

## Moreland BUG Committee Meeting

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2008  
7pm – 7:30pm  
Edinburgh Castle Hotel, Brunswick

Present
Anna Ross Millward Alisa Rod Toby Geoff Veena Phuong

- Meetings north of Brunswick
- One or two meetings a year in the north; aim to have three rides around the north
  - meetings north of Brunswick: March 26<sup>th</sup> 2009, September 24<sup>th</sup> 2009
  - one scheduled ride and a couple of audit rides to explore the north
- Accidents and first aid
- MorelandBUG insurance is Public Liability, so probably won't cover extra costs for Pauline's accident
- ACTION : Moreland BUG to buy a first aid kit
- Cheque book
- Phuong to become a signatory for the cheque book
- Phuong to take paperwork to Westpac and fill out the "Details of Persons Authorised" section

# Moreland BUG November Meeting

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2008  
7:30pm – 9:30pm  
Edinburgh Castle Hotel, Brunswick

Present	Apologies
Anna Ross M Alisa Rod Toby Geoff Veena Katie Christine Campbell Paul Julia Moz Phuong Bill Carmelina Nicholas	Peter Clare Ruth Graeme Cross

## 1. Christine Campbell, Guest Speaker

“Cycling in the Pascoe Vale Electorate” report

The aim of the exercise was to put a range of cycling issues raised in the Pascoe Vale area over a period of time together in one document. (Copies have gone to Bicycle Victoria, Moreland City Council, VicRoads CEO, Minister's Office, Regional Manager, and the public servant bureaucrat doing public cycling strategy has got a copy of the report.)

The report was compiled by a parliamentary intern from Monash who topped her class.

The report outlines the cycling demographic of the electorate and research states cycling in Moreland has increased. Paul gave lots of information on health and others contributed various information that was incorporated into the report.

### Recommendations from the report:

- Upfield shared pathway is an important priority. Sydney Road also an important priority.
- Designated bicycle lanes during Clearway hours on Sydney Road – Christine has spoken to VicRoads. VicRoads has recognised Christine has championed the cycle lane during the clearway, they recognise Sydney Road as part of the cycling networks, Sydney Road is suitable for cycling. During a site inspection with Christine and VicRoads, it has been confirmed that Sydney Road is predominantly as wide as, or wider than Mount Road, which boasts a bike lane.
- Moonee Ponds bike path to be prioritised after the Sydney Road Clearways bicycle lane.
- Merri Creek Trail needs work too. Priority in the next 12 months.
- Bike parking at Pascoe Vale and Glenroy Stations
- Christine is in chats with Google to try and get bike paths on Google Maps. Information on cycling in Victoria is also in the process of being compiled on the Vic Gov cycling network.

### Comments:

BUG members raised the issue of the rail crossings on O’Hea St, which will require cyclists to leave the bike path and cross the road, cross the train tracks then cross the road again on the other side to get back to the bike path. Moreland Council has tried to fix this situation so that cyclists wouldn’t need to leave the path but MainCo has refused this option (despite being a contractor to Connex rather than a Government body).

MorelandBUG: Is the Sydney Road Clearways bicycle lane is going to be enforced?

Christine: If Moreland BUG wants to write to council to have a parking officer to enforce the clearways, Christine will write a letter to support the proposal.

MorelandBUG: Local Council has explicitly said they will not enforce the Clearways. This might potentially be an issue for the Sydney Road Clearways Bicycle Lane.

MorelandBUG thinks both Sydney Road and Upfield path are equally important for cyclists as bicycle routes.

Rod and Paul offered to show Christine a bridge/bicycle path.

Paul says some Google people are doing a test drive of Vancouver bike paths to do the "to" and "from" bike.

## **2. O'hea Street update (Anna)**

Traffic Engineers at council interpreted AustRoad standards as saying that give way signs should face cyclists. Paul, Toby, Anna met with councillors to find out whether it can be resolved to turn signs away from cyclists. Outcomes:

- Cr Kathleen Mathews-Ward resolved to raise the issue at the next council meeting to call for a Council report, which was subsequently done
- Council officers resolved to contract consultants to investigate alternative solutions for the site, and to assess council's legal obligations and potential risks.

BUG argued that a risk assessment needs to be done using Australian Standards, and that site visits should be conducted in which consultants and council officers would cycle down O'hea St of an evening to experience issues first-hand.

At this point, MorelandBUG wants to be a part of every step of the consultation process to put across views of cyclists on this issue.

Primary school on O'hea St - 85% either walk or ride to school.

It was suggested that MorelandBUG write a letter to Council outlining concerns re O'Hea St, including the issue of motorists getting confused with Give Way signs – some think that, driving down O'hea St, they need to give way to side streets. At night, signs are reflective and it becomes a lot more confusing. Cyclists also do not see these signs very well in the evenings either as bicycle lights are often not strong enough to light up the signs. It was pointed out that Moreland BUG has already written a letter to Council on this issue, which led to the meeting with Council; however, this letter did not raise the issue of cyclists being unable to see the give way signs from a reasonable distance at night.

### To think about:

How do we avoid these dilemmas in the future? AS 2360 (Australian Standard for Risk Management) is often quoted by Councillors/Engineers, who often don't appear to understand what this standard contains. Councillors and staff who understand the issues for sustainable transport are generally quite separate from the traffic engineers who actually make the decisions.

### Motion:

For MorelandBUG to get a copy of AS 2360.

Proposed: Paul

Seconded: Anna

Passed.

### Action:

- MorelandBUG to purchase a copy of AS 2360.

## **3. Disabled Ramp at Anstey Station (Rod)**

A few weeks ago workers were digging around the footpath where the bicycle path currently runs. The workers say it is for a disabled ramp.

Current allowances: 2m footpath to the East of Anstey Station entrance/exit, plus 2.5m bike path – where does the disabled ramp go?

Action:

Nicholas will investigate!

#### **4. Local Government Elections (Anna)**

Candidates survey. Media release was sent out with overview highlighting worst responses. Unfortunately, no local media covered the results.

Side note:

Toby raised concerns about participating in this discussion (Toby is running as a candidate in the election). MorelandBUG's response: MorelandBUG is happy for all candidates to participate in MorelandBUG meetings and would like to encourage more candidates to do so.

Elections are on this Saturday.

Key points:

- we have information to help members decide who to vote for
- we have clear commitments from candidates around cycling issues

Side discussion:

It was noted that councils are receiving funds from Federal Govt for infrastructure projects. Bill proposed that Moreland spend its money on bicycle bridges across the Merri Creek.

It was expected that this would not be possible because government requires that proposals must be ready and waiting to be built in order to utilise the money from the stimulus package.

Action:

MorelandBUG is to start campaigning and lobbying Councilors ASAP for 2009/10 budgets.

#### **5. 2009 Rides Calendar (Veena)**

Group congratulated Veena for her work – ride list looks fantastic.

Currently one ride every month (social rides suitable for young children) plus an additional monthly fitness ride.

Rides to go up on MorelandBUG website quarterly plus BV website

There is a ride combined with other BUGs – Darebin Bug and Moonee BUG

Short ride for 15<sup>th</sup> December 2008 – starting in Brunswick with lunch at Belgian Beer Cafe

Ride leaders need to be found (24 rides)

My Mountain on Lygon St has been doing shop rides quite similar to MorelandBUG. There may be an option to combine rides with them if we are short of volunteers (need to discuss with My Mountain).

Action:

- Veena will email Phuong with information on rides as they come up.
- Phuong to place information of the final ride in 2008 plus 2009's first quarter's rides on the MorelandBUG calendar
- People to contact Veena if they are keen to help out on rides and/or to lead rides
- Anna to contact My Mountain to discuss joint rides opportunities

#### **6. Cycling Promotion Fund Awards**

MorelandBUG is being nominated for an award

If anyone wants to help Anna put together the nomination, please contact her.

Nominations close 19<sup>th</sup> December

Action:

Anna will send email out to list to ask for help

## **7. Update from Committee Meeting**

Re: Insurance/Accidents

- We have public liability and professional indemnity insurance, not personal injury or damage to personal property. Individuals' BV insurance can cover these.
- MorelandBUG will purchase a first aid kit and take it on rides but MorelandBUG recommends cyclists to get insurance with Bicycle Victoria.
- Note: anyone attending a bike ride with MorelandBUG is doing so at their own risk.

Re: Meetings in 2009

- 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month. Considerations have been made to change the day to make it easier for others to attend, but Thursday still seems to be the easiest day for most people to attend.
- MorelandBUG will no longer alternate meeting locations.
- Most meetings will be held at the Edinburgh Castle Hotel in the little room through the courtyard, except in March and September where meetings will be held in the North.

### **Action:**

Moreland BUG to purchase a first aid kit to take on rides

Phuong to add future meeting times and locations to the MorelandBUG calendar

## **8. Council Updates (Nicholas)**

\$711,000 cycling budget was allocated by Moreland Council. Below is a list of items the Council has been working on and will be spending money from the budget on:

Merri Creek Trail

- Concrete path from western ring road to Fawkner
- Widening the path in Brunswick (south of Moreland through to Sumner Park), also north of CERES. As part of this process, planning permits and cultural heritage surveys will need to be paid for using the cycling budget
- Low-lying bridges to be replaced at Broadhurst Avenue and Hammersley Court
- Tenders have been called for designing improved crossing at Blyth St and ramp south of electricity station

Upfield Shared Path

- Coburg station (state government money to improve bike path)
- Design to continue path from Box Forest Rd to Western Ring Rd (Applied for VicRoads funding, but will probably miss this year's – probably next year)
- Looking to improve fencing
- Lighting new section between Boundary Rd & Box Forest Rd
- Calling for design of crossing at Truscott St and Brunswick Road
- Dawson x Pearson x Grantham intersection

Assessing specific options for one way streets.

Green lane treatments (VicRoads funding) – Royal Pde, Brunswick Road intersection

Sydney Rd bike lane

The old Video Ezy site tender has been awarded to Elliot Fishman for a bike shop/cafe

Newlands Road has bike lanes on the top section

Increased bike parking to be installed at the Edinburgh Castle Hotel, Brunswick Baths - more suggestions are welcome. Please email Nicholas Elliot on:

nelliott [at] moreland.vic.gov.au (replace "[at]" with "@" symbol)

PH: 9240 1294

Tender has been awarded for O'hea St.

Note:

Futsal Soccer (Victoria St) has put in a massive amount of bicycle parking that is now always being used. It is suggested that they might have done so by choice. If so, MorelandBUG could positively recognise their contribution.

#### **9. Other items:**

##### **– Car Parking issue north of Jewel Train Station (Phuong)**

Riding north along the Upfield bicycle path, north of Jewel Station, past Union St intersection, just as you get off Railway Place, a motor vehicle has been parked very close, if not on, the Upfield bike path. There is currently allocated/reserved parking for the business/warehouse on that corner, but a vehicle has been parking to the north of that last signed allocated parking spot.

It was confirmed that the vehicle parked there has indeed been parking illegally.

Can a sign be placed to mark the end of the allocated parking spaces or a white line be painted signaling the bicycle lane to encourage motorists to not park on the bicycle lane in future?

Nicholas has been chasing VicTrack regarding the issue and will continue to do so.

#### **November meeting closed**

#### **Next meeting:**

7:30pm – 9:30pm

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2009

Edinburgh Castle Hotel (681 Sydney Road, Brunswick, VIC)