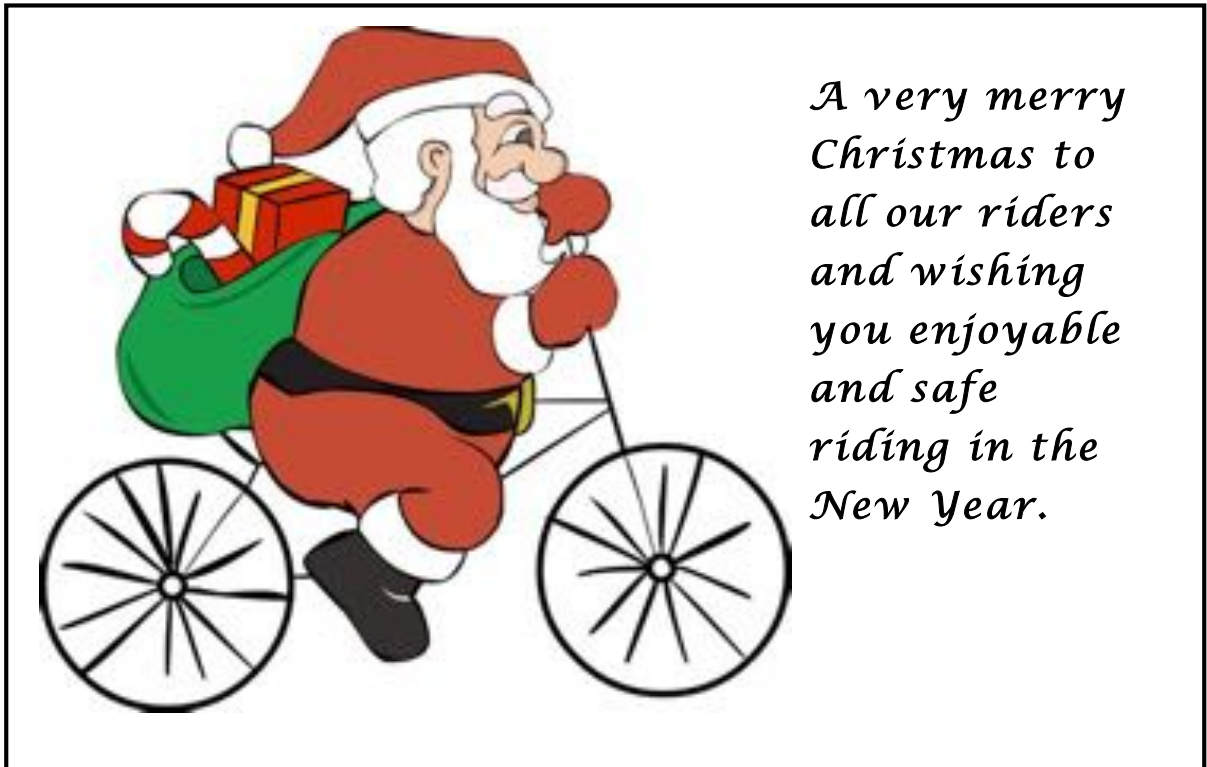


# WOBBLY WHEELS

Darebin BUG Mid-week Riders' Blog



*A very merry Christmas to all our riders and wishing you enjoyable and safe riding in the New Year.*

## **TWO BOTANIC GARDENS, 2 DECEMBER**

The weather forecast was for a hot and humid day with the chance of a shower or storm. This forecast probably kept some of the more sensible members of DBUG at home. However, it did not deter Andrew, Roger, Ian H., Sue, Pam S., Ed and George from assembling ready to ride.

We headed off along Westgarth Street, then through some back streets to Heidelberg Road. Crossing Heidelberg Road we entered Studley Park and headed to the Yarra Trail. There had been a lot of rain on recent days so the river was running very high and fast. Fortunately, the rain had not caused the path to be

closed. To avoid the steps to the Gipps Street bridge we left the path at Abbotsford Convent and made our way through the streets. After crossing the Gipps Street bridge we rode up the Yarra Boulevard hill before crossing the river again at Walmer Street bridge. We continued along the Yarra Path to Morell Bridge. After crossing Alexandra



Avenue we entered the Royal Botanic Gardens for morning tea.

The day was starting to warm up, but in the shade the group was enjoying a relaxed morning tea and seemed reluctant to leave. We did eventually get moving again. At Princes Bridge Pam and George left us to get the train home.

The ride beside the light rail down to Beacon Cove was made pleasant by the cooler temperature as we approached the coast. Many people were out enjoying the summer weather so there was a lot to look at as we rode beside Beaconsfield Parade and along the St Kilda foreshore.

The sunshine also brought many people out into St Kilda Botanic Gardens where we stopped for lunch.



After lunch we left the gardens and headed towards Albert Park. From the gardens we took Blessington Street to Carlisle Street, then Greeves Street to Inkerman Street, then Grey Street onto Canterbury Road. As we entered Albert Park heading towards South Melbourne, the day was getting very warm and humid. Leaving Albert Park we crossed into Moray Street, then onto Queensbridge Road to Southbank where Roger left us.

As we crossed under Princes Bridge and onto Birranung Marr Sue left us. We continued on past the MCG to Clarendon Street, where Ian left for the train. It was now 32 degrees and humid, not pleasant. Ed left as we rode up Wellington Street.

This left me alone, it was a ride of attrition. The conditions were hot and humid, I stopped under a tree near Rushall Station for a rest before heading home.

Andrew

### **FRANKSTON 7 DECEMBER**

Five of us assembled at Westgarth station (Pam, Paul, Nola Ian W and myself) under a heavily overcast sky. We trained to Jolimont and rode to Richmond station where Ed was waiting. Isn't the Frankston timetable great, it was only a short wait for the train. Worryingly here were some showers on the way but it was dry by the time the train trip "terminated" (hate this announcement at the end of the line) at Frankston. Mandy and Graham were waiting and we headed for morning tea on the foreshore. The view across the bay was very misty.

We then road along the scenic path which follows the Kananook Creek to Long Island. Near the start of the path there was a massive fallen tree, from the storm, almost across the total width of the creek. It was then onto the new wide concrete path which follows the rail line path all the way to

Carrum and then the gravel Long Beach Trail to Mordialloc. One section of the trail was closed for improvements with a totally unsigned twisting and turning detour through the back streets of Chelsea and Edithvale. About 10-15 minutes out from the lunch stop at Mordialloc light rain started. The rain had ceased by the end of lunch.

Ed had an appointment and headed for the train after lunch and the rest of us headed north on the Bay Trail which is now completed all the way to Mordialloc. At about the 30km mark at Blackrock, Mandy and Graham left us to ride back to Frankston. A little further on at Sandringham Nola headed for the train having not ridden for quite a while. The remaining 4 of us headed for afternoon tea at Southbank via Bay Trail to St Kilda, Albert Park Lake and Moray St.

The vast majority of businesses in the Southgate complex remain closed. The only coffee shop was the Lindt Chocolate Shop. Saw the new flying fox across the Yarra as we were leaving Southbank. Returned to Jika via the much-improved Napier St route. In particular the crossing at Alexander Pde is now much wider with separate areas for pedestrians and cyclists.

It was a very pleasant 60km ride with a mild tailwind for a majority of the ride.

Ian

## EASTLINK 9 DECEMBER

It had been a week of wet windy weather, I was expecting we would need a lot of rainwear.

As southerly winds were forecast the ride was going to start in the south from Yarraman railway station and ride north along the Eastlink path to Heatherdale.

Six of us rode to Richmond Railway station to meet Ed who was waiting there for us.

As the train got closer to Yarraman station we could see a fine mist covering the hills and surrounding suburbs.



There was a fine misty drizzle as we left the station but not enough to make us want to jump back on the train. We set off quickly to our morning tea/toilet stop at Oakwood Park only a kilometre or so up the Eastlink path.



At the park the misty drizzle continued and more rainwear was added to our riding ensembles.

After our break we continued on to Jells Park to find a lunch spot. Being close to Christmas many of the picnic shelters there were being used or set up for functions even in poor weather. We were early for lunch so we carried on through the park to check out more.

If we may have gotten a little off track we found good paths and interesting scenery. We followed the Dandenong Creek and Blind Creek trails and joined back to the Eastlink trail. Possibly more good luck than good management on the leader's part.

Our lunch spot was outside the doors of the State Basketball Centre at the Knox Regional Sports Park sitting on some large rocks. The toilet facilities were a definite step up from our usual.



After our break, rainwear intact due to continuing light drizzle we headed north again on the Eastlink trail through Koomba Park and Winton Wetlands. Saw a turtle crossing the path next to the freeway.

Turning west at Heatherdale station we left the Eastlink trail to ride along the Box Hill to Ringwood path. Roger left us at Blackburn station and the rest of us turned north to return to Jika via backstreets and the Bushy Creek path and the Koonung trail.

Happy days, we had a tailwind for most of the day and no mechanicals or flats.

Distance 57 km back to Jika Jika.

Report from Sue Hiscock

**CHRISTMAS RIDE TO EDINBURGH  
GARDENS 14 DECEMBER**

I got back from a few days away to find all December ride reports except for the Christmas ride. Too late to chase it, so so I am writing it myself. I was in two minds about going on the ride as I felt that bring your own lunch to Edinburgh Gardens was a long way short of our previous Christmas feasts but as it was the last chance to see other riders this year, I went along.

Only about 15 riders gathered. Jopie led us along a route which seemed to spiral around. I am sure we passed Dight's Falls three times. I recognised Swinburne University as we rode through. Eventually we arrived for morning tea and the one photo I took.



We continued on and finally arrived at Edinburgh Gardens. A number of non-riders appeared: it was good to see Nola, Norm and Robert, though we were all sad that Bruce could not make it.

Someone passed round an excellent stollen and a good time was had by all.

David

*That's all folks. See you in the  
New Year.*

*David*