

BOROONDARA

Bicycle Users Group

Newsletter December 2013

Boroondara BUG meetings are normally held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month except January. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 11th December. It will be held in the function room of the Elgin Inn, cnr Burwood Rd and Elgin St Hawthorn (Melway 45 B10). The meeting starts at 7.00pm. Some of us arrive around 6.30pm for a meal at the Elgin Inn before the meeting.

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 Facebook page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/boroondarabug>. 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

Cycling around Rutherglen

Rutherglen has much to offer as a base for a cycling holiday. There are wineries in every direction you may ride, many of them open to visitors; the terrain is mostly flat but nevertheless offers pleasant and varied scenery; and, at least mid-week outside of any local festivals, the very considerable network of local roads carries relatively little traffic. There are plenty of eateries to choose from including hotels and more upmarket restaurants, and for lunches and snacks it's hard to go past Parker Pies. Our base camp took place in mid-October and our hopes for moderate weather proved well-founded.

Although Rutherglen isn't right on the Albury/Wodonga rail line it's easily accessible from either Springhurst or Chiltern stations, both only about 20km distant, or from Wodonga or Wangaratta both about twice that distance away. Our group chose Chiltern as it's a charming little town with a good bakery and a number of historic attractions including Lake View House, the childhood home of Henry Handel Richardson. Springhurst on the other hand has very little to offer. At present the Albury/Wodonga V-Line trains all include a power van which has room for a large number of bikes. However it pays to check the V-Line web site carefully, both well in advance of your trip and closer to the time, in case buses are replacing trains, either because works are planned, or because heavy rain has caused washouts on the line.

Monday, the first of our four days, was spent travelling to Chiltern, riding the main road to Rutherglen and settling in to our very satisfactory lakeside cabins in the Rutherglen Caravan and Tourist Park. Amongst other attractions this offered a pleasant walking/jogging track around Lake King, of which our group made very good use. There are plenty of other accommodation options in Rutherglen including hotels, motels, and B&Bs. Two of our group stayed at the Manse Cottage, a redbrick cottage built in 1880, situated at the corner of High Street and Audley Street Rutherglen, and were well pleased with it.

Tuesday's ride of about 50km was to Howlong just over the border in NSW, offering the opportunity to cross a series of bridges over the Murray and its various offshoots. We used the Gooramadda Rd on our outward journey, and the Howlong, Old Howlong and Cornishtown Rds on our return journey. The Old Howlong Rd provides a rare change from gentle

undulations, with a series of serious hills. Howlong has an excellent bakery where we enjoyed a pleasant refreshment break, and there are a number of historic buildings detailed in a leaflet available from local information centres.

Wednesday's ride of about 40km was one that appeared in the June-July 2013 issue of *Ride On*, entitled 'Gourmet riding in Rutherglen'. The article warned that some of the attractions on this ride are closed on Tuesdays hence the choice of day. This ride provided the opportunity to check out a couple of newish sections of off-road trail which most of the group had not ridden previously. The first was the rail trail from Rutherglen to Wahgunyah, which proved to be very straightforward to navigate and of a most satisfactory standard. The second was over the border in Corowa, NSW, starting somewhere beyond Honour Ave and continuing to the main cross-river route, the Federation Way, and apparently beyond. This trail passes close to the wonderful Corowa Whisky and Chocolate Factory, housed in an old flour mill, where we partook of morning coffee, and in some cases manufactured our own giant chocolate freckles. Finding and following this trail proved less simple than it looked in the *Ride On* article, and before going it would pay to obtain a better map – see below.

After a flying visit to the magnificent All Saints Estate and Indigo Cheese Company we pressed on to Cofield Wines and the Pickled Sisters Café. This proved rather more upmarket than we had anticipated, and quite busy, but they kindly allowed us to sit at their outdoor tables and eat such supplies as we had brought ourselves. A booking would be advisable if bringing a group here for lunch. From here we continued south to pass round the western edge of Lake Moodmere. This part of the ride proved very scenic, but the road was unsealed and quite rough, and only just passable after recent rain. It should definitely be avoided after heavy rain. The final leg was along the Murray Valley Hwy, which has a good shoulder and provided quite safe and pleasant riding. Some of the group took the opportunity to call in at Campbells Wines along this stretch.

On Thursday the group cycled back to Chiltern to catch the train home. There are at least three different routes between Rutherglen and Chiltern, so no need to go over the same ground. If time permits there are plenty of unsealed roads through the box ironbark forest, for which the Chiltern area is known, to explore.

Further Information

For details of historic buildings in Chiltern see http://www.chilternvc.com/visitor_activities/activities_historic-buildings.html

The Rutherglen Visitor Information Centre can provide a number of useful maps and brochures about the area, some specifically related to cycling – see <http://www.visitvictoria.com/regions/High-Country/Travel-information/Visitor-information-centres/Rutherglen-Wine-Experience-and-Visitor-Information-Centre.aspx>

Corowa has produced a Cycling and Walking Trail Guide see <http://www.corowa.nsw.gov.au/shire/maps/20101012476494.asp>

For information about Howlong see <http://www.murrayriver.com.au/howlong-community-resource-centre-1129/>

Julia Blunden

Trail Notes

Main Yarra Trail – Willsmere Park to Belford Road

This short stretch of the trail has had recently had some major improvements.

There are new gentler pram ramps at Belford Rd. The chicane at the eastern end of Willsmere Park is not as sharp as it has been. But, best of all is the path re-alignment and new off-road path at the point where the path meets Elm Gve.

In both directions approaching Belford Rd, the pram ramps to the road were rather sharply angled and seemed to almost tip one onto the road. It was also not obvious to motorists that there was a bike track intersecting with the road. Visibility for both cyclists and motorists is still not great, but it is much easier and safer approaching Belford Rd.

However, the best improvement is the new off road path past the end of Elm Gve. While still unavoidably steep, the gradient is better. It replaces a track that, in the westerly direction, made an acute right bend (dangerous as there was nothing to stop you catapulting over a small cliff if you missed the bend), down a resident's driveway, onto the road then up a sharp ramp on the far side. The same convoluted course was followed in the reverse direction.

Hyde Park Trail

Have you ridden this delightful winding path recently? It runs from Victoria Park northwest to Willsmere Park. It's only about 1 ½ km, but it crosses the Anniversary Trail near Asquith St, Kew. At the south east end, pick up the path from Belford Rd down the left hand side of the kindergarten. The recent Boroondara Council improvements have included a number of new

gentle pram ramps and a very snappy crossing at Kilby Rd, connecting the freeway underpass to Hyde Park. Do yourself a favour and ride the full length. It connects to the Main Yarra Trail at one end; you can use Argyle Rd or Campbell St from Victoria Park to connect to the Anniversary Trail. You'll find the path and its connections set out in the Melway.

Thanks to Mal Faul for these updates

Events

Opening of Darebin Creek Trail to Sparks Reserve

You are invited to the opening of the Darebin Creek Shared Trail and Boardwalk by the Hon. Matthew Guy, MLC, Minister for Planning and Cr Craig Langdon, Mayor, Banyule City Council

When: 9am for a 9.15am start, Friday 6 December 2013

Where: Sparks Reserve, enter corner Heidelberg Road and The Boulevard, Ivanhoe

RSVP by 5pm, Wednesday 4 December to fiona.athersmith@banyule.vic.gov.au

As this invitation only went out today, Wednesday 4th December I suggest that people disregard the closing date for the RSVP. It would be good if lots of cyclists and walkers attend to show the Minister in particular how popular the project of linking the Darebin and Yarra Trails is.

General News

A Metre Matters – Let's Follow Queensland's Lead

Queensland has decided that when it comes to cyclists, a metre really does matter. From January 1, motorists in the Sunshine State will be legally required to leave at least a metre of space while overtaking a cyclist when travelling under 60km/h, and 1.5 metres when travelling faster than 60km/h See <http://www.smh.com.au/executive-style/fitness/blogs/on-your-bike/cyclists-win-battle-for-a-metre-passing-law-20131202-2yk8s.html#ixzz2mIDqaRoR>

Now it's time to get the rest of the country to follow, please, please urge your friends and neighbours to sign the petition and keep putting the pressure on our politicians. If QLD can do it, so can the rest of the country.

[View the petition](#)

News from Neighbouring BUGs

Healesville Freeway Reserve – Options for Development

The Healesville Freeway Reserve is a strip of land acquired by VicRoads in years gone by for a freeway which it no longer plans to build. It runs for over 3km between Springvale and Boronia Rds through Vermont and Vermont South (Melway 62 E5-K5). VicRoads is now in the process of finalising the decision as to how the land will be used. Much will be sold to developers for housing, but a number of sections of bushland and spaces for public use will be retained.

VicRoads has come up with three concepts for consideration by the public and it will be on the basis of their relative popularity that the final choice will be made.

Concept number one includes a 10m wide corridor including a shared path and planting either side which stretches from Boronia Rd to Springvale Rd. This concept has obvious appeal for all those who cycle or who support cycling, especially by locals and children. This path would service a number of schools in the area, and it would connect with the Dandenong Creek Path.

Although concepts numbers two and three both include a cycling link, it would be more in the nature of a Copenhagen style bike lane between the road and the footpath, crossed by numerous driveways. It would be neither so pleasant to ride nor so safe for children.

You can read more about the concepts at <http://consult.vicroads.vic.gov.au/hfrconsult> and provide feedback to VicRoads in various ways. Feedback was to be permitted up to 23rd December and this may be extended. Even if you don't live in Whitehorse, if you have an interest in cycle advocacy and getting children to ride to school you have a legitimate interest and it is worth having your say. A brief email to hfrconsult@roads.vic.gov.au indicating your support for concept one may help to swing this.

Boroondara News

Minutes of Boroondara BUG Meeting, Wednesday 13th November 2013

Elgin Inn, Hawthorn

Boroondara BUG Meeting, 19:30, Wednesday, 13 November 2013

Function Room, Elgin Inn Hotel, Hawthorn

Attendance and Apologies

Present: David Farrow, Malcolm Faul, Hedley Finger, John Parker, Graeme Ellis, Glennys Jones, Dave Leong, Graeme Stone, Hank van Apeldoorn, Alister Huth

Apologies: Julia Blunden, Jill Young

Correspondence:

Received –

1. Email from Cr Jane Addis indicating that she may attend a BBUG meeting in 2014
2. Sundry commercial offers

Out – Nil

Previous Minutes of Previous Meeting

John P Moved: Glennys J Seconded

Matters Arising:

1. **Hawthorn to Box Hill Trail:** It was reported Council may conduct a study into this proposal next year. Noted to be agenda item for next BAC meeting.
2. **Golfers Choice and Urban Bush Path:** Nil to report
3. **Darebin Yarra Link:** John P will attend the Community Coalition meeting on 18 November. It was agreed that installing new floodgates would be a waste of resources: signage and lighting were identified as capable of doing the same job (that is, keeping riders out of floodwaters).
4. **Belford Rd Underpass:** In the hands of VicRoads. Nothing likely to happen until the East West Tunnel project proceeds.
5. **Dights Falls Trail:** David F reported that he had discussions with the Linking Melbourne Authority (LMA), who seemed to see no technical impediment to a bicycle underpass under Hoddle St, with a connection to Wellington St. LMA commented that its adoption would depend on DFT between Chandler Hwy and Merri Creek being accepted by VicRoads. Submissions are due by 12 December. DF is to abbreviate his submission and put it for BBUG endorsement. There was considerable interest in the DFT proposal at the Ride to Work breakfast.
6. **Stonnington Matters:** Council proposing \$1M cycle up-grade for Chapel Street.
7. **Domestic Animals Management Plan:** Nil to report
8. **Outer Circle Trail at Harp Junction:** Alister H, David F and Mick Nolan met with Andrew McIntosh, who committed to identifying who owned the Dunnings site and reporting back. It was suggested that a stall outside the local butcher shop would generate local support. Noted for BAC item.
9. **Jacka Trail, North Balwyn:** A petition for the project to proceed is circulating. David F attended the Balwyn Sports meeting. There are no plans for a path west of Balwyn Rd at this stage, but such proposal would have to comply with giving the cricket pitches 65m clearance (per Jim Hondrakis). A BBUG submission was requested. David to resubmit shortened version of his previous report.

10. **Invitations to New Councillors to Attend BUG Meetings:** The meeting agreed to defer discussion of the invitations until next meeting. Reply had not been received to the invitation to Steve Hurd.
11. **Bicycle Wayfinding Working Group:** This is a group originating out of City of Knox. (It was noted that there was a 'degree' of frustration with the approach being taken) Hedley F to report on wayfinding proposals.
12. **Treasurer's Report:** Mal F reported the balance in the current account was \$1,636.51 on 30 September 2013. The 180-day term deposit, now at \$3113.16, is due for rollover. Mal agreed to keep the reinvestment period short .

New Business

1. **East- West Tunnel:** The meeting expressed concern at the scale of funds required for this project and its effect on the available funds for other viable transport infrastructure, including that for cycling. (Does Council have a position?)
2. **Facebook – Jill Y – No Update**
3. **Anniversary Trail:** Glennys J reported, that as a result of the audit of the trail, the area from Frog Hollow to Riversdale Rd was identified as needing attention. The path itself needs improvement and a wombat crossing is recommended at Woodlands St. Considerable general discussion suggesting various perspectives followed.

Meeting closed at 21:00 hours

Next meeting: 11th December 2013

Notes by Hank van Apedloorn and Mal Faul

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

website: www.darebinbug.org.au

Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre

Phone: 9890 2467

Email: info@surreyhillsnc.org.au

Website: www.surreyhillsnc.org.au

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

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>

Newsletter Editor & 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