

BOROONDARA

Bicycle Users Group

Newsletter October 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 8th October, 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.

Events

Blessing of the Bicycles Sunday 5th October

<http://www.yarrabug.org/2008/09/30/blessing-of-the-bicycles/>

Enjoy a non-denominational blessing of cyclists and their bicycles, including live music in celebration of the peaceful sharing of roads. This is the first blessing of its kind to be held in the Southern Hemisphere, come and join in the fun.

If you would like to help out on the day, meet at the Rotunda at about 11.30 - Noon.

And here's a nice picture of the Rotunda:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Fitzroy_Memorial_Rotunda.jpg

When: Sunday 5 October

Where: North Fitzroy's Edinburgh Gardens

Time: 1.00pm - 2.00pm

Organised by the City of Yarra

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

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 different possible routes and help to identify measures that could be taken to implement/improve them in the short and longer terms.

Phil Crohn will again be leading the ride under the auspices of the Melbourne Bicycle Touring Club and Boroondara BUG members Peter Campbell and John Parker are planning the route. **The ride will start at 9.30am at the Box Hill Mall** just west of Bruce St and will extend to the Yarra at Hawthorn at its furthest extreme. There will be a stop for coffee, compliments of the Boroondara BUG, at Glenferrie as we pass through, and the ride will finish at East Camberwell near the Anniversary Trail. The total distance is only about 20km but there will be lots of stops and talk along the way. Participants are welcome to finish at any point they choose.

Note that the ride will be almost all on-road and there will be some relatively busy roads to ride on and to cross so riders need to be confident handling such conditions. The ride will not be suitable for young children.

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/>

Brunetti Women's Coffee Club Ride 18 October 2008

Why not participate in this great new cycling event for women of all ages and abilities. The 20km scenic group ride from Carlton to Kew Boulevard returns back to Brunetti's Coffee and lunch at the Women's hub, set up for the event. Participants will be able to ride with women of similar abilities and fitness levels and ride angels offer guidance and encouragement. After the ride participants can cheer on the professional riders as they compete in the Amy Gillett Cup and the famous Jayco Herald Sun Circuit Race along Lygon Street. Click here to register, places are limited:

<http://www.amygillett.org.au/brunetti-women-s-coffee-club-ride/>

L'Etape du Tour: Ride a stage of the Tour, Thursday 16th October 2008

For many years recreational riders have had the opportunity to ride one of the key mountain stages of the Tour de France. L'Etape du Tour now gives you the chance to test yourself on the toughest stage of the Jayco Herald Sun Tour on the same day as the stars.

The L'Etape du Tour is a recreational challenge ride starting in Mansfield and finishing at the stunning ski resort of Mt Buller. Enjoy the quiet country roads with the comfort of knowing the ride is fully supported by 1st Aid Officers, Support Vehicles and Event Marshals.

The road to Mt Buller has long been the training ground of 2008 Tour de France stage winner Simon Gerrans. So why not test yourself on the 16 km climb and see how your time compares to one of the worlds best climbers!

Date: Thursday 16th October 2008; **Time :** 8.30 am

Start: Botanic Gardens, Mansfield; **Finish:** Mt Buller Village

Distance: 48 km

Entry fee: \$30 CycleSport Victoria Members / \$40 Non Members

Format: The event is a recreational challenge ride for individuals or teams. It is not a race.

Traffic Safety: All participants are required to comply with Victorian road rules. Roads will be open to traffic as normal, road closures will not be in place. Qualified Traffic Controllers and Event Marshals will assist with traffic management.

Additional Support: Also supporting the ride will be qualified 1st Aid Officers, a Lead Car, Sag Wagon and Event Marshals.

Aid Stations: Participants will have access to refreshments and toilets at the start and finish and an on course Aid Station.

Highlights:

- Your chance to ride the road to Mt Buller in front of the Jayco Herald Sun Tour
- Watch the pro's finish the toughest stage of the Tour
- Start in Mansfield and finish at the stunning ski resort of Mt Buller.
- Test yourself on the Mt Buller, training ground of Tour De France stage winner Simon Gerrans.
- Aid station to keep you refreshed throughout the ride
- The course will be well sign posted, marshalled & traffic managed to ensure the safety of all participants
- Qualified First Aid Officers will provide medical support around the course

For more info contact Adam Smith, CycleSport Victoria, Phone: 613 8480 3000. Email: adam.smith@cycling.org.au

Festival of the Wheel, 25th and 26th October 2008, Castlemaine, Victoria

A major fun, fitness and environmental event in and around Castlemaine for all sorts of cyclists, from the barely fit to the very fit, with multiple, fully-supported rides on bush tracks and sealed roads. This will be a great weekend for all sorts of cyclists, from road riders to mountain bike riders, from the experienced to the inexperienced.

There will be :

- Supported non-competitive rides from 9km to 85km on the Saturday, starting at 11, with registration from 9am
- Cycling's Big Night Out at the Theatre Royal on Sat night,
- Two duathlons on the Sunday morning and
- a Family Day in the Botanical Gardens on the Sunday afternoon.

All monies raised will be used to support the work of the organiser, the Mount Alexander Sustainability Group. MASG's staff, committee and 800 members are working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the Shire, with the aim of creating a model for a more sustainable world. Funds raised will support the group's renewable energy and transport projects

For full details go to http://masg.org.au/?page_id=453

Wilderness Bike Ride: B2O Epic: Bairnsdale to Orbost in a Day, Saturday 1st, Sunday 2nd, & Monday 3rd November 2008

Four events to choose from:

1. Fully Flogged 100km Epic
2. Almost Flogged 60km Epic
3. Double Flogged 200km Epic
4. Triple Flogged 250km Epic

Entries close Friday 24th October

Full details on the Wilderness Bike Ride web site at www.wildernessbikeride.com.au

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@surreyhillshillsnc.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

Cycling – Triathlon – MTB Swap Meet / Garage Sale, Saturday November 15, 2008

Buy – Sell – Swap

New – Used – Vintage – Classic – Preloved

Sellers*: Bring your unwanted bikes, parts, accessories, clothing and pass them on to a new home

Buyers: Come and find that elusive item you've been searching for.

Where: Lohse St Park, Laverton. VIC, Melways ref 53 E9. Plenty of parking. Local Café, Train Station adjacent.

When: Saturday November 15, 2008, 10-00am to 2-00pm.

Cost: Free to all. (Sellers – a \$10 contribution to the organiser to assist covering costs of park hire, insurance etc will be appreciated).

Enquiries: David "The Organiser" 0403 132 965 or bikeswapmeet@optusnet.com.au

* Though not geared to retail sellers, all bike/triathlon enthusiasts welcome.

Bicycle Film Festival

The Bicycle Film Festival is coming back to Australia. Don't miss this great opportunity to see some great cycling movies and video clips and celebrate the diversity of cycling.

Melbourne: 19. – 23. November 2008, more information and register to updates:

http://bicyclefilmfestival.com/2008_site/melbourne/

Scotty's Ride: Supporting the Scott Peoples Foundation, Saturday 13th December

Scott Peoples was one of Australia's most talented young cyclists and was on the brink of breaking into the cut-throat world of professional cycling in Europe. Tragically in December 2006 Scott was killed whilst on a training ride near Mansfield in regional Victoria.

To honour Scott's memory the Scott Peoples Foundation was formed to assist in the development of junior cycling in regional Victoria. In partnership with the Scott Peoples Foundation we are proud to announce that the inaugural Scotty's Ride will take place on Saturday 13th December. The 120km recreational challenge ride will take place on the quiet country roads around Scott's home town of Shepparton.

Scotty's Ride will kick off an action packed weekend of cycling which will also include track cycling at the Shepparton velodrome and Scotty's Race which will see some of Australia's top cyclists in action.

Entries to Scotty's Ride will open in the coming weeks. Stay tuned to www.cyclosportifvic.com.au for further details.

Boroondara News

Darebin Creek – Yarra Trail Link

The first directions hearing was held on Friday 5/9 and another is scheduled for 5/12/08. The final hearing will not be held before 1/2/09 and is expected to take 5-7 days. The minister has not as yet made any move to call the matter in but this option is still available.

Julia Blunden

Markham Victory Reserve – Revised Concept Master Plan

John Parker and I attended the Service Special Committee meeting on Monday 1st September. The revised Markham Master Plan now includes additional soccer facilities, a 'regional' playground, community garden, dog off-lead areas and a Gardiners Creek shared Trail. The Trail follows the route on the south side of the reserve but being on the edge of vegetation adjacent to the creek it is now on the edge of a dog-on-leash area. Dogs should not be running across the path to the creek. Local dog walkers spoke to the council stating preference for a northern route adjacent to Victory Boulevard. Kew cyclist, Ken Duxbury spoke making it clear that this was a compromise route for the Gardiners Creek Trail pointing out the need for a good commuter route on Stonnington side.

I spoke on behalf of BBUG firstly making the following points:

1. We accept that the proposed route through Markham Reserve has potential to be a very useful connection from Gardiners Creek Trail from Ashwood /Deakin / Bennetswood catchment to the Anniversary Trail. It will make for a good recreational circuit and provide useful access to the Hill n Dale path. The link to the south west on the Anniversary Trail will also be useful for recreational riders but we expect less so for commuting cyclists.

2. The issue of closing the gap between Warrigal Rd and Solway bridge is not likely to be solved for commuter cyclists by the Markham Reserve shared path. The so called 'independent' study was managed by Stonnington council to achieve their preferred solution. The officer's report records that '...the City of Stonnington ... has stated that it would not consider locating a shared path through the golf course under any circumstances.

3. The 'Shared Path Route Comparison Table in the report therefore does not describe the complete picture of possible options. A consultant study done for Stonnington in 2003 did show link options within the golf course and perhaps the lateral thinking shown then might re-emerge one day. Stonnington will realize that the problem of cyclists and pedestrians using the path past the golf club house will not be solved by the Markham link. Stonnington is also missing a current opportunity for an option of a route adjacent to the M1. It also needs to be noted that the Markham Reserve link must include the cost of \$0.97m for the Solway Bridge upgrade.

4. Given that situations and councils do change the Boroondara BUG believe that the Markham Reserve plan should at least retain an informal path through the revegetation area to the far south west corner of the reserve at the creek. This would allow for a future connection to a link along the edge of golf course.

Stonnington have recently employed an enthusiastic Transport Planner and Boroondara BUG have been asked to provide comments for a Stonnington Travel Smart map and on a draft Sustainable Transport Policy therefore we are hopeful that in the long term there could be a review of a connection on the other side of the creek but which utilizes the Markham Reserve shared path.

5. In conclusion given the number of Shared Trails and bike routes that meet in the Valley and the existing trip generators such as the rail station and the TAFE the BBUG will wait for a proper study of shared path link options for sustainable transport options within the Valley. However the BBUG supports the Markham Reserve Shared path for its value as a very useful recreational trail.

The draft Markham Victory Reserve – Revised Concept Master Plan is now approved for further public consultation after which it becomes an adopted plan. A long process!

Graeme Stone

My apologies to Graeme and our readers for omitting this report from last month's newsletter. Ed

Boroondara Bicycle Strategy

The long awaited final public consultation on the bicycle strategy took place on Thursday 18th September. Four BUG members were present along with several other members of the community. Those present took the opportunity to suggest a number of additions to strengthen the strategy, especially in regard to traffic calming works and planning applications. It was also agreed that the strategy would need to be reviewed before the elapse of ten years – preferably after no more than five years. Additional written submissions were also invited but needed to be in very quickly. The strategy will go to Council for approval during October.

Julia Blunden

Minutes of Boroondara BUG Meeting Wednesday 10th September 2008

Held at Swinburne, Hawthorn Campus, Room TD244

MINUTES

Present: Jason den Hollander, John Bales, Julia Blunden, John Parker, Glennys Jones, Graham Ellis, Graeme Stone, Peter Campbell

Apologies: Don Glasson, Phil Crohn, David Mann, Betty Weeks

Correspondence: Flyers for the Wilderness Bike Ride: Bairnsdale to Orbost in a day, Saturday 1, Sunday 2nd and Monday 3rd November, received from Wilderness Bike Ride Association.

1. **Darebin Creek – Main Yarra Trail Link:** Julia B reported that the first directions hearing was held on Friday 5/9 and that another is scheduled for 5/12/08. The final hearing will not be held before 1/2/09 and is expected to take 5-7 days. The minister has not as yet made any move to call the matter in but this option is still available.
2. **Gardiners Creek Missing Link:** Graeme S reported that the Markham Reserve Revised Concept Master Plan was presented to Council on Monday 21st September. The proposed new shared path runs along the creek for some distance before ascending to Markham Av. Dogs off-lead areas have been restricted and should not pose a problem

for cyclists using the path. Graeme spoke at the meeting suggesting that when revegetation takes place along the creek a corridor be left to facilitate any future, more direct link in the Gardiners Creek Path. Graeme agreed to include this proposal in a written response to the plan on behalf of the BUG due by Monday 22/9.

3. **M1 Widening:** John P reported that the opportunity for a path alongside the freeway, from the East Malvern Station access bridge to Argyll St, still exists. The York St Bridge is now to be replaced after the M1 widening is complete. There was some discussion of the issue of the new northern approach to the shared bridge to East Malvern Station. It was agreed that the northern approach needs to have a greater capacity than the southern approach as it carries more traffic. Glennys J pointed out that standards have become more stringent since the bridge was originally constructed and this too needs to be taken into account in the design of the new approach. It was agreed that a letter should be written to the top people – Tim Pallas, Minister for Ports and Roads, Michael O’Brien, MLA for Malvern, and John Cunningham, Project Manager for the M1 widening. The letter would be cc’d to the Stonnington CEO. Julia B agreed to draft a letter and circulate it to those present. John P said that he would be attending a meeting about the noise barriers in the hopes of speaking to MPs.
4. **East-West Link and Discovery Ride:** John P and Peter C agreed to meet on Saturday 13/9 to reconnoitre the route for this ride. Julia B asked that details of the ride, including starting place and time and proposed coffee stop, be resolved in time for inclusion in the October BUG newsletter due to go out on Wednesday 1/10.
5. **Web Site Copyright/Licensing Issues:** John P has not yet implemented this.
6. **Trail Names:** John P is still to circulate his proposed list to BUG members.
7. **Promotion of the BUG:**
Business Cards: Jason D’s latest design met with general approval. Jason had printed enough for immediate use but it was agreed to get more professionally printed - 1,000 or 2,000 depending on cost.

Ride to Work Day, Wednesday 15/10: Julia S has received the official poster from BV with space to include details of the Camberwell event. Graeme S agreed to collect and distribute some of these to businesses in the Camberwell Junction area with assistance from John P. Julia B has emailed information to surrounding BUGs and clubs for inclusion in their newsletters. BUG members planning to attend the Camberwell event are: Graeme S, John P, John B and Julia B. Jason D urged all who are planning to take part in RTW day to register with BV to go in the draw for prizes including bikes.

8. **Family Fun Day Wattle Park, Sunday 14/9:** Graham E reported that he and Julia B would be helping to staff the Whitehorse Cyclist stall between 11am and 4pm and handing out Boroondara TravelSmart maps and the new BUG business cards. Phil C will be leading an MBTC ride to the festival.
9. **Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre Sustainability Expo, Sunday 9th November:** Phil C will be leading an MBTC ride to this. Peter C suggested that it would be good to have a leaflet promoting the East-West Link to hand out on the day.
10. **BAC Meeting:** Those members present expressed dissatisfaction about a number of aspects of the way the BAC meetings are conducted. Changes suggested included: starting the meeting earlier to allow more time; asking Heinz Kreutz to chair the meetings; earlier receipt of agendas; having site visits arranged or getting prior notice of planned works so we can visit sites ourselves; arranging for BUG members to be present on site when some works, eg traffic calming works, are carried out. Julia B agreed to approach Heinz Kreutz about chairing the BAC meetings and to draft a letter to Jim H outlining the above suggested changes. John B and John P agreed to make a site visit to the Yarra Trail at Willow Gv to consider Jim Hondrakis’ proposed changes here.
11. **Boroondara Bicycle Strategy:** The final public consultation is scheduled for Thursday 18/9, 7-8.30pm in the Boroondara Room at the Camberwell Council Offices. It was agreed that in this limited time we will not be able to go into every detail. John P agreed to compare the two tables of recommendations with the BUG submission asap and to circulate key points to BUG members. John P also agreed to put information about the strategy on the BUG web site and to upload the pdf file containing the latest draft.
12. **Change of Meeting day:** John B and Graham E have both requested that a change of meeting day be considered. The second Thursday of the month was suggested as a possible option. No final decision was made. The October meeting will take place on the second Wednesday as usual.
13. **Council Elections:** These are due in November. It was agreed that our survey of candidates will include three questions: one relating to the Darebin Creek – Yarra link; one relating to funding for cycling infrastructure; and one open-ended question about their ideas for promoting cycling in Boroondara. Julia B agreed to draft the questions and circulate them for approval.
14. **Anniversary Trail:** The detour route between High St and the Ashburton Station western car park remains extremely unsatisfactory, with the potential to cause accidents to cyclists using it in particular. Glennys J reported on a meeting she attended with the foreman of the works at the High St site and a VicTrack representative. The foreman was extremely hostile, and only minor improvements have been made. Glennys learned that the construction firm is

paying \$177 per day while the trail is closed so there is an incentive to re-open it as speedily as possible. Council has shown no interest in the issue to date. It was suggested that Glennys contact the Progress Leader in the hopes of getting publicity for the issue.

15. **Treasurer's Report:** Graeme S reported that the BUG's bank account currently stands at \$1,463.

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@au.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

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

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

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