

BOROONDARA

Bicycle Users Group

Newsletter October 2013

Boroondara BUG meetings are normally held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month except January. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 9th October. 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 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 by Numbers – Cycle Touring Made Easy.

Just recently Maria and I had the opportunity to do a few weeks' cycle touring in France, Belgium and Holland on our [Gellie Custom Built Tandem](#) (with Rohloff Hub and S&S frame couplings) and as it turned out, it was a pleasure to be able to cycle through Belgium and Holland by numbers.



Using the good old time-honoured Michelin Maps, we cycled the coast from Le Havre, just a 4-hour ferry ride on the high speed Normandie Express from my birth town of Pompey (Portsmouth). Then staying at Fécamp, Dieppe, Saint Valery sur Somme, Etaples, Calais, Dunkerque in France, we made our way to Bruges in Belgium. Across the French/Belgian border Michelin ran out so in Veurne we stopped at the tourist information for a map to get us through Belgium, and on to Holland. It

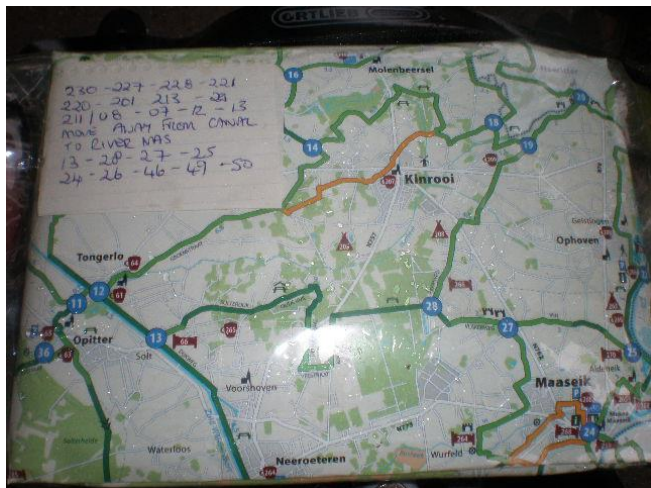
was there the lady photocopied the section of their local bike map to get us to Bruges. This was to be our introduction to cycling by numbers.

For the next 1000km of our trip we cycled by numbers (easy peasy) from Bruges through Middelburg, Ouddorp, Breda, Lommel, to Maastricht where Maria developed an ankle problem. This meant we needed to head back to a Channel Ferry Port by the most expedient route to get us to the UK. This turned out to be via Leuven, Halle, Anvaing, Ypres, Loon-Plage and the ferry at Dunkerque across to Dover and a tandem accommodating train back to Pompey.



So what is this cycling by numbers palaver? Check out [Nederland Fietsland](#) or [Belgium Fietsroute](#) or have a squizz at the [Movie into Cycle Networks Netherlands and Belgium](#).

In our case, whilst en route, I would buy the map for the area we would be cycling through for the next few days and in the evening whilst lying in bed, we would work out how far we would like to go the next day, hop online and book a bed and breakfast for the following night and once confirmed, using the map to decide on a route, I would write down the junction numbers on a piece of paper and place in the map holder on the handlebar bag along with the map appropriately folded. Along the way we would just follow the numbers.





Did we get lost? Yes! At 2 locations there were road works and the signs were missing. In a forest south of Brussels we just couldn't find the sign but a local cyclist who was walking thru the woods was familiar with the area and got us back on track. In one town I was distracted negotiating a squeeze point with cars approaching from both directions and missed the sign.

Did we get frustrated? Yes - sometimes! The routes tended to take us sightseeing all around the houses so to speak, when in some cases we would have preferred a more direct route. Some of the routes were just a small inconspicuous single track thru farmland, which we had cycled past as we assumed that the signed turn we needed to make was the road further on. Maybe in such cases adding the distance to the turn on the sign would have helped. Normally within a couple of kilometres we could sense we were not on the bike route and could cycle back and figure out where we went wrong, sometimes with the help of locals, although many were not familiar with the junction numbers. Probably because it was their own neighbourhood and they cycled around without the need to know the junction numbers. Maybe if there was a sign consistently placed within a couple of hundred metres of a turn to confirm that 1) we were on a bike route and 2) it was heading to the right junction number, that would have given us a bit of reassurance on the one hand, or on the other, alert us to the fact that we had gone off route - before we had covered many kilometres before figuring that out.

It was a pleasant surprise to stumble across this junction numbering system. It made our cycle touring holiday so much simpler and more pleasant. I wish I had known about it before we went. I could have used their on-line resources to print off routes and the like and maybe avoided the expense of buying some of the maps. But doing what we did was all part of our cycling adventure as we tend not to do too much forward planning before embarking on short cycle touring holidays in Europe, where over the years we have previously cycled in parts of France, Spain, Italy, Croatia and Slovenia.

Now imagine you are a visitor to Melbourne, not knowing the language and wanting to cycle from the Airport to our place in Box Hill North using the Shared Path (Trails) Network - Moonee Ponds Creek, Outer Circle, Capital City, Main Yarra, Koonung Creek. So... armed with 3 or 4 TravelSmart Maps, confronting a multitude of confusing intersections and using your sophisticated map reading/navigational skills, you might eventually make it to us, but I fear not. Now imagine doing the same, using a system of numbered junctions and simple signage (numbers and arrows not requiring language skills) not so readily subject to vandalism. I reckon you could make it, even if you were visiting from Mars.

Don't you reckon it was time we adopted such a tried and tested wayfinding system without trying to invent our own wheel?

Alan Tonkin

Introducing the Dights Falls Trail - Note

Jason den Hollander from Bicycle Network Victoria does not believe that their position has been correctly reported in this article. For a firsthand account of their view please refer to http://www.bicyclenetwerk.com.au/media/vanilla/file/LMA_EastWestBikeNetwork_July13_.pdf

Trail Notes

Scotchmans Creek Trail – Gap Closed

The section of the Scotchmans Creek Trail outside the retirement village between Waverley Rd and Forster Rd is now open, as of couple of days ago.

Events

Cycle Salute

Cycle Salute is the inaugural celebration of all things cycling in Victoria's High Country, Australia's premier cycling destination. With more than 50 cycling and cycle-themed events over three weeks, our cycle-friendly region is ready to welcome riders of all types this spring – beginners included! Events range from bike skills rodeos for kids to show-and-shine parades, from sprint road races to trailblazing mountain biking weekends, from unicycle workshops to guided gourmet rides. So come and enjoy some fun on two wheels. Attached is the event program and for this event we have some great packages.

For the complete program, [Click here](#).

When: 18 October – 5 November 2013

Where: Victoria's High Country

More information: www.cyclesalute.com.au

Genovese Kinglake Ride

The Genovese Kinglake Ride is less than nine weeks away!

No matter what your riding level, be you a seasoned veteran or new to the sport, the Genovese Kinglake Ride offers a superb day of riding and a great opportunity to venture beyond your regular riding routes.

The new date Saturday 30 November - think sunny day enjoying one of Victoria's most scenic road courses - have really impacted upon our entries to date and we are delighted to welcome many newcomers to the event.

Cross promotion of the event as a great training ride for our Gatorade Triathlon Series and Challenge Melbourne competitors has also been warmly received with many of our triathletes this year entering.

Taking on board feedback from previous years, we are this year looking at improving on-course support, and sponsor activation. We have also committed to a more celebratory post-event muster featuring live entertainment and nicely chilled bevies.

The Supersprint team and I look forward to seeing you there.

David Hansen
MD Supersprint

For more information see <http://supersprint.com.au/events/genovese-kinglake-ride-2013.aspx>

Boroondara News

New Boroondara BUG Facebook Page

Boroondara BUG now has a Facebook Page set up by Jill Young. Check it out at <https://www.facebook.com/boroondarabug>

It would be great if those of our readers who have Facebook Pages of their own could show their support by Liking our page.

Boroondara Ride to Work Day Community Breakfast

Boroondara Council will once again be hosting a Community Breakfast on Ride to Work Day, Wednesday 16th October. The breakfast goes from 6.30am to 9am and will be in a new location, on the Yarra Trail below the Guide Dogs, near the Chandler Hwy bridge. There will be all the usual goodies and attractions, including coffee, pedal-powered smoothies, hot and cold food and police engraving bikes. Boroondara BUG members will be there spruiking various causes, and listening to what cyclists have to tell them about improvements needed to Boroondara's bike infrastructure.

Minutes of Boroondara BUG Meeting, Wednesday 11th September 2013

Elgin Inn, Hawthorn

Attendance and Apologies

Present: Gordon Macmillan, John Parker, David Farrow, Mal Faul (Chair), Julia Blunden, Glennys Jones, Hank van Apeldoorn, Jill Young

Apologies: David Leong, Alister Huth, Ken Parker

Correspondence:

In

- Email from Jim Hondrakis with details of the proposed route of the Gordon Barnard Reserve route
- Email from Karan offering to lift the Google ranking of our website
- Email from Megan Pritchard about an Animal Aid cycling event
- Email re Council's Draft Community Strengthening Grants Policy 2013, and an information session on Wednesday 4 September
- Email from Missi Davis offering to write content for our newsletter
- Email re cycling holidays in South Island, NZ
- Email re cycling in Indonesia
- Email re seminar in Sydney starring Mark Wagenbuur 'the famous Dutch bicycle advocate and maker of the most popular bicycle videos to come out of the Netherlands'
- Email from Jim Hondrakis with details of planned works on AT at Fordham Av and Riversdale Rd

Out

- Letter to Council in support of the Gordon Barnard Reserve Path

Matters Arising:

1. **Hawthorn to Box Hill Trail:** David F is still to finalise the letter to go to Council about Cookson St. John P reported that a poorly placed bollard will be removed, but that he had no answer on his proposal for sharing of the new path.
2. **Golfers Choice and Urban Bush Path:** Nil to report.
3. **Darebin-Yarra Link:** Julia B reported that the Community Coalition will be meeting with the VicRoads team again on Monday 30/9.
4. **Belford Rd Underpass:** A wombat crossing is being installed at Belford Rd. Julia B suggested that if we take up Jason den Hollander's suggestion that before next year's state election we should meet with local candidates to promote up to 3 local projects, this underpass should be one of them.
5. **Dights Falls Trail:** **David F** is still working on his submission to go to the Linking Melbourne Authority. It was agreed that this needs to go in before the end of September. It was also agreed that **Julia B** would write a letter from BBUG to Council asking what their position is on the East-West Link. Individual members may also like to write to their ward councillors.
6. **Stonnington Matters:** John P reported that Stonnington Council is still sitting on their new bike strategy.
7. **Domestic Animals Management Plan:** This will be on the September BAC agenda.
8. **Invitations to New Councillors to Attend BUG Meetings:** It was reaffirmed that Jane Addis should be invited to our next meeting and that we should focus on the Hawthorn to Box Hill Trail as a topic relevant to her ward. Judith Voce should also be invited to a future meeting
9. **Outer Circle Trail at Harp Junction:** Alister H reported via email that a fence has now gone up on the vacant site. This will be an agenda item at the September BAC. Alister wrote that there is a public acquisition overlay on land at Harp Junction which would enable realignment of the Outer Circle trail to break right at the traffic lights on the east side (which council had a one off chance to exercise now).
10. **Jacka Trail/North Balwyn Leisure Trail:** Julia B reported that she had been informed by Jim Hondrakis that the current plan is for the shared path to go along the southern side of Gordon Barnard Reserve, but that it cannot go ahead until work

is completed on the extension of the Boroondara Sports Complex and the demolition of the Balwyn Leisure Centre, which means a delay of two years. However the application to VicRoads for the new Balwyn Rd pedestrian crossing will go in before the end of the month. It was agreed that a group of members would meet and ride through the area with a view to identifying the best alignment for the path and the best position for the crossing. This would be done prior to the September BAC meeting on 20/9.

11. **Treasurer's Report:** Mal Faul reported that there had been no change in our bank balance since last month, as the \$100 cheque written for 3CR has not yet been presented.

New Business

1. **Victorian BUGs Meeting Tuesday 10th September:** One of the agenda items for this meeting was the recommendations of the Bicycle Wayfinding Working Group. John P Urged all present to familiarize themselves with the system used in Holland and other European countries, where intersections or nodes are numbered, rather than routes as recommended by BWWG. **John** will write a submission to go to the BWWG urging them to rethink their recommendation.
2. **BBUG Member Needed for GCT Audit:** Julia B explained that she is unable to participate in this as planned and asked for a volunteer/s. **David F** indicated that he might be able help out.

Other Business:

1. **Yarra Trail Closure:** Hank V pointed out that the wording on the sign erected at the time of this closure 'Trail closed until further notice' would be totally unacceptable on a road.
2. **Queensland Incident:** I'm sorry I didn't really catch the details of this one. Can you help me out Hank?
3. **Freeway Golf Course Coffee Shop:** Hank V advised that we ignore the sign on the Koonung Creek Trail inviting us in to this.
4. **Scotchmans Creek Trail:** Hank V expressed his dissatisfaction with the quality of this trail.
5. **Anniversary Trail at Riversdale Rd:** Julia B reported that Jim Hondrakis had sent designs to some members for the planned improvements to the AT in Fordham Av, and Riversdale Rd where the trail crosses. John P had picked up the need to include removal of the fire hydrant in the plans. It was agreed that we need to push the missing link at Camberwell High at the September BAC meeting.
6. **Board Elections:** Members were encouraged to vote in the forthcoming BNV and RACV elections, especially as voter numbers are generally low.
7. **BNV:** Concern was expressed re Coca Cola sponsoring BNV.
8. **New Signage:** Mal F observed that there is a new fancy sign re pedestrian destinations on cnr Glenferrie and Burwood (may indicate a council "push" on signage?).
9. **Ride to Work Day Breakfast:** Glennys J alerted those present that Chris Hui is keen to find a different, northern location for the Boroondara RTW day breakfast this year. Willsmere Park was proposed as one possibility.

Next meeting: Wednesday 10th October

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

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