

BOROONDARA

Bicycle Users Group

Newsletter September 2008

Boroondara BUG meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, except January. The Next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 10th September, at the Swinburne Hawthorn Campus in room TD244. The TD building is between Park and Wakefield Streets. All welcome.

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.

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.

We also have two Yahoo Groups:

1. 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.
2. Send a blank email to: BoroondaraBugDiscussion-subscribe@yahoogroups.com to monitor or join in an ongoing discussion of bike related issues both local and general.

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.

Trail Notes

Gardiners Creek Path Detour

There have been many complaints about this detour since it was put in place over a month ago. These have come from the Boroondara BUG and from many individual cyclists. Unfortunately the detour will remain in place for about a year. Improvements to both the route and the signage have been made but more could still be done to improve both its ease of navigation and safety. Keep complaining and remember to direct complaints to Stonnington Council as well as other parties. The person to contact there is: Peter Kyrkylis, Transport & Parking Coordinator, phone: 8290 3557.

Merri Creek Path Detour

Those of you who have ridden the Merri Creek Path, also part of the Capital City Trail, lately will have seen the excellent maps and signage guiding path users round the detour there. Quite a contrast to Gardiners Creek!

Footscray Road Path

The shared path along Footscray Rd, which was previously completely flat, now climbs albeit gradually over the new Appleton Dock Overpass. Bicycle Victoria has been campaigning for various changes to the design of the bridge and associated intersections because of serious concerns about cyclist safety. See <http://www.bv.com.au/change-the-world/11010/> In the meantime cyclists need to take great care at the intersections here.

Capital City Trail Diversion

Yet another trail diversion has been put in place where the Inner Circle section of the Capital City Trail meets the Moonee Ponds Creek Path at Flemington Rd. The cause of this diversion is a project that is actually intended to benefit cyclists. A new

section of bridge is being put in place across Manningham St to link to the existing Flemington Bridge. When this is complete it will no longer be necessary for those riding the CCT to use the flight of steps at Manningham St. The detour is reasonably well signed but not terribly convenient. It takes you south of the bridge and involves waiting for several sets of traffic lights. It will be in place for about 9 months. For more information see <http://www.bv.com.au/change-the-world/12040/>

Events

Wattle Day, Sunday 14 September, 11am to 4pm, Incorporating Phil's Ride

Parks Victoria in conjunction with Holmesglen Institute of TAFE, Friends of Wattle Park and local community will celebrate historic Wattle Day on Sunday, 14 September. The day will include displays by local community groups (including Whitehorse Cyclists and Boroondara BUG) and fun activities and attractions for the whole family.

Entertainment will include performances from The Melbourne Tramways Band, the classic rock band 'The Flying Sorcerers', as well as local performers and Choirs from Wattle Park Primary School. There will also be a guest presentation from Yvonne Cowling 'the Possum Lady' and her special helpers and a variety of activities and food including a sausage sizzle, classic car club, free kids face painting, plaster painting, junior colouring competition and the Metropolitan Fire Brigade Racing Team. The Wattle Park Golf Course Pro-shop Café will be open for light luncheons and snacks.

For more information please phone 9808 2455.

I am running an easy 10km ride to Wattle Park from Blackburn. Catch the 10.06 from Flinders St, I'll get on at Surrey Hills at 10.35, arrive Blackburn 10.43. Adjoin to Pumpkins Caffe, 96 South Road (across the road from the station, near the corner of Gardenia Street), for a quick cuppa, then leave around 11.00. Ride easy 10 km, almost all on bike paths, to Wattle Park, arrive around midday, stay as long as you like, then make your own way home.

The catch is that I live only about 3km from Wattle Park, so will ride home from there, but people who live further afield will need to either ride approx 2km to Surrey Hills station, or arrange a chauffeur to collect them from Wattle Park.

The ride will be under the auspices of Melbourne Bicycle Touring Club, which means that all participants must sign an MBTC attendance form. Once you've signed you are a temporary member of MBTC, so are covered by MBTC rider insurance, and I'll be covered by MBTC ride leader liability insurance.

Please phone me on 9836 3329 to book in.

Phil Crohn.

Boroondara Discovery Ride No 2: The East-West Link, Sunday 12th October

Make a note in your diary of the second Boroondara Discovery Ride scheduled for Sunday 12th October. Phil Crohn will again be leading the ride under the auspices of the Melbourne Bicycle Touring Club. Boroondara BUG members Peter Campbell and John Parker are planning the ride to look at options for a safe cycling route running east-west through the centre of Boroondara.

The Koonung Creek and Yarra Trails provide a bike route along Boroondara's northern boundary, and the Gardiners Creek Trail runs along its southern boundary. But an east-west bike route through the middle of the municipality is sorely lacking. One option is a route following the Belgrave/Lilydale rail line but there are other possibilities. Come along to look at the existing routes and help to identify measures that could be taken to improve them in the short and longer terms. The ride will start and finish at Box Hill and will extend to the Yarra at Hawthorn at its furthest extreme.

More details, including booking and meeting arrangements, in the October newsletter, 1/10.

Ride to Work Day, Wednesday 15th October – Camberwell Community Breakfast

Ride to Work (RTW) day is now a nation-wide event with workplace and community events happening all over the country.

Boroondara Council will be hosting a RTW breakfast on the lawns of the Camberwell Civic Centre in Camberwell Rd (Melway 59 J2) from 7.00am to 8.30am. Council Staff and other members of the community cycling to work are welcome. Boroondara BUG members will be present both to assist and to promote the BUG.

Offerings will include a breakfast barbecue, fresh fruit, coffee cart, fruit juice and smoothies. Massage angels will also be in attendance and there will be bike engraving as well as various prizes and give aways.

Register with Bicycle Victoria as a participant in RTW to go in the draw for one of 16 Trek bikes at <http://www.bv.com.au/join-in/126/>

Surrey Hills Sustainability Festival, Sunday 9 November 2008.

Surrey Hills Neighbourhood centre is hosting a sustainability Expo on 9 November which will be a dynamic afternoon of fun and activity centred around ideas of sustainability. They are planning a rich mix of food, fun, demonstrations, debates, performances, and competitions.

The Neighbourhood Centre, together with the City of Boroondara, are inviting stall holder expressions of interest connecting to the theme 'sustainability' in interesting and dynamic ways. Boroondara BUG will be sharing a stall with Whitehorse Cyclists.

Please email the Event Coordinator, Jacqui Edge at event.organiser@surreyhillssnc.org.au or phone 0411 387 551 to receive further information about this new and vibrant community festival.

I intend to run an MBTC ride to the event.

Phil Crohn

Bike Polo!

Sundays 1pm until around 6pm usually at the carpark in the Carlton Gardens, west of the Exhibition Buildings Bring a bike, beverage and yourself. Mallets and ball provided.

Tuesdays venue varies, lately has been on the rooftop carpark at Victoria Gardens, corner Burnley and Victoria Sts Richmond. Polo Tournament, maybe late September, lots of fun for participants and spectators. Details soon.

More information at <http://www.bikepolo.com.au/>
Melbourne Bicycle Polo Club: melbourne.bicycle.polo.club@gmail.com
Join the bike polo list on Yahoo Groups: <http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/bike-polo/>

Thanks to Yarra BUG for the above item

General News

Over 50s Riding Program

Bicycle Victoria's Over 50s Riding Program aims to encourage people over 50 who haven't considered cycling as an activity, or haven't been on a bike for a few years, to get involved and give it a try. There is no cost to participants to be involved in the program. A bike and a helmet that fit correctly are all that is needed.

A central component of the program is that each riding group has a dedicated ride leader. Ride leaders have been chosen by Bicycle Victoria because of their experience and enthusiasm for bike riding. Ride leaders are able to offer advice on riding technique and bike maintenance, and provide motivation and support.

Bicycle Victoria is currently seeking expressions of interest from enthusiastic, passionate bicycle riders across Victoria who would like to be ride leaders and ride leader buddies. If you are interested, or know someone who may be interested, please contact Elizabeth Charalambakis, Over 50s Riding Program Coordinator, Bicycle Victoria. Email: over50s@bv.com.au
Phone: 8636 8868

For more information go to <http://www.bv.com.au/join-in/159/>

Boroondara News

Darebin Creek – Yarra Trail Link

Parks Victoria has the VCAT directions hearing with the main objectors, including Protectors of Public Lands, on Friday 5 September. At this stage there is no word on the formal VCAT hearing date, but it will probably be in November at the earliest.

Julia Blunden

Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting

The third BAC meeting for 2008 was held on Friday 29 August, 3-5pm. As usual there was a very full agenda. Issues discussed included the following:

- Boroondara Bicycle Strategy – a second draft incorporating feedback has been prepared and another public meeting will be held soon to provide a final opportunity for fine tuning this
- Gardiners Creek Trail Detour – Jim Hondrakis reported that over 30 new signs have been erected in addition to other improvements. BUG members present suggested further improvements that could be made
- Welfare Pde – there are plans for a different treatment that will enhance cyclist safety. Madeline St and Prosper Pde are also being re-designed
- RTW Day – community breakfast plans are well advanced
- Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan – comments need to be sent by 5th September
- Main Yarra Trail – plans to modify the bend at Willow Grove due to safety concerns
- Gardiners Creek Trail reconstruction between Nettleton Park and Kerferd Rd
- Burke Rd bike lanes
- Burke Rd footbridge – safety concerns with gap at bottom of the railing

Julia Blunden

Minutes of Boroondara BUG Meeting Wednesday 13th August 2008

Held at Swinburne, Hawthorn Campus, Room TD?

Present: Jason den Hollander, John Bales, Alister Huth, Julia Blunden, John Parker, Glennys Jones, Graham Ellis, David Mann

Apologies: Phil Crohn, Graeme Stone, Peter Campbell, Don Glasson, David Leong

Correspondence: Notification of Boroondara Council's decision on Parks Victoria PPA
Invitation to nominate candidates for Sport and Recreation Victoria Awards

1. **Darebin Creek – Main Yarra Trail Link:** The VCAT preliminary hearing is scheduled for 22/8. This is the deadline for the minister to call the matter in as requested by the Community Coalition so this is now looking unlikely to happen. However it looks hopeful that VCAT will rule in favour of the link. Julia B reported that she has sent the BUG submission in favour of the project to VCAT. Alister H offered to contact his MP, Fiona Richardson to express support for the project.
2. **Gardiners Creek Missing link:** Graeme S reported via email that the Markham Reserve Revised Concept Master Plan is to be presented to Council on Monday 21st September. The agenda for the 6pm meeting will be available on Friday 22nd. The report includes feedback from the community on the Draft Gardiner's Creek Trail Gap Master Plan. VicRoads funding for the Warrigal Rd underpass is still unresolved.
3. **East-West Link and Discovery Ride:** It was agreed that the next BUG Discovery Ride, exploring possible routes for the East-West link from Box Hill, through Boroondara to the Yarra Trail, will take place on Sunday 12/10. Phil C will settle this date with MBTC at their next planning meeting and confirm it with the BUG.

John P and Peter C will now move to finalise details of the route and the meeting time and place for the ride so that it can be publicised in the September BUG newsletter, due out on Wednesday 3/9.

4. **Web site copyright/licensing issues:** John P has not yet implemented this.
5. **Trail names:** John P is still to circulate his proposed list to BUG members.
6. **Promotion of the BUG:**

Business Cards: Jason D circulated several possible designs. Agreement was reached that a prominent url would be placed immediately under the BUG logo. Space would be left in the middle of the card for members to write their names and contact details, and the words 'Supporting cycling in Boroondara' would run across the bottom of the card.

Ride to Work Day, Wednesday 15/10: Julia B reported receiving an email from Julia Smith saying that, as requested by the BUG, she is now planning a single, combined Council/community RTW event on the lawns outside the Camberwell Civic Centre. Julia S is organising 3-minute massage angels, police to engrave bikes, catering (bacon and egg muffins, vego muffins etc), as well as smoothie/juice drinks, coffee kart etc. She has agreed to cater for 100 people.

BUG members have suggested that some form of music or entertainment is also desirable and that the event should start at 7am. The presence of one or more Councillors is also desirable. BUG members planning to be present are: John P, John B and Julia B. Other members not present at the meeting will also be urged to attend. Suggestions for publicising the event included putting notices in cycling shops such as Goldcross, and contacting the Camberwell Traders Association.

7. **GVBR or other sponsorship:** Alister H reported that he had made contact with a special school in Brunswick which could use an adult tricycle costing \$800. It was felt that this school is too distant from Boroondara and the amount beyond our present budget. It was agreed to wait for some more suitable opportunity for sponsorship to present itself.
8. **Family Fun Day Wattle Park, Sunday 14/9:** Graham E reported that Whitehorse Cyclists will be having a stall at this event and that BUG members who are also WC members are welcome to share the stall and promote the BUG. Graham E, Julia B and John B all meet this criterion and will agree on shifts. Julia B agreed to get another couple of TravelSmart maps laminated for display purposes and to ensure that they are better cared for than the last two. It was agreed that printing of flyers is not worth while but we need the BUG business cards and TravelSmart maps to distribute. The BUG laminated banner is also needed for such occasions.
9. **Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre Sustainability Expo:** Peter C reported via email that the date for this has been changed to Sunday 9th November. Possibly he and/or Phil C, as the two locals, may be able to use this opportunity to promote the BUG.
10. **BAC meeting – Agenda Items:** Julia B gave notice of her intention to raise the issue of the Leonda link again at this meeting. It was agreed that it is desirable to at least postpone the spending of \$150,000 on this project, which is of very dubious benefit. Jason D suggested that we ask Jim H for an update on the Boroondara Bike Strategy which seems to have stalled at present. Jason D also proposed that the priority list prepared by the BUG some time ago could be updated and given to Jim Hondrakis for guidance on what projects the BUG believes to be of most importance. Graeme S has already done some work on this and emailed it to a number of members. Alister H asked that Jim H be thanked for removing a bollard near Harp Junction.
11. **Gardiners Creek Path Detour:** Jason D pointed out that the BV recommended solution to the current very unsatisfactory situation is detailed on their web site. Furthermore the Monash Alliance is willing to fund these works. Stonnington Council is the only obstacle. It was agreed that this be an agenda item at the next BAC meeting. David M pointed out that it is actually still possible to stay on the Boroondara side using the path most of the way at present and it was agreed to raise this with Jim H. Julia B reported a phone call she had from Chris Peters urging the BUG to seek wider publicity for this issue. Julia B agreed to contact journalists at the Progress and Stonnington Leaders and suggest they investigate.
12. **Stonnington TravelSmart map – BUG assistance:** John P pointed out that much of their work has been done for them on the Boroondara TravelSmart map that covers much of Stonnington, and the St Kilda Rd map. He agreed to contact Matt Barbetta at Stonnington to point this out and also to offer BUG assistance in checking the first draft of the map. Jason D said that BV would offer similar assistance.
13. **Council elections:** These are due in November. After some discussion it was agreed that doing some kind of survey of candidates and posting the results on our web site is a useful way of raising the BUG's profile as well as that of cycling. Members agreed to give this matter some thought and to come to the next meeting with ideas for questions to ask. Options include open and closed questions; general questions relating to Boroondara in general or specific questions relating to individual wards.
14. **Guest Book:** David M suggested having a guest book on our web site. John P pointed out that we would need a trusted member with the skills and the willingness to maintain this. No decision was reached.
15. **Change of meeting day:** John B asked if we might consider changing the meeting day to a different Wednesday each month or to a different day. Graham E seconded this request. Members agreed to consider this at our next meeting.

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

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: Mikeatleisure@aol.com

website: home.vicnet.net.au/~knoxbike

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

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

Finbar Neighbourhood House Rides

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

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/>

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:

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

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