

# WOBBLY WHEELS

Darebin BUG Mid-week Riders' Blog



## LOCKED DOWN AND COMPLETELY WOBBLY

We only managed two rides before we were locked down. The Saturday riders did not get out at all. Let us hope next month sees a return to riding.

## BRIGHTON BEACH 3 AUGUST

Got a surprise call at 8am to ask me if I could lead the ride instead of Nola. It was my first group ride on my new electric bike. A small group of 7 turned up for the ride so we were within the Covid rules. We set off taking Capital City Trail to morning tea at Ron Barrasi Snr Park at the western end of Docklands in the shadow of the Bolte bridge. Pam Styles left the ride after morning tea leaving 6 riders.

It was then back onto the Capital City Trail and around the back of the South Wharf shopping centre to join the Sandridge Rail Trail at the tram depot. Bruce Jager left the ride at the band stand at Port Melbourne. The 5 remaining riders had a fairly easy wind assisted ride on the Bay Trail to lunch at the pavilion in the Brighton Beach Gardens.

There was a light shower just as we set off after lunch but it was short. The return trip on Bay Trail was against a substantial wind. I was thankful for the assistance from my new bike. At St Kilda we went to the back streets to try

to get out some shelter from the wind but wind was still fairly strong. Afternoon tea was at Southbank. Almost everything was closed. A bit of searching found that coffee was available at the Lindt chocolate shop. Roger's iced chocolate was on the expensive side but he gave it a high rating.

Ian



### STEELE CREEK TRAIL 5 AUGUST

Eight riders set off from our meeting place, Andrew, Bruce, Roger, David, Ian H, Colin, James and Roy. I had nine booked to ride but Wolter called me at the last minute to cancel. Wolter's dog had become ill overnight and needed to be seen by his Vet. I checked with Wolter the following day and the dog is now okay.

The weather was fine but cool when we set off along Westgarth Street and Merri Parade towards the Inner Circle Path.

We left the Inner Circle Path at Park Street and continued down it to Brunswick Road. Crossing Brunswick Road we did a little wiggle around a back street before crossing the creek and joining the Moonee Ponds Creek Path.

In my reconnaissance the week before I crossed a section of path just before the Cross Keys football ground where the surface was loose stones. This week we were forced to detour around this section which was now being resurfaced. Rejoining the path we continued on to Boeing Reserve where we stopped for morning tea.



After morning tea it was the climb from the bike path to Airport West Shopping Town along Mascoma Street before crossing the railway

on a pedestrian bridge we made our way through back streets to the top of Keilor Road. After passing Penleigh/Essendon Grammar we joined the Steele Creek path. This path is a very pretty ride beside the creek through bush land with lots of wattle out in flower.

Arriving at the old Niddrie Quarry site, which is now a picturesque lake and housing development, the group had a choice of two short rides. One was a gentle ride around the lake the other a climb of between 10% and 14% to a lookout. Three of us, Colin, Ian and I took the hard choice and rode up to the look out.





Continuing, we joined the Maribyrnong path as it climbs Afton Street hill. After descending the hill we crossed the river and stopped for lunch.



After lunch we continued down the Maribyrnong. Just before the path crosses a series of bridges over canals linking the river to Edgewater Marina, we turned right and went around the lake/marina on the western side. Part way along is an information board explaining the history of Jack's Powder Magazine that we stopped at to discuss.

I believe, you can get a tour of the magazine by contacting the nearby Living Museum of the West.



We rejoined the main Maribyrnong path just before the Footscray Rowing Club and left it at the Stock Yard bridge to make our way back to Jika via Flemington. Afternoon tea was at Phil's Bakery, where we ran into Glennis. There we read the news of the impending lockdown 6, bugger!

Andrew