

WOBBLY WHEELS

Darebin BUG Mid-week Riders' Blog



Happy New Year to all our riders

Welcome to the first edition of Volume 11 of the Newsletter. This marks the completion of ten years as your editor. I took over from Norm Appleby and by so doing increased his life considerably.

Let us hope that in 2022 we will have none of the cancellations and regulations of last year.

Happy New Year, David

IMPROVISED RIDE 29 DECEMBER 2021

The day lived up to the forecast, which was 24 degrees, sunny and breezy. Chris, Ivan, Patrick, Reg, Costas, Alf, Roy, Carmel and George met up at Rushall Station, and met Pam, Octavio and Aida at Fairfield Station. We took Wingrove St/South Tce to the Darebin Parklands, and the much improved Darebin Creek path, Rathcoun Rd and the footbridge to Bundoora Park. It was a shady and pleasant run up the creek, but we were warm by the time we had climbed Mt Cooper to the Visitors' Centre. Despite the Council website saying the cafe was open for take-aways, it was closed. We went back downhill to Rathcoun Rd, then took McMahon Rd and Royal Pde to the Reservoir shops, Reg leaving us for another distraction. The shops we wanted were all closed, but we found shade and good coffee and focaccias at Dimattina Coffee, in Edwardes St (about half-way from the shopping strip to Edwardes Lake Reserve recommended).

After coffee, we set off south on the Great Western Shimmy. Costas, Alf and Roy left us soon after we straggled across Bell St, pointing out that Oakover Rd connects (more or less) with the rickety footbridge over the Merri Ck at Harding St. Others left along Bracken Ave, and at Beavers Rd those of us who were left went our various ways to Northcote or North Fitzroy. Nobody actually completed a circuit back to Rushall.

George Durbridge.

SATURDAY 1 JANUARY

Forecast for the day was 37 deg. Under the Saturday ride rules we start the ride an hour earlier at 8.30, when the forecast is for 35 deg. or higher. We had 4 riders, braving the conditions.

The plan was to go through Edinburgh Gardens, down Napier St to the MCG and stop at the Tennis Centre, for our toilet stop, then Main Yarra Trail to Abbotsford Convent, for morning tea. All went well until we got to the Tennis Centre where we were stopped by security, preventing access to the area where the toilets were. So down to Hoddle St and onto the Main Yarra Trail.

Temperatures by the river were noticeably cooler and we made good progress, until about Burnley I had a puncture. Advised George to press on while I effected repairs. Soon under way again, I caught up while the others were taking a break near the Bridge Rd bridge. When we came to the Burnley / Kew pedestrian bridge we noticed a new concrete path on the South side of the river and decided to give it a try. The concrete path soon ended and we found ourselves on a single trail through the grass. We stayed with this until we reached the end of

Grosvenor St, then up to South Audrey St and the usual road route to the Abbotsford Convent. Not too bad a ride on New Years Day, not recommended on normal days.

At the Convent we had our refreshments and chatter. Resuming the ride now away from the river and being later in the day the path reflected the heat back in the numerous sunny spots. Judy left us at Yarra Bend Park and we continued on to Rushall. Arriving at 12 noon the news that the temperature was now 35 deg.

David Downing

AD HOC RIDE 4 JANUARY

After checking with Bruce the day before the ride headed to Bruce's for morning tea in his backyard. Bruce had a good chat with lots of the riders.



After a longish visit we headed for lunch at Norris Bank Park, Bundoora via Darebin Creek Trail. The return was via the Darebin Creek Trail. The new section of the trail either side of Bell St was open, so the on-road detour is no longer required.

Ian

Picture Pam Stiles

BOTANIC GARDENS AND SANDRIDGE BEACH 6 JANUARY

An intrepid group of three met for the first Thursday ride in 2022. Weather forecast 29C humid, rain expected with possible storm later in the day.

We agreed that we would ride to the Botanic Gardens for morning tea and then on to Port Melbourne for lunch. We would see how we went with the weather and decide as we went.

We went via the Main Yarra Trail around to the gardens. The Yarra looking very peaceful but quite low in sections. We were lucky with the weather it was cloudy but dry, maybe a little humid but pleasant riding weather.

Works have been carried out on the Main Yarra Trail southside on Alexandra Ave near Como Park. That was the section where the railings had fallen over many months ago. It's safe now and much improved. The path has been widened and new railing installed.

At the Botanic gardens Café, the outside tables and chairs were quite busy, so we perched on the concrete garden borders as in the past. On the lake the water lilies had come out in flower and were looking lovely and there were a few people taking photos, including myself.



Leaving the gardens, we rode across to Swan St for Roger to quickly drop in on Abbotsford Cycles. Weather still dry we continued on to Southbank past the rowing sheds. We turned at Queensbridge St to then turn onto the new separated bike lanes in Whiteman St next to the Casino. On a hot day it was good riding under the shade trees. You can ride straight across that big intersection now to get onto the Sandridge trail. We had our lunch at Sandridge beach sitting at the tables under shelter.



Returning via Westgate Park and Lorimer St, and through the Docklands. Roger peeled off to go to Southern Cross station and George and I continued to Footscray Rd to get onto the Moonee Ponds Creek trail and the Upfield trail.

Still no rain at that point in fact very sunny and the heat had kicked in. Home in the dry for me, the rain came later in the day. Roger reported just missing a big storm at Gisborne with at least one tree down.

Another good ride. Distance at least 47 km.

Report from Sue Hiscock

SATURDAY RIDE 8 JANUARY

Forecast, showers but the radar didn't confirm this. The forecast won, it was a wash out and we gave it away.

MARIBYRNONG, SUNSHINE NORTH, AVONDALE HEIGHTS 11 JANUARY

We had a select group of 6 who weren't holidaying out of town and who weren't put off by a 29 degree forecast. There were Jopie, Roger, Sue H, Ian H, Paul and Pam. Our route took us to some new places, including the new bike path up the Sunshine side of the Maribyrnong, the groovy new set of zigzags dropping down to it, and some pretty lakes in Ascot Vale.

There were a few glitches. Roger came off his bike as he turned to get up to the pipe bridge over the Maribyrnong. A bit shaken, he stoically continued on. I hope he's only got minor bruises and hasn't cracked a rib!





Afternoon coffee was to be at the Boathouse, except that they must have been understaffed as despite having oodles of room, they were only serving those with a booking. On we went to the Racecourse where we did the usual whizz down the hill but someone had built one of those nasty speed humps half way down which wasn't there last time we came through. Both Ian and I hit it at speed and in shock, somehow managed to not come a cropper. The others saw this and were ok. Be warned for future rides!

We got to the alternative coffee stop in Newmarket but by this time it was getting very warm and some were keen to get home so we left Paul and Pam, who was really hanging out for a hit of something, at the cafe to refuel while the rest of us pedalled home.

Jopie

MULLUM MULLUM LOOP 13 JANUARY

It had been more than a decade since I last led a ride for the Darebin BUG during my "gap year" and covid had delayed by return further than intended, with this loop ride postponed at least four times. Now officially retired, I dusted off my Darebin Bug shirt and socks and headed off to Westgarth not expecting anyone to turn up as the forecast was for 33 degrees.

I'd even invited a couple of mates along to try a BUG ride but they both cancelled. Of course, Roger was there before me and ready to go

despite being sore from a fall on the Tuesday. We were soon joined by Ed. Roger rang George but he was getting his booster shot (that old excuse) so, after waiting for a while, we figured it was best to get going to try to avoid the heat of the afternoon.

The run out Finns Reserve along the Main Yarra Trail was uneventful and even the hole in one of the wooden bridges that was there on the Tuesday had been fixed. The picnic tables at Finns Reserve were deserted apart from a woman with a very fat Labrador that insisted on sniffing round under the tables until we finished our morning tea.

I did canvas the idea of short cutting the ride up Ruffey Creek because of the heat and Roger's injury but he wouldn't have it. As we approached Beasleys' Nursery, Ed took us on a slight detour to see the old Templestowe Hillclimb Track, which is definitely worth a visit but incredibly steep.

By the time we reached Mullum Mullum Reserve for lunch the temperature was already 30 degrees. For future reference, the new basketball stadium in the reserve, which has a café, was already open but doesn't seem to have any outdoor seating. Roger filled me in on the Great Wall of Gisborne project at his home but was obviously now in a lot of discomfort.



When we reached Park Road to cut across to the Eastern Freeway and Kororiot Creek Trail, Ed had disappeared ... maybe I would need the first aid kit after all. But he'd only stopped to book an electrician. Hard to get tradespeople at the moment, best answer their calls.

The ride back into town along the freeway is mainly downhill and the path well maintained, which is one of the reasons I like going this way.

I gave Roger the option of skipping Hahndorf's (the chocolate shop) which had been closed on the Tuesday but the prospect of iced chocolate won and was a great reviver. By this stage it was 33 degrees!

By the time we got back to Fairfield and Ed led Roger away to Clifton Hill Railway Station we'd done 55km. It was a nice way to get back into ride leading but I'm going to have to work on slowing down.

Wolter Kuiper

SATURDAY RIDE 15 JANUARY

Forecast was for 24 deg, we were doing the usual Rushall Station to Port Melbourne ride. At 9.30 we headed off with 8 riders and picked up 4 more at Royal Park, now we are 12. The weather was pleasantly warm but in the shade the air was quite cool. An uneventful ride got us to Port Melbourne, where we had our coffee and chatter at Caps.

On our return journey, we had pleasant conditions with intermittent sunshine. We lost 2 riders in the City and the rest pressed on to arrive back at Rushall Station.

David Downing

BOTANIC GARDENS 18 JANUARY

After having a number of hot days, we were lucky to have a mild day for our Tuesday ride. Ten club members arrived for the ride and Roger volunteered to be on tail for the day.

We proceeded to ride down the Yarra trail towards the city and couldn't help but notice how green the landscape was in spite of having a lot of dry weather.

After reaching the Botanic Gardens we walked our bikes into the picnic area next to the lake and proceeded to have a very pleasant morning tea. We couldn't help admiring the lillies that were in full bloom on the lake. After our tea break, we headed along the Yarra trail to Southbank, and then down the light rail to Port Melbourne.

We then rode along the beach path towards St. Kilda and it was along this section of the trail that we stopped to look at a couple of the Solar System monuments. There are nine monuments for each of our planets plus the Sun all to scale spread over 5.9km of the beachfront.

We continued around to the St.Kilda Botanical Gardens for our lunch break in the shade.

After lunch we rode back to Albert Park , up Moray Street, South Melbourne to Southbank and then around to the coffee shop in the Fitzroy Gardens. After another pleasant break we got back on the bikes and rode up Napier Street to Clifton Hill and then finally back to Jika Jika.

Report by Paul (Approx. distance 50km.)

JACK ROPER RESERVE 20 JANUARY

No report received.

SATURDAY RIDE 22ND JANUARY

Forecast was for 23 deg. and showers. Headed off to Rushall from home when after a couple of kms, I realised I hadn't load my trike aboard. So a u - turn and back home to pick it up. Arriving at Rushall, just on start time. Clearly discouraged by the forecast we only had 4 riders at start time, on to Royal Park, we gained 1 more. Such a small group we moved quite quickly. A brief toilet stop at Docklands and on to Port Melbourne. A shortcut down Todd Rd instead of Westgate Park, got us to Caps in record time.

Fully refreshed we headed back, loosing one rider in the city and getting to Rushall Station before 12.30. A great ride no one got wet.

David Downing

For the ride along the Bay Trail to lunch at Half Moon Bay the breeze was a mild headwind. Over lunch Ralph made a new best friend with one of the boathouse owners.



Four of the six riders decided to catch the train home from Sandringham station. Ed and I rode home via Bay trail and Albert Park Lake with an afternoon tea stop at Southgate.

Ian

HALF MOON BAY 25 JANUARY

The weather forecast was for 32 degrees. Six people turned up to ride and it was agreed that we would still ride as planned to Half Moon Bay. Took Capital City trail and Sandridge Rail Trail to Port Melbourne Morning tea was at the bandstand and there was a nice cool breeze.



JELLS PARK 27 JANUARY

Ride cancelled because of forecast hot weather and storms.