to seek support from BNV and from Council Transport Staff on this issue.
3. **Dogs Off Leads Near Shared Paths:** Glennys J reported that the Domestic Animals Management Plan is due for review in the second half of this year. Council is proposing to implement a ban on dogs on sports ovals during events. We need to take advantage of this opportunity to press for greater controls on dogs on and near shared paths. **Alan T** offered to draft a submission to Council on this matter.
4. **AT/Prospect Hill Rd Pedestrian Refuge:** Alan T pointed out that the newly constructed refuge presents a danger to cyclists using Prospect Hill Rd, especially those riding down the hill in a westerly direction. Others present defended the refuge as an important safety measure for those using the AT, especially students. It was agreed that restricting parking in the vicinity of the refuge would be one measure that could help in the short term. Other measures need to be considered in the longer term. This will be another item on the agenda for the September BAC meeting. In the meantime **Alan T** agreed to write to Council alerting them to the danger and suggesting changes to parking and to the Keep Clear area before the level crossing.
5. **Incorporation:** Alan T pointed out that the potential for individual BUG members to be sued is one good reason for incorporation. While Malcolm F has put our membership on a more formal footing as a preliminary step to incorporating, as yet no-one has agreed to be president, another requirement for incorporation. It was agreed that this be a standing item on our agenda. Malcolm moved a motion that we agree in principle to incorporate and there was unanimous support for this. **Alan T** agreed to guide the incorporation process. **Julia B** agreed to supply Alan with documents outlining our aims and objectives. **Malcolm** agreed to put together a list of members with email addresses which will be needed to notify them at such time as we are ready to vote on incorporation.
6. **BNV's Rally Against Cuts to Bike Budget, 29th July:** Julia B reported that the weather had again been very unfavourable but there had been a reasonable turnout. Further rallies are planned at different locations around Melbourne and notice given is likely to be short so we need to be on the lookout for these.
7. **Guest Garry Thompson** spoke briefly about his enthusiasm for cycling and his interest in supporting improvements to cycling infrastructure in Boroondara should he be elected to Council.

Next meeting: This is currently scheduled for Thursday 13th 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

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