

BOROONDARA

Bicycle Users Group

Newsletter July 2012

Boroondara BUG meetings are normally held on the 2nd Thursday of each month except January. Our next meeting is on Thursday 12th July. 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

Melburn Roobaix - Ride Report!

The Melburn Roobaix - what can one say - the back lanes of Melbourne have never be so well utilised since the days of the nightman. Not unsurprising nightsoil of the dog variety can still be found to this very day and was.

The Roobaix is "loosely" based on that other Great Monument of cycling the Paris Roubaix, where riders encounter many sections consisting of cobblestones (les Pavés). The Paris Roubaix tends to be won by those that have the least punctures and bikes that remain in once piece. Skill and fitness is only half the equation; luck is the other. Consequently the Paris Roubaix is often discussed in disparaging terms by the infidels. Will my luck hold out on the "The hell of Northcote"?

I paid my money and entered along with the other 2011 people, magically resulting in 2012 people celebrating the ride in the year 2012. The ride is about 45km long and ran from the Hawthorn Velodrome to the Brunswick Velodrome - those that finished could do a half a lap of glory round the Brunswick 'drome. Assuming you finish.

On receipt of a musette containing a detailed map of the course one is off and running - well riding. Bit like a treasure hunt really - you have to find the bluestone lined lanes and then ride through them. Note to oneself - following other cyclists doesn't help. It's amazing how many people can get lost in just one day; including myself who went off piste on occasion(s).

The organisers know their lanes well and they chose well also. In the Paris Roubaix, les Pavés are carefully "tended" by a "Friends" (Amis) group and no doubt les Pavés are nicely perfumed as well. Meanwhile back in Melbourne, nos pavés certainement pas d'amis - not likely to get any either. No surface is considered too difficult for riders and one section includes the fearsomely steep and incredibly rough "Koppenberg" in the heart of Travancore near the Moonee Ponds Trail. Lots of people like to do it twice or thrice, obviously spurred on by the ringing of cow bells and the blowing of trumpets.

Along the way people stopped off for either a cigarette, a beer or both or just got hopelessly lost; regardless lots of fixies, mountain bikes, tandems, mono-cycles and other rarities ridden by an eclectic mix of wallies, cats, rabbits, birds, business men in suits, misc. super heroes and the blue edge team all eventually made it to the finish line and the subsequent prize giving

"ceremony". The podium girl looked fantastic in a demure 50's cotton(?) swing dress although she looked a little frozen by the weather. The emcee wore fashionable gumboots. Lot of prizes handed out for the silliest of reasons, plenty of burgers and good coffee, all adding to the pleasurable post ride entertainment.

As my partner's bike has wider tyres than mine I borrowed it for the day. Fortunately this turned out to be a wise move, as not only did it help me safely navigate the terrain but just one kilometre from home, the derailleur hanger flew off the bike and almost dived into the spokes. Thought the bolt had rattled loose but no, just plain old metal fatigue. Another victim of the Melburn Roobaix. I'll have to try and get the bike fixed before she finds out.

A great fun day out: - so well organised and so well subscribed, I expect BNV to make a takeover bid for it any day! My thanks to the organisers, the sponsors and all the support people to be found along les Pavés.

Thanks to John Parker for this very graphic description

Opinion

Time for a Veloway, not a Freeway Extension

In Boroondara we have seen how a good quality, off-road route can encourage cycling, especially commuter cycling. Thousands of cyclists now use the Gardiners Creek Trail along our southern boundary to link to the Yarra Trail and ride on to the CBD every week day. The Gardiners Creek Path, though not without its problems, is reasonably direct and relatively free of steep or extended climbs. The Yarra Trail, from its junction with the Gardiners Creek Trail to the CBD, also provides a relatively easy run.

The same cannot be said of the Yarra Trail along Boroondara's northern boundary. The number of cyclists using this route to commute to the city is relatively small. Although very scenic it is quite indirect, particularly at Yarra Bend, and there are a number of seriously taxing climbs, notably at Belford Rd and between the Chandler Hwy and the Pipe Bridge. The Pipe Bridge itself is both far too narrow and dangerously slippery in wet conditions, and makes the gantry under the Monash Freeway, that links the Gardiners Creek Path to the Yarra Trail, look positively luxurious.

For many years the Boroondara BUG has tossed around ideas for a dedicated cycle route roughly following the Eastern Fwy as a commuter alternative to the Yarra Trail. This idea has now received new momentum thanks to David Farrow. David argued, in a letter to the Premier, that the development of such a route would lead to commuter cyclist numbers along this corridor rising to comparable numbers to those using the Gardiners Creek Trail. He suggested that the planned Eastern Freeway extension might well be rendered unnecessary as motorists leave their cars at home and take to their bikes instead!

David has come up with a number of very clear and well thought out options for the new cycle route. Boroondara BUG intends carrying out an investigation of these options through one or more exploratory rides. The BUG also intends promoting this project with the relevant councils. Boroondara and Yarra. Any readers who have an interest in this project are most welcome to share their ideas with us and/or to participate in the exploratory rides.

Julia Blunden, drawing heavily on David Farrow's letter

Trail Notes

New iPhone App and Web Site to Report Bike Blackspots

Get Greens Senator Scott Ludlam's Bike Blackspot iPhone app from <http://itunes.apple.com/au/app/bike-blackspot/id510581717?mt=8#> or log on to <http://lovemybike.org> to send feedback and tip-offs from your ride.

For further details see: <http://m.theage.com.au/victoria/app-sends-cyclists-concerns-straight-to-governments-20120617-20iay.html>

Events and Activities

Myrtleford Bike Muster, October 5 – 7, 2012

The Myrtleford Bike Muster, now in its second year, is a social friends and family oriented event which will be riding parts of the Murray to the Mountains Rail Trail around Myrtleford, VIC, over the weekend of October 5 - 7.

Being a non competitive social event there are no expected distances to be achieved each day so Bike Muster participants can ride as much or as little as they like, this makes it suitable for riders of all skill and fitness levels. Registration includes souvenir t-shirt, lunch Saturday & Sunday, dinner Saturday night, a trivia night and afternoon activities.

You can see the full program on our website: www.bikemuster.com.au

Register and WIN! GIANT Bikes have been an excellent supporter of Bike Muster and we are giving you the opportunity to WIN a brand new GIANT bike worth \$2,499 just by completing your registration before August 31!

Answers to most questions can also be found on the Bike Muster website: www.bikemuster.com.au If you have any questions or need more information, shoot me an email and I'll get back to you ASAP. Russell Conchie, Bike Muster, russell@bikemuster.com.au , 0410 686 085

Did you know? We were awarded at the Cycling Promotion Fund Bicycling Achievement Awards with the Special Event or Initiative to Promote Cycling Award.

Follow us on Facebook if you are so inclined, go to: www.facebook.com/bikemuster

New Maps

Sunbury TravelSmart Map

As well as its Broadmeadows map the City of Hume has published a TravelSmart map for Sunbury. Sunbury has a few stretches of off-road path and on-road bike lanes which unfortunately do not connect up particularly well at the present time. But when the electrification of the train line to Sunbury is completed, supposedly this year, Sunbury will become much more accessible for recreational riders. Order your copy by contacting Hume City Council, phone: 03 9205 2200; email: email@hume.vic.gov.au

Cycle Central Goldfields

This excellent, large-scale map is two sided. One side covers rides around Maryborough as far west as Avoca and as far north as Dunolly. The other covers rides around Dunolly, especially to the north and the east. The maps include many forest tracks that are not shown on most other maps. Having used an earlier version last year during a Maryborough bike tour I can vouch for the accuracy and usefulness of the earlier version of this publication. The maps are available from Bicycle Network Victoria, and doubtless from information centres in the Central Goldfields.

Camperdown-Timboon Rail Trail

A brochure, printed in December 2011 includes an updated map and profile for the trail, as well as other useful information for anyone intending to ride it. I received my copy with the latest issue of the RailTrails Australia magazine *Rail Trail Connections* so I imagine it is obtainable from them, as well as from local information centres.

Boroondara News

Reporting Hazards on Boroondara's Shared Paths

Boroondara BUG recently received an email from a cyclist who had come across a major hazard on the Gardiners Creek Trail after dark in the form of obstacles, including a tree placed across the path, which he was unable to move by himself. With these dangerous situations, the best thing to do is to call the general Boroondara Council number: 9278 4444. During the day, that's Council's call centre and they'll direct the call appropriately. After business hours, that number is forwarded to Council's after hours service, and in such a situation they would arrange an after-hours parks and gardens service to attend to it.

Minutes of Boroondara BUG Meeting, Thursday 14th June 2012

Elgin Inn, Hawthorn

Attendance and Apologies

Present: Ken Morrison, John Parker, Alister Huth, Glennys Jones, Malcolm Faul, Gordon Macmillan, Julia Blunden, Peter Campbell (Chair 1); Graham Ellis (Chair 2), Hedley Finger, Graeme Stone, David Farrow

Apologies: David Leong, Betty Weeks

Correspondence:

In

- Copy of email from David Farrow to Ted Baillieu about improvements needed on Yarra Trail

- Email from Stephen Hadley, DSE, about Barnsbury Rd steps
- Email from Michael Smith, Stonnington, re signage on Malvern Valley Golf Course

Out

- Email to Stonnington requesting ruling on signage on Malvern Valley Gold Course
- Submission to Stonnington on Footpath Trading and Awning Policy?

Matters Arising:

1. **Hawthorn to Box Hill Trail:** No Lighter Footprints people were able to attend the meeting. Peter C reported that the grant application had been submitted. The Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre has requested that a BUG member speak at their AGM, on cycling in Boroondara in general and the HTBHT in particular. **Peter** said he will do this.
 2. **Urban Bush Path:** Nil to report
 3. **Stockland Tooronga Village Development – Access from GCT:** The pram ramp from Toroonga Rd and flaring at the GCT end are still not done. This will be an agenda item at the June BAC meeting.
 4. **Gasworks Site Redevelopment:** Peter C reported that he had taken a call from the *Progress Leader* asking why the trail past this site is of such a poor standard. He explained that trail improvement here is waiting on the site redevelopment.
 5. **Belford Rd Underpass:** Nil to report.
 6. **Darebin – Yarra Link:** Julia B reported that Community Coalition members will hopefully be wearing distinctive vests at the BNV rally on 21st June. The planning permits expire in early August. The June BAC meeting will be an opportunity to ask if any permit extension request has been received by Boroondara Council.
 7. **Membership Subscriptions:** Malcolm F reported that BBUG now has 27 financial members. \$300 has been received for the Super Tuesday counters. Funds in hand are now \$4,024.90. John P suggested that **Malcolm** investigate investing some of our funds in a term deposit.
 8. **Stonnington Issues:** Glennys J reported that the Stonnington Council is looking at realignment of the GCT east of the High St underpass as part of the redevelopment of the TH King Oval/Glen Iris Park. John P reported that there are some quite hopeful signs at Stonnington; consultants are proposing various improvements including developing the Sandringham Rail Trail and installing contraflow lanes in one-way streets.
1. **Anniversary Trail/Outer Circle Audit:** Glennys J reported that the draft report of the second stage of the audit is still with Council. However a number of recommendations from the audit are already being implemented.
 2. **Barnsbury Rd Steps to AT:** Julia B reported that Bushan Jani had provided contact details for the person at the DSE responsible for these works. The response to her letter stated that there was insufficient room at Barnsbury Rd for a DDA compliant ramp, however funds would be sought for such a ramp from Mont Albert Rd in 2012/3. If funds are not available for this a bike gutter will be considered. Council may be consulted but this is not required as DSE manage the embankment land.
 3. **Questions for BNV Survey of Council Candidates:** We agreed on the following wording for our four issues, one for each of BNV's categories:
 - **Commuter:** Do you support the development of the Hawthorn – Box Hill Trail? This would be a bike route roughly following the Belgrave / Lilydale rail line. Initially it would use a combination of off-road paths and quiet back streets, and could be implemented incrementally, with the ultimate goal being an entirely off-road route. This trail is needed as there is currently no safe route for cyclists travelling east-west through the centre of Boroondara, and many are using busy and dangerous main roads such as Burwood Rd.
 - **School:** Do you support the elimination of the missing link in the Anniversary Trail at Camberwell High School? This could be achieved by using a path alongside the Camberwell East tennis courts and a small strip of land along the western boundary of Camberwell High School. Were it not for this missing link the Anniversary Trail would provide a safe ride to school route for many students, including those who live in the Ashburton/Glen Iris area and attend schools further north such as Canterbury Girls College, Camberwell Grammar and Strathcona.
 - **Recreation:** Do you support the construction of the Darebin- Yarra link, as planned by Parks Victoria, via Willsmere Park?
 - **Parking:** Do you support provision for secure, undercover bike parking to be routinely included in planning for Council facilities such as recreation centres and libraries, as is now required for commercial buildings, and retrofitting such parking facilities where possible?

It was agreed that when these questions are submitted there should also be the suggestion for a question about the level of Council spending thought appropriate, and another more open-ended question inviting the candidates to put forward their own ideas about what can be done to encourage cycling.

New Business

1. **David Farrow's proposed letter re northern east-west route:** David was congratulated on his letter which inspired lively discussion. Although there was general strong agreement about the desirability of a much improved bike commuter route in this corridor, roughly following the Eastern Fwy, there were plenty of different views about its exact alignment.

Actions agreed on include:

- **John P** to contact Yarra Council, possibly through Cr Jacky Fristacky, to sound them out about developing a joint Boroondara-Yarra project which could possibly attract federal funding
 - **Julia B** to make contact with Yarra BUG, Melbourne BUG, Banyule BUG and Banyule's Cr Tom Melican to let them know what we're planning
 - **Alister H** to organise an exploratory ride to investigate different options for the route on the next fine Saturday
 - **Alister H** to draft a letter/submission which can be sent on behalf of the BUG to the Councils concerned and to the relevant ministers, and also form part of a BUG submission to the Metropolitan Planning Strategy currently being prepared by the state government.
2. **Bicycle Network Victoria's Rally 21st June:** All present expressed their intention of attending this. Hedley F mentioned that funding has also been cut to the RMIT bike mechanics course and suggested including a protest about this in any letters we write on the budget cuts.
 3. **Donation to YarraBUG Radio:** It was agreed that \$100 should be donated to this as a goodwill gesture. **Mal F** agreed to make the donation.
 4. **Submission to the Metropolitan Planning Strategy:** It was agreed that we should make such a submission. **Julia B** offered to prepare a draft and circulate it. Alister H's letter on the proposed northern commuter route would be included as a major part of the submission.
 5. **BAC Meeting Friday 22nd June:** **Glennys J, John P and Julia B** indicated that they would be attending. To the regular list of agenda items the following were to be added:
 - Current status of the PBN
 - Barnsbury Rd steps and possible Mont Albert Rd ramp including the issue of land management
 - Damage to the Anniversary Trail as a result of the replacement of sleepers on the Alamein line
 - Issues with traders wanting to reroute the Anniversary Trail at Toorak Rd; current status of plans for a bridge alongside the rail line here?
 - Pram ramps need to be built/improved at the following locations: Princess St Nth to AT; north side of Christobel Cr on the Kew Rail Trail; between Linda Cr and the path leading to the Hawthorn Rec Centre
 - Ferndale Trail crossing at Ferndale Rd
 - Proposal for a joint project with Yarra Council to develop a bike commuter route roughly alongside the Eastern Fwy with a view to obtaining federal funding

Other Business

1. **Bikes Needed:** Hedley F said he was working with the Red Cross fixing up old bikes for use by asylum seekers and refugees and would be pleased to receive anyone's old unwanted bikes, or to hear of any place that such bikes might be found.
2. **Anniversary Trail at Toorak Rd:** Glennys J reported that a couple of traders are trying to move the AT from Toorak Rd, re-routing it to the rear lane on the south side. Having carefully studied the situation she believes that this would be dangerous for cyclists. This will be an agenda item at the next BAC meeting.

Next meeting: This is currently scheduled for Thursday 12th July

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