

WOBBLY WHEELS

Darebin BUG Mid-week Riders' Blog



*A Merry
Christmas and
a Happy New
Year to all our
Riders*



HURSTBRIDGE 1 DECEMBER

Eight of us gathered for the first ride of summer, a promising start. George and Pam
Still



es turned back after morning tea at Possum Park.



The rest of us continued on to Eltham where the bridges still had not been repaired. Check again in about a year. We stopped for lunch at the playground beyond Edendale Farm. From lunch, we rode the Diamond Creek Trail and paused to admire the even larger playground at the Diamond Creek Regional Playspace.

We completed the ride through the now open trail, closed after flooding.



Arriving at Hurstbridge, we used the just completed path around the oval and paused at the station where Susan and John took the train.

Roger, Ian and Colin joined me for drinks and muffins giving Cirque the chance to sniff some new humans.. It was the first time for some months that I had been able to entertain BUG riders on the patio at home.

The three caught to 2.40 train back to civilization. Sadly, Sue tested positive for the Covid shortly after, but other riders were spared.

About 40 km.

David



CHRISTMAS RIDE AND LUNCH 6 DECEMBER

Early in the morning I received a call, was it from the North Pole? No but it was a rider from the north who rang to say that their helmet had fallen off the sleigh and so they couldn't make it to the start on time. So it was left to the twelve riders to set off on an unknown mystery Christmas ride adventure, and they were like the 12 days of Christmas.

We ventured around All Nations Park and pulled up for an early wee stop, even though there was no one with a Scottish accent riding today.



the first time that George had ridden in that direction so he marvelled at all the new sights as it seemed completely different scenery travelling in the opposite direction.

Then heading north, we found Christmas Street to ride along but there were no carol singing or pretty lights to be seen.. Heading east we passed the street where Paul and Pam live and Paul became a little worried when I indicated that we may call in for morning tea. Luckily, he didn't have to do any emergency catering as we ventured our way to the Darebin Trail and rode south until we reached the end. This was



Darebin Bike path cleared after a large tree fell down during the recent wet weather and Yarra river flood

In Kew we rode alongside the Kew cemetery and through Victoria Park, (but not the old home ground of the Collingwood football club) and then it was a long slog up Parkhill rd. and a rest at the dead end. We

linked up with the Anniversary Trail and had morning tea near the Camberwell tennis club.

After a refreshing break and some discussion about the foreign characters on George's new hazard jacket we headed back on the trail to the north and turned off at East Camberwell then followed the railway line to Burke Road through Camberwell to the Fritsch Holzer Park, a large drainage basin near the Camberwell Junction. It was then on through

Hawthorn and Swinburne before heading back for lunch through Abbotsford and ending up at the Grandview Hotel on Station st for a welcome Seniors meal and

a catch up with a number of other BUG members.

Ride distance 32 km highest point 100m above sea level lowest point 20m above msl.

Ed.



It was great to catch up with retired riders such as Norm and Robert. Good to see them well.



GASWORKS PARK 8 DECEMBER

While doodling my future active participles in my Latin texts a phone call threw my world, albeit small, into a tiz. James asked me to take over his ride the next day. Even though it was a familiar route the synapses in my brain would not compute, even with details James sent me. Ad hoc it will be.

So, Roger, Michael, John and I found ourselves blundering around the MCG in the Arctic rain. I don't why it is so hard circumnavigating this structure, but we eventually found the Botanical gardens only to find our path to morning tea blocked, one of many obstacles this day. After walking from another gate, we found our spot under shelter, watching the poor girls operating the punt in the rain. Probably students working this gig.

After roadworks we had to change our route to Moray Street along to Albert Park Lake, skirting the lake and then under the rail lines through to leafy comfortable Middle Park and Albert Park until Gas Works for lunch in the sunshine. Probably 30 minutes until it rained.

From Beaconsfield Parade bike path we headed for the city along Swanston Street down past the once again bustling crowd all the way past the cemetery to the Capital City Trail where three riders hit Phil's Bakery and yours truly went home.

Ian H

TAYLORS CREEK, KEILOR AND BRIMBANK PARK 13 DECEMBER

The forecast was for possible showers and it didn't disappoint. We got drenched. We hoped we'd get no rain till we got home but it hit us soon after lunch and it came with a bitterly cold gusty wind.

Things had been fine till then, more or less,, except that there was too much water flowing over the ford at Brimbank so to get to Horseshoe Bend we had to push/wheel our way up a long steep gravel track, except for Ed of course who managed to puff his way up on his mountain bike. Then half of the group got ahead of the leader and wrongly assumed we were going back to Brimbank which we weren't so had to grind back up a big hill for penance.

There were 6 of us and we rode to North Melbourne and caught the train to Watergardens. Then we cruised down lovely Taylors Creek with its lakes and reg gums to the aforementioned flooded ford. Lunch was in Keilor under shelter which wasn't yet needed as it hadn't rained yet. It was when we were crossing the Ring Road, fully exposed to the elements, when the weather struck. It was still raining as we got to the Boathouse on the Maribyrnong where we unanimously voted to forego afternoon tea and keep going, hoping to reach our respective hot showers before we dissolved or froze. I got to mine in time and I assume the others did too.

Jopie

WESTMEADOWS 15 DECEMBER

It was the last ride before the Christmas break. It had been raining for the previous two days and the weather forecast was not a lot better for today. Hence we only had three starters for the ride Roger, Ian H. and myself.

My plan was to go up the Merri Creek Path and return via the Moonee Ponds and Upfield Paths. Because of the recent rain I was concerned that the low section of the Merri Creek Path behind Northcote

High would be flooded. So we set off along Plant and Union Streets, past the Jika centre and across High Street. At George Street we turned right and then left onto Bridge Street. We crossed Clarke Street and the railway line before rejoining Clarke Street and making our way to St Georges Road. After a brief ride up the St Georges Road Path we turned left onto Sumner Avenue. After making our way across the edge of Sumner Park we crossed the Creek and joined the Merri Creek Path. It was an uneventful ride north to our morning tea stop at Coburg Lake.



After morning tea we continued towards the Ring Road. There were a number of passing showers as we headed north, we sheltered under the veranda of a sports club at one stage. We turned left at the Ring Road and headed west. After descending Jacana hill we turned north onto the Moonee Ponds Creek Path. We stopped at the bridge that leads across the creek to Jacana Reserve and discussed our lunch stop options in the light of the inclement weather. The decision was to head back to the shelter at Boeing Reserve for lunch.

We crossed the creek and headed south through Jacana Wetlands, the rain was getting heavier at this point, so we stopped under the Ring Road overpasses and put on our wet weather gear. This did "the trick", the rain stopped and didn't return.



After lunch we continued down the Moonee Ponds Creek Path to Pascoe Vale. Here we left the path and headed towards the Upfield Path.

We rode along Gaffney Street towards the hill, after crossing the railway line we went around the hill via Fawkner Road and Prospect Street to Cumberland Road. After crossing Cumberland Road, we rode along Olive Grove and Landells Road back to Gaffney Street. Turning off Gaffney we followed Derby Street to Oheas Street to the bike path that runs beside Oheas Street.

We followed this path to the Upfield Path where we turned right and headed south through Brunswick to the Inner Circle Path near Princes Park.

Ian didn't want to stop for coffee, I thought 1:00 pm was a bit early for afternoon tea so we all parted ways here and each headed off in different directions.

Andrew.

END OF YEAR ENDNOTE

That is all folks! Sorry no Saturday reports reached us in time but we have to go to press to be in time for Christmas. Good luck to Roger with ad hoc rides.

David

