

BOROONDARA

Bicycle Users Group

Newsletter August 2009

Boroondara BUG meetings are normally held on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Our next meeting is on Thursday 6th August. It will be held in the function room at the Elgin Inn, cnr 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 Victoria, Bicycle Federation of Australia 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 very occasional 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 this newsletter are embarked upon at your own risk.

Features

Cycling in Canberra

If you're planning a trip to our national capital don't forget to take your bike. Canberra is well set up for utility cycling and has at least a few good recreational routes as well. You can even transport your bike on the front of the Action Buses which run on the intertown routes. Two bikes can be carried per bus and we saw several sitting securely on the racks provided during our stay.

On our recent mid-winter visit my hopes of clear, sunny though chilly days were not realised as the city, along with most of south-eastern Australia, experienced lashing winds and rain. However on the one day that was a little milder we seized the opportunity to ride around Lake Burley Griffin, or most of it at any rate. We started at Acton on the northern shore where we were staying and rode in an anticlockwise direction. The route is all off-road and very easy to follow. As a member of one of the several groups of mature aged cyclists we passed along the way said, 'just keep left'.

The first sights we saw were the rather gross buildings of the National Museum on the Acton Peninsula. Then gratifyingly soon we seemed to be out of the city altogether. After passing through a cork oak plantation and some forest newly planted since the 2001 fires, we found a vantage point with a seat from which we could enjoy a distant view of Yarralumla on the opposite shore. Shortly after crossing the Scrivener Dam, which holds back the waters of the lake, there's a lookout that provides closer views of Government House and its grounds.

The path moves away from the lake shore to skirt the extensive grounds of, and the entrance to, Government House. Next it passes through a very pleasant arboretum to Yarralumla Nursery, next to which is a charming heritage café, where we enjoyed refreshments at the outdoor tables during a well-timed sunny break. The proprietor informed us that groups often come from Sydney for the day just to ride round the lake.

It's possible to return to Acton via the Commonwealth Avenue Bridge. Alternatively you can continue round the Central Basin, and if you wish take in some of the main tourist attractions, such as the National Library, Questacon, the High Court and the National and Portrait Galleries along the way, crossing to the north shore via the Kings Avenue Bridge, and returning

to Acton past the Carillion, all off-road. It's also possible to continue around the East Basin, and across the Jerrambomberra Wetlands to the north shore, however I gave up on this when I ran out of bike path and found myself in the midst of a massive building site. The complete circuit of the lake would be around 40km. Had the weather been better the other ride I would have liked to tackle is a circuit to the north taking in Lake Ginninderra. We spotted the path passing overhead as we drove out to Belconnen.

It was interesting to note that during our stay two cycling-related controversies featured in the *Canberra Times*. One related to green paint on bike lanes which is much in evidence. Some correspondents were very unhappy about the cost of this, which they said was \$100 per metre. Defenders pointed out that the claimed \$800,000 spent so far over a period of about 8 years was hardly huge by the standards of road construction budgets. The other issue was a proposal for an additional pedestrian/cycle bridge over Lake Burley Griffin, I think from the tip of the Acton Peninsula to the nearest point on the south shore. This is intended as some kind of monument to immigration. Presumably it would be very convenient for walkers and cyclists, however it is strongly opposed both by boaties and defenders of Walter Burley Griffin's heritage.

Various helpful publications are available.

From the Canberra and Region Visitors Centre crcv@act.gov.au I obtained two useful free brochures:

- *See yourself cycling around the lake*, with a good map of the route around Lake BG
- *Bike 'n ride* which provides all the relevant information about taking bikes on buses

From Pedal Power, the ACT equivalent of Bicycle Victoria, <http://www.pedalpower.org.au/> I bought online:

- *The Canberra & Queanbeyan Cycling & Walking Map*, a giant map of the entire metropolitan area, similar to TravelSmart maps but without much public transport information, \$7.70
- *Cycle Canberra*, Pedal Power's own quite substantial local and regional cycling guide, now only \$10 while stocks last.

Julia Blunden

Opinion

Harry Barber's talk at Darebin BUG

Recently Harry Barber, the CEO of Bicycle Victoria, presented in a beautifully lucid way the cycle boom in Melbourne (and Victoria and Sydney). He showed the huge increase in commuting cyclists documented by yearly counts. He went through the highlights of the history of cycling in Melbourne particularly the development of bike tracks on and off road. He showed the example of the Yarra trail, a remnant of which can be seen near the city, a very narrow path. It is hard to believe it caused so much controversy at the time. St Kilda road gained an on-road path early but when the city recently tried to put in a Copenhagen lane the minister for transport Pallas blocked it in favour of car traffic.

He described the four by four classification of cycling: commuting /recreational, intense/relaxed. So that we consider intense commuters who go fast and for relatively long distance e.g. 10 km, relaxed commuters who may go just 2-3 km, and similarly for recreational cyclists (but longer distances). And many cyclists will be in more than one of these groups. In 10 years the intense commuters will treble but the local area cyclists, now low in number, has the greatest growth potential, and represents the greatest number of cyclists in Holland and Denmark. They include going to the local shops, cafeterias, bars, schools and friends, station, bus stop and work.

A man in a suit in the financial district of the city is increasingly likely to have cycled in wearing lycra and showered at work (look at NAB's new Melbourne bike facilities). And on the weekends he plays the new golf- road cycling. He can be out and back before the kids wake up and then spend time with his family.

Harry stressed the social benefits of recreational cycling as it is usually done in groups. Cycling also stimulates the economy of shopping strips as many more bikes can be parked in one car parking space, increasing the numbers of people visiting the shops.

Good facilities for cyclists separated from car traffic will increase the number of cyclists. Examples included the present on road and off road cycle lanes, the Copenhagen treatment, modifications of these with 2 way separate or Copenhagen lanes, replacing the concrete barriers of the Copenhagen lanes with painted lines and ripple strips at a fraction of the cost. He gave local, Sydney and overseas examples.

Cycling to stations enlarges the radius of the area around the station that people will travel from their homes to 3km from the 600m for walking. Only 20% of train patrons get to the station by car, but enormous resources are spent on car parking. Cycle parking with the Parketeer modules is much cheaper and compact. And the Parketeer modules could be used in carparks at

large shopping centres for the employees, and at bus stops like the Doncaster park and ride. A cyclist would pay a \$50 refundable deposit and use a swipe card to enter the facility, with no actual parking charges.

He showed that cycling is getting safer with no significant increase in serious injury or death despite the boom in cycling numbers. But cyclists must obey the road rules. Cyclists going through red lights makes car drivers resentful and thinking that cyclists regard themselves above the law, and cyclists without lights at night are thought to be idiots. These 2 major infringements should be policed and the penalties are now equivalent to those of car drivers. This should increase the "legitimacy" of cyclists to share the roads with cars. Of course helmet wearing reduces serious head injury but the effort should be in prevention of the accidents.

Someone asked about insurance. As most serious cycling accidents are with moving cars they are covered by TAC (or in some instances Workcover). However that leaves the other accidents without any insurance cover unless especially bought by the cyclist. NZ has a universal "TAC", and hopefully it will come here too.

The issue of shared paths was raised. They are very unsuitable for the more moderately used routes, and can be disastrous as shown by the accident in Eltham when a cyclist went onto the grass to avoid 2 school girls with their bags, fell in a hidden culvert, and suffered a fatal high cervical fracture. Shared paths should not be used for commuting cyclists, or for recreational cyclists except on sparsely used paths, and this is realised at high levels in the government bureaucracies, but it is taking a long time for planners to change outcomes.

The PBN was originally conceived as a grid. There were drawbacks with unsuitable roads being included. The new PBN concept is a pattern of overlapping spiderwebs of 10km in radius, e.g. with the CBD, principal and major activity centres at the "centre". This will cater for the 2 groups of commuter cyclists more realistically than the older PBN plan. (Perhaps we should be thinking about spiderweb centred on the Austin-Mercy).

Although there were only 2 Austin-Mercy BUG members at the meeting, our presence was most appreciated. Most of the audience were from Darebin BUG who organised the meeting, and several from surrounding BUGs including Banyule.

Thanks to John Merory for this summary and to Maurie Abbott for passing it on.

Trail Notes

Gardiners Creek Path Open Again

The dreaded detour is no more. Gardiners Creek Path between Great Valley Road and Tooronga Rd has re-opened at last. Hooray!

East Malvern Station Bridge

The East Malvern Station Bridge is also due to re-open on Thursday 20th August. The time has not yet been confirmed. There will be a government minister, possibly Tim Pallas, present so it would be good to have lots of cyclists there as well. It's a great opportunity to promote BBUG/Whitehorse Cyclists and cycling in general to the community and to the Government.

A Parkiteer bike shed has been installed at East Malvern Station and will be open for business soonish. Another good reason for the Golfers Choice path currently being promoted by Boroondara BUG. If you don't know what a Parkiteer bike shed is check out <http://www.bv.com.au/bicycle-parking/43422/>

Deer Park Bypass Wellness Trail

A new 9km trail is now open alongside the Deer Park Bypass which runs from Sunshine West to Caroline Springs. The trail, which features six rest stops decorated with mosaics, was developed by VicRoads and Leighton Contractors in partnership with creative arts therapist Carolyn Noel and patients from the Adult Mental Health Rehabilitation Unit at Sunshine Hospital. VicRoads has released a guide to the path and its mosaics. You can check it out at www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/deerparkbypass

Eltham Aqueduct Trail

A 700m addition to the Eltham Aqueduct Trail, linked to Allendale Rd by a short path alongside Godber Rd, now provides an all off-road link from the Diamond Creek Path. Unfortunately the very demanding hill climb up Allendale Rd to reach Godber Rd has not been eliminated!

Events

Last Chance to Complete City of Melbourne BikeScope Survey

You have one more day to complete this survey and tell the City of Melbourne what you think of the cycling facilities they provide. The results of this survey will be presented to the City of Melbourne and will help inform their future planning.

Go into the draw to win a \$200 Village Cinemas Gold Class Gift Card, or if you are a Bicycle Victoria Member you can go into the draw to win an Apple 16Gb 3Gs iPhone* valued at \$879

This survey will close on Friday 7 August 2009. You can find it at

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=E8Tk8CbLe_2fPwRpjQFvnHpQ_3d_3d%20

Don't miss this opportunity to tell the City of Melbourne what you think of the bike route along Southbank, the links between Southbank and the Sandridge Trail, and the route through Docklands, just to mention a few.

Huge UNO Cycling Clothing Clearance Sale

Knicks with piping for only \$30, Windvests for only \$15, Rain jackets from \$30! Spray jackets for \$15, UNO unisex Wind Executive RRP \$89.95 reduced to clear at \$65, UNO unisex Combo (Sleeves zip off to leave you with a raglan sleeve jersey) RRP \$99.95 reduced to clear at \$80.

Available at this price from today, till sold out. Stock available at these prices in any of our three stores and on the web.

Cycling & Sports Clothing Outlet, Specialising in Cycling Clothing

53 Glenhuntly Rd, Elwood, Vic 3184 03 9531 0069

Elwood@CyclingSports.com.au

642 Nepean Hwy, Carrum, Vic 3197 03 9773 2433

Carrum@CyclingSports.com.au

102 Union Rd, Surrey Hills, Vic 3127 03 9836 6585

SurreyHills@CyclingSports.com.au

Come and visit us on the Web www.CyclingSports.com.au

Boroondara Discovery Ride No 3 - Camberwell, Kew, Willsmere Wander - Sunday 6 September.

The old Outer Circle rail trail provides a good route between Camberwell and Kew, and thence the Main Yarra Trail, and potentially across the Yarra to Alphington. However the off road trails don't necessarily connect with each other, or to your exact destination, so inevitably you end up riding part of your trip either on potentially dangerous busy roads or illegally on footpaths.

Join members of Boroondara BUG and Melbourne Bicycle Touring Club, exploring alternative routes along back roads and drainage reserves, through the suburbs of Willsmere, Kew and East Kew.

Meet 9:30am Sunday 6 September at a bakery in Maling Road, Canterbury, where we'll enjoy a compulsory morning coffee stop, compliments of the Boroondara BUG. Note that Canterbury Station, which has lots of parking, is close by. Lunch will be a picnic at Willsmere Park, so BYO supplies or buy takeaways before we leave Maling Road. Total distance only about 20 km, but with lots of stopping and talking along the way the ride will take several hours.

Contact: Phil Crohn, 9836 3329.

Books

Bike Rides around Melbourne 3

The 3rd edition of *Bike Rides around Melbourne: Exploring Melbourne by Bike and Train* by Julia Blunden will soon be available. It contains 40 rides, 4 of them completely new, as well as major and minor updates to many of the old rides. Bicycle Victoria members can order online now via their Blink account at a special member discount. The book will be available in book shops, outdoor shops and bike shops from mid-August.

General News

Darebin – Yarra Link

VCAT has handed down its decision in favour of the link! Well done Parks Victoria and all who have supported them.

The VCAT hearing resumed at last on Monday 20th July. Parks Victoria confirmed that the agreement with La Trobe Golf Club had been finalised and only required the minister's signature, so the Golf Club would not be appearing as objectors. A number of experts spoke and answered questions. These included a representative from Melbourne Water, the landscape designer for the trail, a town planner and two different experts on ecological issues. Council staff spoke on behalf of Banyule and Yarra Councils but Boroondara was represented by a barrister.

There were several objectors. Tony Michael and the Friends of Willsmere Park were represented by a barrister and Judith Voce represented herself. Professor Greg O'Brien spoke on behalf of a number of Alphington residents who are opposed to the trail; a representative of the Guide Dogs Association spoke about problems they are having due to the increasing number of cyclists using the trail past their property; the Principal of Alphington Grammar spoke, solely about the need for a different, more secure type fencing where the path passes the school; another resident from the north of the Yarra spoke about the problems for Alphington residents accessing the trail now that the Farm Rd access has been deleted from the current plans. I did my best to put the case for both cyclists and walkers who will benefit from the link.

A decision was not expected for about 4 to 6 weeks from the conclusion of the hearing. But thankfully we do not have to wait that long after all.

Julia Blunden

Boroondara News

Minutes of Boroondara BUG Meeting Thursday 9th July 2009

Elgin Inn, Hawthorn

Present:, Julia Blunden, Glennys Jones, Graeme Stone, John Parker, Graham Ellis, Malcolm Faul, Peter Campbell, Phil Crohn, David Leong, Ken Morrison

Apologies: Betty Weeks, Don Glasson, Alister Huth

Guest: Cr David Bloom, Cotham Ward

Correspondence:

- Sundry communications from Council re the rescheduling of the report on the HA Smith Reserve Concept Master Plan to the Special Services Committee meeting at 6pm on Monday 20 July. (Julia B urged members to attend to ask that the car park under the M1 not be opened before the new footbridge across Gardiners Creek)
- Acknowledgement of John P's submission regarding the Balwyn Structure Plan
- Letter from Office of the Minister for Public Transport, confirming that cyclists' needs will be addressed as part of the rail extension to south Morang, and also giving reasons why a feasibility study for the Eastern Rail Trail will not be funded
- Email from Colleen Hartland explaining that while the 10c container deposit bill narrowly won in the Upper House, the Government has stopped it being debated in the Lower House
- Follow-up email from Colleen re similar bill being introduced in the Senate (**Julia B** offered to recirculate the BUG submission to Minister Gavin Jennings with a view to sending it to the Senate enquiry)
- COB Library Service Community Information System Update Form (Julia B has updated and returned the form)
- Amended expert reports for the Lower Darebin Creek Trail from Blake Dawson (PV's lawyers)
- Flyer from Snowy River Cycling

Matters Arising:

1. **Gardiners Creek Missing Link - Golfers Choice Shared Path:** At the re-opening of the Glen Iris wetlands John P spoke to Bob Stensholt, MLA for Burwood about this and found him supportive. Glennys J also received a favourable response to her letter to Tim Pallas.
2. **East Malvern Station Bridge:** Glennys J reported that this will not reopen until some time in August.

3. **Anniversary Trail at High Street:** **Glennys J** reported that this is still a construction site. She also offered to check whether the new building has a door opening onto the trail, and if so to ascertain whether Council or VCAT is responsible for allowing this and to alert them to the danger and suggest measures to minimize this.
4. **Web Site Copyright/Licensing Issues:** Peter C reported that the Wikipedia has moved to a 'creative commons' licence which would be suitable for use on our web site. This permits others to reproduce the content so long as they acknowledge its source. **Peter and John P** will jointly implement this.
5. **Trail Names:** Due to further thoughts about involving Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority (ESTA), the body responsible for the emergency signs being erected on trails, no letter has been sent as yet. **Julia B** agreed to revise and circulate a letter to go to Parks Victoria, VicRoads, Bicycle Victoria and ESTA urging that one or more of them take the initiative in developing and registering a standard set of trail names for the state as a matter of some urgency. However it was agreed that Jim Hondrakis' plans for signage on Boroondara's off-road trails cannot wait for this.
6. **Next Boroondara Discovery Ride:** Phil C reported that while MBTC insurance will not cover riders it will cover the leader and agreed to take on this role. Publicity for the ride will need to make clear the lack of cover for riders unless they are BV members. **Malcolm F and Phil** are still finalizing details of the route. It was agreed that the route needs to be a circuit with car parking available at the start/finish. A suitable coffee stop also needs to be identified.

New Business

1. **Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting 26/6:** Minutes of this meeting have not yet been circulated. Julia B reported on some of the issues covered:
 - The Yarra Bend par 3 golf course is to be closed and one proposed use of the site is as a mountain bike course . **Glennys J** agreed to check what stage consultation on this has reached with a view to a possible BUG submission in support of the mountain bike option.
 - With the planned construction of a number of new pedestrian crossings on shared paths the issue of the legal status of cyclists riding across these will become more pressing. There are various ways round the problem but the best solution would be a change to state law. Nationwide agreement is apparently out of the question.
2. **Ride2Work Day:** It was agreed that the BUG should participate again as we did last year and that last year's format was generally successful. **Julia B** agreed to check for notes of the debriefing with Julia Smith last year. She also agreed to contact Jim Hondrakis and Yee Huynh to remind them of the need to register the community breakfast with BV, and to affirm the BUG's interest in participating again.
3. **Meeting Invitations:** It was agreed that no guests would be invited to our next meeting.
4. **Chicanes:** Ken M raised the problem of the chicanes in Caravan St, Balwyn. **Graeme S** agreed to include these in his list of 'ten worst chicanes' which he is re-sending to Jim H.

Other Business

1. **Eastern Rail Trail (ERT):** Peter C raised the issue of the Springvale Rd grade separation and the expected very poor provision for cyclists. Graeme S said that it is probably too late for any changes to the plans now but details of the consultation process should be on the VicRoads Eastern Projects web site. **(Who is going to check this?) Peter C** said that he intends to form a committee of those interested in the ERT. **Julia B** agreed to send him contact details for both Hawthorn and Whitehorse people she knows who may be interested to join.
2. **Event at Maranoa Gardens:** Phil C reported that there is to be an event at Maranoa Gardens, possibly Sunday 16/8. (I couldn't find any mention of this on Council's web site.) It was agreed that while this does not seem relevant to the BUG all such events should be seen as opportunities to distribute TravelSmart maps.

Next meeting: Thursday 13th August.

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

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

Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre

Phone: 9890 2467

Email: info@surreyhillsnc.org.au

Website: www.surreyhillsnc.org.au

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

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/>

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

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