

WOBBLY WHEELS

Darebin BUG Mid-week Riders' Blog



BELGRAVE TO DANDENONG 2 AUGUST

Five riders assembled at Westgarth Station – James, Ian W, Pam , Paul and Ian S- on a chilly morning and headed for Jolimont then across to Richmond station. Barbara was on the 9:19 train when we boarded. The train was very much express, only stopping at about half the station to Belgrave. Before setting off on the ride morning tea was at the Belgrave Town Park which provides a panoramic view of the main street.



The largely downhill Ringwood – Belgrave Rail Trail largely follows the rail line through Tecoma, Upwey, Upper Ferntree Gully, Ferntree Gully, Boronia and Bayswater. In places the trail markings are not very obvious and in other places no existent. The Ferntree Gully and Boronia shopping/station precincts are particularly confusing without prior knowledge. Just past Bayswater the trail meets the Dandenong Creek Trail. After passing under Eastlink, we stopped for lunch at the Winton Wetlands, Wantirna.

After lunch the Dandenong Creek Trail passes through Koomba Park, 750metres of boardwalk and then to Jells Park. At Jells Park we diverted from the main trail and took the gravel path in the conservation area on the eastern side of the Wildlife Lake. The bird life is prolific on the 2 islands in the lake. Leaving Jells Park the Trail passes

through Mulgrave Wetlands in Wheelers Hill, Tirhatuan Wetlands in Rowville and Dandenong Wetlands in Dandenong. Just like the Belgrave Bayswater Trail the Dandenong Creek Trail has areas where the path is not well sign posted.

In Dandenong afternoon tea was at The Public's Corner café. At first sight it looked they were closing, seats on tables, but fortunately it was just one section being cleaned. From the café there is a new contra flow bike path to the Dandenong Station. Took the train to Richmond and then headed back on Lennox St route.

Ian

RUFFEY LAKE 4 AUGUST

With diehards Ed and Roger away on the Silver City Bush Treadlers' ride until Saturday and many BUG members still hibernating, there were only three volunteers for the Ruffey Lake Park trip, going back to its usual direction after a flirtation with anti-clockwise on the last calendar. Sue, Ian H. and David M. rushed me off and it was not until hours later that I discovered from RidewithGPS that we may have been slightly early. So, to all those who rocked up at 9.29am ready to ride, my sincere apologies.

The three musketeers followed me out with the promise of 18 degrees and bright sunshine but the north-westerly wind blew away some of their enthusiasm. It was one of those

18-degree-feels-like-14-degree days. I was quickly in trouble for going along the Main Yarra Trail past Kew Golf Club instead of taking the easier route past the Eaglemont Tennis Club on the way to morning tea at Possum Hollow.

David subsequently pointed out that I had also gone across the swamp, sorry Banyule Flats Reserve, instead of around the lake. I blame Ian. Operational protocols apparently require that the dirt shortcut is only used when travelling home. Fortunately it was remarkably dry but we did have to swerve off the track where a tree-logging crew were in action.

At Ruffey Lake, a woman walking two dogs one of which was a greyhound added some light relief to our lunchtime conversation and she was able to compare notes with David, who also has one.



We positively raced up to Doncaster Hill via Schramms Reserve and then down the other side via Whittens Lane.

We might be looking for a detour around this area soon as Tram Road Reserve/Eram Park has been selected, from a long line of

applicants, as the location for an underground wastewater treatment plant to supply 5500 properties in the booming Doncaster Hill area formerly occupied by the Eastern Golf Course. Locals aren't happy based on the number of protest notices we saw along the Koonung Creek Trail, despite having helped create the problem.

Through some bizarre breach in the space/time continuum we made it to Bulleen Rd in time to have afternoon tea at lunchtime. Ian claimed exhaustion from the Tour-de-France pace of my ride and declined to visit the chocolate shop, so it was just the three of us for free confectionary.

As we wound our way home via the Eaglemont Tennis Club driveway, David ducked off to the daunting Ivanhoe Golf Club access from the Wilson Reserve Trail confident in the efficacy of his front-wheel drive and emerged on The Boulevard just metres in front of us before heading for Ivanhoe Station.

Having failed to explore the more eastern sections of the Koonung Creek Trail that Sue used last time, it was only 41.9km for the day.

Wolter

RINGWOOD CROYDON 9 AUGUST

A cold morning, and the fact that the day's ride was 60km, may have been the reason only seven riders turned up for the ride. It was good to see Roger back from his pedalling holiday in South Australia.

We set off at 9.35am and headed for the Koonung trail via the Esplanade in Ivanhoe. After riding for an hour we stopped at our favourite rotunda next to the trail in North Balwyn near Wandeen Street.



After morning tea we kept riding on the south side of the Eastern Freeway which was a gradual climb all the way up to Springvale Road. It was on this section of the trail that I spotted a man's wallet on the path. We all stopped and checked the contents of the wallet for details of the owner. Fortunately the wallet had a driver's licence, so we decided that we would call into the police station at Ringwood and hand it in there.

We continued our ride up to Springvale Road and from here we crossed over to the North side of the freeway and went through the tunnel under Springvale road and continued on the Mullum Mullum Creek trail through to Ringwood. There were quite a number of hills in this section of the trail and about six short bridges all covered with slats that shook the heck out of us.

At Ringwood we delivered the wallet to the police station and then headed across the Maroondah Highway into Ringwood Lake where we had our lunch at one of the picnic shelters.

After lunch we joined the Northern reaches of the Mullum Mullum trail. This was a gentle and picturesque trail that headed onto Highland Avenue. This brought us out to Maroondah Highway. After a short distance along the service road, we crossed Maroondah Highway at the traffic lights and headed on to Kent Avenue (a very long downhill run) which brought us out at the Croydon shopping centre.

We then rode through the car park to the football ground where we joined the Tarralla Creek trail. This trail took us South until we met up with the Dandenong Creek Trail.



We got going West along the Dandenong Creek trail until we reached the Eastlink trail. We then headed North to the Ringwood station and caught the train back to Richmond station.

We then rode over to the Fitzroy Gardens for a coffee stop and finally headed back to Jika Jika

Report by Paul (approx distance 60km.)

HEDGELEY DENE GARDENS 11 AUGUST

Five riders set off under an overcast sky from Westgarth. It was a cold start, but not quite as bad as a few recent mornings. The riders were David M, Barbara, Sue, Roger and myself. Roger has just returned from Broken Hill where he and Ed had been riding in the outback.

We went along the Darebin Creek trail and up the hill on the Anniversary trail. Perhaps because rain was forecast, there were not many walkers/dogs on the path. Morning tea was at Frog Hollow in Camberwell. There had been no rain so far and the sun even came out briefly. The drizzle started near Burwood station and we stopped at the top of the hill to put on rain gear. The north-westerly wind started at about the same time, which was OK since it was a light tailwind for a while.

We went along the Gardiners Creek trail for a short distance, then crossed the freeway and Malvern road, went along a few back streets and a lane to approach Hedgeley Dene from the east. We stopped there briefly to admire the gardens and read one of the signs that told us a bit about the history of the park.



A short trip back under the freeway to the Gardiners Creek Trail and lunch at the pavilion near High Street.

Back onto the Gardiners Creek Trail and the sun was gone and replaced by some very light drizzle. I was pleased that the path continues along the Yarra at Walmer Street Abbotsford, avoiding the awkward hill in Studley Park. The first section of this trail in front of the new apartments is a well made concrete path before it reverts to a dirt track.

As we were going along nearby Nicholson Street, David showed he was the brightest of our group by saying he would pass on afternoon tea and go straight to the train station. The rest of us had afternoon tea at the Convent. The rains started properly while we had our coffee and we were stuck there for quite a while under the big umbrellas at the cafe. When the rain eased we went our separate ways. Barbara and I decided to catch a train from Victoria Park station. Roger rode with us on his way to Fitzroy. Sue headed onto the Main Yarra Trail. Therefore it's hard to estimate the ride length, but about 38 km.

James Braithwaite

MALCOLM CREEK AND MT RIDLEY 16 AUGUST

All those BUGgers who were scared off by the weather experts missed a ripper ride when the forecast failed to deliver and we managed to be at the new Oherns Road underpass on the Galada Tamboore Pathway when the only nasty shower hit. It seems that our resident weather forecaster, Roger, had organised this, having already been back in town for a week after completing the Ant Dare charity ride from Broken Hill.

Not present was our other Silver City Bush Treadlers' Dare participant Ed, who was back but had managed to catch a cold. Ride leader Jopie was the last to arrive, having failed to reload his facemask stash for the train before he left home. Soon he was leading us around the Inner Circle Rail Trail towards Newmarket Station and the train to Craigieburn.

Along the way I saw the Buckley Street level-crossing removal project in Essendon for the first time and was shocked to find out it was done in 2018. Discussion topics included the football and politics, along with a suggestion that our former PM Scott Morrison might be a good coach for the Bombers. Talk about mixing up our subjects.

I was in trouble again, this time for eating on our conveyance, and had to explain that it was my train snack, not morning tea.

Malcolm Creek was a treat, with its "centuries old" River Red Gums, some of which were clearly suffering from die-back. They certainly look like they've been through a few wars. I managed to drop my bike on the steel grating of one of the wet bridges in the Centennial Park Wetlands but managed to get unclipped before it went down. Morning tea was at Golden Sun Moth Park, before we headed up for our lap of Mt Ridley. I hadn't been up here for years ... before 2018 at least but was delighted to find that Jopie wasn't taking us up Grandview Drive, where I could still remember riders baulking last time and waiting for us at the bottom.





From there it was down the rabbit-riddled Galada Tamboore Pathway and off to the Whittlesea Public Gardens for just a toilet break this time as the park was being renovated and a big mess. Jopie had found a much nicer spot for lunch further east at Sarisa Park, but minus toilets. Just as it looked like we were headed towards home, Jopie took us on another detour, over the Ned Kelly bridge to the Merri Creek North Trail, to show us the gap in that path north of the Metropolitan Ring Road, where there used to be a tip. There was a little bit of Sydney Road before we finally made it to the Merri Creek Trail but before we could relax Jopie had us going quickly down a section of McBryde Street in Fawkner and it was just as well, as the Boot Factory at Pentridge was packing up by the time we rocked up for afternoon tea.

Roger gave the hot chocolate the royal tick of approval and Ian H. gave us some of his recipe secrets, so we could all head for home, but not without some more sliding on the muddy Merri Creek Trail section before St Georges Road.

Wolter

SCOTCHMAN'S CREEK 18 AUGUST

It's still winter - the weather forecast was pretty much as expected – strong northerly winds and possible thunderstorm later in the day.

James, Roger, Ian H and myself met at Westgarth station platform. During our short trip to Jolimont, we entertained others in the carriage with a lively discussion on the merits of particular types of clothes pegs both for their intended use and as brake lever plugs. There may have been a few odds looks our way.

David M was waiting for us at Jolimont, making five of us for the day. A quick ride to Richmond station and then on to East Malvern station to the start of the Scotchman's Creek trail. The trail is 13 km that meets the Gardiners Creek trail at East Malvern and ends at Jells Park. Our morning tea stop was at Brickmakers Park in Oakleigh.





After our break and a quick look at the historical brick making equipment, we continued east along the Scotchman's Creek trail.

At some point Roger commented that he was not riding his usual bike (tool chest on two wheels). Then of course someone noticed Ian's pannier rack and bag were swinging in the breeze off his back wheel. A bolt had fallen out. Cable ties and pliers were quickly sourced and Roger and Ian were able to attach the rack to the bike again. Mechanical sorted.



On we continued to Jells Park up the (slightly less challenging) side of Wheelers Hill. Down the hill into Jells Park for our lunch stop.



The weather was still dry but the north wind was strengthening and very gusty. After lunch James left us to ride south to Yarraman station. The rest of us continued north on the Dandenong Creek path and Eastlink to Ringwood. For the first kilometre at the edge of Jells Park we had a very strong headwind and I think we were all wondering what on earth we were doing. However, as we turned to get onto the Dandenong Creek path and into more bushland, we were a bit more sheltered. The ride through the Bushy Park wetlands was a lot less blowy.

Our return ride was via the Ringwood to Box Hill trail. A definitely very undulating path next to the train line. When we got to the Koonung trail David left us to catch his train. The remaining three of us decided we needed a stop at the Chocolate shop in Bulleen to recoup our strength. We were about 500 metres away from the café when there was a very loud and startling bang. We turned to see Roger getting off his bike. His back wheel rim had blown out causing a

long tear in the metal and a flat tyre. That was the loud bang. A mechanical that could not be fixed with cable ties.



To cut a long story short we walked our bikes to the café and sat while Roger arranged to be picked up. A big shout out to Ian Singleton who came and picked up Roger and his bike.

Slightly anticlimactically Ian H and I rode uneventfully back to base.

Some food for thought, as I only do one of these things:

- Check the nuts and bolts etc on your bike regularly
- For bikes with rim brakes, check the wheel rims regularly for wear
- Have an emergency contact number in your phone – Maxi Taxi, Uber or friend etc

An eventful but good ride. Distance 58 km

Report from Sue Hiscock

P.S. from David

I left the group at the toilets on the Koonung Trail at 2.10 realising that the next train for Hurstbridge from Ivanhoe was just after 2.30.

I engaged maximum boost and headed off top speed, ascending the hill to the Boulevard and grinding up Marshall Street. I just reached the level crossing at the top of Marshall Street when the bells started. I had enough time to get over before the boom gates lowered and got to the station entrance as passengers were emerging. I checked the destination board, yes it was a Hurstbridge train which meant that there would be a 40 minute wait for the next one. Doors were open at the platform entrance. I did not have time to get my wallet out of the pannier, scan the myki and get on the train before it left. I lunged at the train entrance and got half the bike through before the doors closed. This was enough to get them to open and for me to get on.

I found a bike friendly seat and then saw four inspectors in the next carriage coming my way. I have not seen inspectors since before Covid. The train stopped at Eaglemont but the scan machine was too far away to risk getting there and back in time. As the inspectors approached, it occurred to me that I had forgotten to put on my mask. No point in getting done for two offences so I got it out of the pannier and put it on. While I was pulling the mask over my eyes, all four inspectors walked past me without asking for my myki. I saw several women not wearing masks, who had not been challenged by them. The next station was Heidelberg. The touch on was close to the door so I got off and on again in time.

I arrived home absolutely exhausted.

LA TROBE LINK 25 AUGUST

Roger was sunning himself against a brick wall opposite Westgarth Station when I arrived and with some justification, as it was only seven degrees. Another eight people gradually rocked up, among them Robin on her first ride since back surgery and promising to take it easy on the inaugural running of the La Trobe Link Ride.

Glenys came to wave us off before her five-week overseas trip and to gloat about how warm it was going to be in Greece. No Danube cruises for them, with most of the river boats tied up because of the drought in Europe. No such problems with the Merri Creek's flow and I was kicking myself for not planning a detour, but the mud build-up in the usual spot near St Georges Road wasn't too bad and everyone made it through without taking to the grass.



You'll be pleased to know it's on Moreland's top 10 list for trail projects as part of the Northern Trails 2022 strategy and you can vote to make it number one.

The water was roaring over the weirs at Coburg and Edwardes Lakes as we made our way along the Edgars Creek Trail to our lunch spot near Griffiths Street. The good news from Nola was that Ralph was back driving and would be allowed to start riding again in a few weeks.

Following lunch Robin left us to ride home down the St Georges Road trail after a big effort and thus didn't have to listen to the subsequent complaints about the navigation skills of the ride leader as we headed north to J C Donath Reserve, east to the Darebin Creek Trail, south to the La Trobe Uni turn-off and east along La Trobe Link. It still wasn't finished, but this was expected. What wasn't expected was that they were turning some of the new "wombat" crossings into cyclist-priority crossings and had to be ridden around as the sandy yellow paint was still wet.

We had lunch outside the Union Building, where the wisteria-covered canopy was awaiting the arrival of spring. Ed told us a bit about the Silver City Treadlers' ride after being stuck at home since getting back with a nasty bug courtesy of the relatives in Mildura.





There was a freshly opened bit of trail near the university's Agora shopping square, then a bit they were working on, then another freshly opened bit and then another bit they hadn't even started before we got back to our usual Main Drive route from Bundoora Park and everyone could put away their compasses.

It was a nice easy ride through McLeod and down the River Gum Walk (complete with mysterious painted white crosses on the concrete) to Warringal Parklands and home via the rear courtyard at the Alphington Foodstore. Most would have made it home before it started raining, but probably not Roger.

Wolter

HALFMOON BAY 25 AUGUST

I found Roger and George at Jika, the first time I had seen George since his Covid. His absence was due far less to the illness but more from two road trips to Sydney with family members. He had fixed his brake problem and was raring to go. Susan and Barbara joined us and finally Ian H.

The weather was dismal and we had patchews of drizzle as we set off along the City Trail and along the light rail to Port Melbourne with morning tea at the rotunda near station pier. The distancing was due less to Covid than the fact that some of the seats were wet.



We continued on along the Bay Trail through Brighton, Hampton, Sandringham and finally to Halfmoon Bay. I had checked the website for the fish and chip kiosk which assured me that it was open from 11 am but it most certainly was not. This is the second ride that this has happened and I think it will cost the kiosk our business if it ever reopens.

We continued on to Black Rock which offered little solace to those of us who had lusted after fish and chips. Some riders had taken the precaution of bringing their own lunch. Roger, George and I had little option beyond Burgertory, which provided an indifferent burger and chips dusted with chilli powder which left a lasting burn.



We joined the others in the park, which, by now was warm and sunny.



We continued back along the trail but were brought to a halt by George's pannier frame coming loose.



Roger provided a range of spanners anwith much shoving and grunting, the truant spars were brought into line and tightened.



In spite of this, George decided to find a train at Sandringham and Barbara also headed for Sandringham. As we were about to ride on, a man pulled up in a van and unloaded two large bags. He proceeded to unpack a hang glider and quickly clipped himself into it. He took off over the cliff and was not seen again.



Four of us continued to St Kilda, Albert Park and then along Moray Street. At Southbank, Roger and Sue departed and I waved farewell to Ian at Jolimont.

60 km for me perhaps a few more for Ian and Sue.

David

MARANOA GARDENS 30 AUGUST

What a lovely day for a ride? It was a very overcast sky, cold with a slight drizzle and rain forecast when 6 riders assembled - Roger, Ian W, Jopie, Robin, Ed and I. It was mainly on road bike paths, Canning Street, Rathdowne Street and Exhibition Street, to morning tea at the Royal Botanic Gardens. The Terrace Café is closed for extensive renovations but there is a temporary facility serving coffee. Fortunately, the rain held off. We proceeded on the Main Yarra Trail on the south side of the river to the Mac Robertson Bridge and crossed to the north side of the river. At the intersection with the Gardiners Creek Trail, Robin headed for home on the Yarra while the group took Gardiners Creek Trail to Ferndale Trail and onto Anniversary Trail. It was then north on the Anniversary Trail to the Camberwell Hockey Club. It is then about 3km on quiet roads to the Maranoa Gardens for lunch with a steep climb at the end. It had drizzled rain most of the way from morning tea but stopped for lunch which was fortunate as all the tables are in the open. We did find one table which was half dry under the shelter of tree. It wasn't our lucky day; the observation tower was closed for maintenance.

We left by walking our bikes through the Indigenous and Cottage Garden path in the garden to the back gate. There was some colour in the indigenous garden. It was an enjoyable 2km downhill ride on Yarrbat Avenue and Gordon Street and then onto bike paths to Stradbroke Park and Hays Paddock to join the Yarra Trail briefly and then onto the Boulevard to avoid the muddy trail around the river. By the time we got to Alphington drizzle had turned to light rain, Ian W and Jopie headed for home. Roger, Ed and I headed for afternoon tea at Phil's Westgarth Bakehouse and Cafe. In spite of the far from ideal weather everyone enjoyed the ride,

Ian Singleton

SATURDAY RIDES

Saturday 6 August

First ride for the month, not our usual ride. Weather forecast not very encouraging, showers but 15 deg. maximum. After consultation it was decided we would ride through Edinburgh Gardens, Napier Street, MCG, then the Main Yarra Trail and on to Abbotsford Convent for coffees, then a short jaunt back to Rushall Station. This route would give some options for shelter, should the weather turn inclement.

Come start time at Rushall, we had 8 starters, a cool start but not freezing as it had been recently and an overcast sky. The small group moved fairly rapidly but last 3 riders were wiped off the group by the traffic lights at the Fitzroy pool and didn't catch up till the MCG. Our toilet stop was at the Tennis Centre, then onto the Main Yarra Trail which didn't have many cyclists on it, mainly joggers and strollers with dogs.

We seemed to make good time on the Yarra Trail and soon arrived at Walmer Street Bridge, crossed over to Studley Park, then Gibbs Street and a few back streets brought us to the Abbotsford Convent.

I had forgotten that the Convent has a farmers market on Saturdays but we did succeed in getting a table large enough to take the lot of us, including Pam and Patrick's wife, Louise who joined us having arrived by other than peddle power. Having had our fill we headed up the hill to Heidelberg Road where 2 of our company left us and the rest headed back to Rushall, bone dry and pleasantly warmed.

PS George brought to my attention, from a Bicycle Network article that the Walmer St. Bridge will be closed for 8 months, while work is done improving the Boroondara side approaches.

Saturday 13 August

This was to be our regular ride from Rushall Station to Port Melbourne via Docklands and return via the MCG. I was some what intimidated by a forecast of 90% chance of rain but the morning dawned bright and sunny, without a cloud in the sky.

Start time, 9.30, at Rushall we had 7 starters and at Royal Park, we were joined by 2 more, making our group 9 in number. Such pleasant riding conditions moved the group along smartly, even the usual wind tunnel along Lorimer Street didn't make itself felt. Coffee at Caps was pleasant enough to be enjoyed outside.

Fully refreshed we headed back. We couldn't go wrong, there was no football at the MCG. Arriving back at Rushall, it had been a true *Joie de vivre* ride.

It did rain later in the day.

Saturday 20 August

Domestic problems precluded me riding but George took the ride. After an overnight downpour he had only one other at Rushall Station and picked up 2 more at Royal Park. There were 4 riders on the way to Port Melbourne where they picked up one more, who left at the city. I am advised that there a cool wind on the way down but skies cleared on the way back. No rain, only water thrown up by their wheels.

Saturday 27 August

Forecast was for a glorious 19 deg. temperature maximum. The ride was to be the usual Rushall Station to Port Melbourne via the Capital City Trail and return via the MCG. Come start time the early morning fog had given way to a moderate haze and we had 9 starters. At Royal Park we picked up 2 more riders, now we were 11 and we were getting a blue sky overhead.

All went well until outside Marvel Stadium one of our riders spat her chain off the front chain ring with a neatly fitted chain protector. I tried prodding it back on with screw driver and long nose pliers to no avail. Nothing beats nimble fingers to get it back on, if at the price of messy hands. That done, a spread-out group headed to Caps and Coffee and soap and water for the hands. At Caps we were joined by 2 more riders.

Refreshed and nourished we headed back in sunshine. At the city one rider left us and the rest rode back to Rushall, without further incident.

David Downing

FAREWELL BRUCE JAGER

Ian Singleton has circulated news of Bruce's passing for which we thank him. Bruce was a very long riding rider and in spite of his extreme right views on society in contract to my left of centre, I feel that we were friends who enjoyed each other's company. Bruce took part in several Phillip Island rides BUG dinners and other activities.

I have reprinted below the report from Wobbly February 2020 covering Bruce's 90th birthday ride and celebration at Glenys house.

We are suggesting that the next ride program includes a Bruce Memorial Ride.

Photos from 2016-7

David



BRUCE'S 90th BIRTHDAY RIDE 18 FEBRUARY 2020

Today actually was Bruce's birthday so I caught the early train to be at Jika to greet everyone. As I got to Clifton Hill, there was a strong downpour but it left off and we gathered at Jika in the dry. Ian was there early to deposit the life membership plaque for later presentation. Bruce arrived and was warmly greeted.



David Downing represented Saturday riders. We left Jika with 18 riders and added Roy and Harry by the time we reached Footscray Road.

There was a temporary ramp up to the overpass and by the time we reached ground level, rain was threatening. Most people put on rain gear and we continued. As we reached Footscray Bridge, it poured with a vengeance so we took shelter under the bridge for a few minutes. Glenys turned back to finalise the afternoon tea arrangements.



The rain abated and we continued to Yarraville Park for morning tea. We wiped off the benches and the rain stopped for a while.

We continued on to Williamstown and reached the foreshore by 11.30. We normally ride on to the beach but the plan was to get back early for an extended tea. We had shelter in the rotunda but no seats.

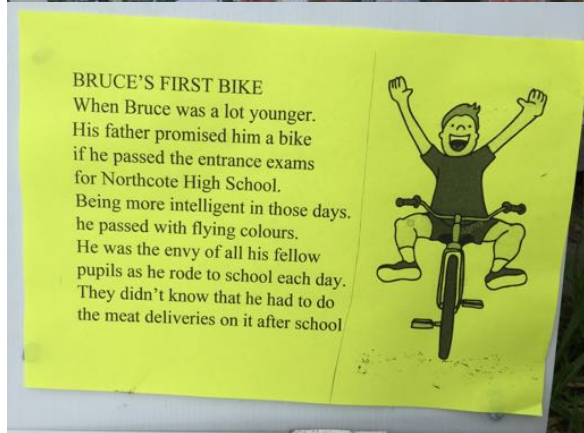
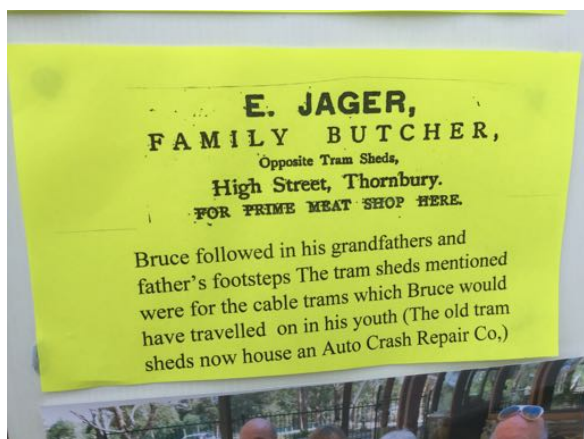


We very much needed this. As we were finishing lunch we had a brief electric storm and Roger, our resident meteorologist, suggested this would be a good time to leave. As we were leaving, Nola said that she had lost her phone and needed to return along the original route so I agreed that we would all do this. A small group scouted Yarraville Park with no luck. The same result was at Velos. Serious rain started and we made haste to Glenys' house arriving at 1.45. Fortunately she had plenty of space in carport and garage to keep bikes dry. After we arrived, Nola checked her car and found the phone. We assure her that she is by no means the first BUG rider to have a senior moment with a phone.

A number of 'retired' or non-riders arrived including Carol, Maurie and Carmel, Bill, Norm, Faye, Bill and George.



Norm had prepared a board of photos and some facts about Bruce's life.



The Darebin BUG committee had granted Bruce a life membership and Ian presented Bruce with a framed certificate. I had been delegated to apply for a letter from the Prime Minister, which we had also intended to frame. Bureaucrats ensured that this was sent to direct Bruce not to me so this could not be done. He also got letters from the premier and governor of Victoria. "How did they know?" he said.



Roger felt that it was a shame he did not get a letter from the Queen so he composed his own complete with picture congratulating Bruce on his 90 years on behalf of "my husband and I and the corgies".



Of course there was a cake.



This was arranged by Glenys from Phil's bakery



With a generous afternoon tea spread, a good time was had by all. Happy Birthday Bruce and we wish you many more years of riding and ride leading.

Thanks are due to Glenys for organising and hosting the tea.

David.

BRUCE'S THANKS

A long letter would be needed to cover all the wonderful people responsible for my 90th birthday party. I now realise there must have been a lot of time, effort and cost gone into the afternoon. May I say thanks to all who contributed and also for those who attended. It was a great success. I have met many wonderful friends in the BUG. Is it keeping me young?

Sunday 16-2-20, 1.20 pm. Bruce answers a ring at his front door. It was Mary from the Saturday BUG with a lovely chocolate cake with "Happy Birthday" on it. Photo enclosed.



Bruce

BRUCE'S THANKS

A long letter would be needed to cover all the wonderful people responsible for my