

# WOBBLY WHEELS

Darebin BUG Mid-week Riders' Blog



## WESTGATE PARK 2 FEBRUARY

Eight riders, George, Barbara, Ian H, Ed, Roger, David, Sue and myself set off on the ride. We turned left into Westgarth Street, then right into Westfield Street which took us to Heidelberg Road. After crossing Heidelberg Road we followed Yarra Bend Road into Studley Park. We left the road and joined the main Yarra Trail continuing through the park to the footbridge leading over Merri Creek to Dights Falls.

We followed the Yarra Trail to Collingwood Children's Farm where we left it to follow the back streets to avoid the steps up to Gipps Street bridge. At Gipps Street we didn't cross to Yarra Boulevard as the Walmer Street bridge is closed. Instead we followed Victoria Crescent, Murray Street, Nelson Street, Southampton Crescent and Grosvenor Street to Shamrock Street which took us down to the river under the Walmer Street bridge on the Burnley Street side where we rejoined the Main Yarra Trail. Continuing down the Yarra Trail we had a pleasant ride beside the river all the way to the Morell Street bridge where we crossed into the Botanic Gardens for morning tea.

The tables we normally sit at were being used as part of the cafe this morning but the wait staff were happy to let us sit there even though most of us had brought our own morning tea. A couple of us decided to take the opportunity provided and buy a coffee and/or a cake.



George left us after morning tea. Roger had lost his MYKI card this morning, so he left us also to go to the station and get a new one. Leaving the Botanic Gardens we followed The Tan around to Linlithgow Avenue which we followed to St Kilda Road crossing to Southbank Boulevard. We followed the bike path beside Southbank Boulevard to Southbank, rejoining Southbank Promenade at Queens Bridge.

We rode along Southbank Promenade to Webb Bridge, passing the Casino, Jeff's Shed, the Polly Woodside and South Wharf on the way. At Webb Bridge we turned left and made our way between the buildings and under the freeway to Normanby Road then turned onto the trail leading to Beacon Cove.

At Beacon Cove we turned right and after passing Sandridge Beach turned onto the path beside Todd Road which we followed to Westgate Park. We arrived there a little early for lunch so I took us for a meander through the park. I had reconnoitred the park twice before the ride but I still managed to take a wrong turn that facilitated a turn around and the retracing of our steps to get onto the correct path back to the picnic shelters.

Andrew

## FIVE CREEKS, 7 FEBRUARY

Roger was later than usual for this ride, having been caught in a delay on the Bendigo line caused by a trespasser, but he still had time to race off to Phil's Bakehouse for a takeaway hot chocolate, although it looked a bit messy by the time he got back! Fortunately, George Bailey was there to ride the shortened/different version of his 60km Five Creeks, One River Ride from last year, along with 10 other members. Must have been the relatively easy 43km total.

After the usual run up Darebin Creek and a comfort stop at John Hall Reserve, we headed across to T.W. Andrews Park, home of the Preston Velodrome, for morning tea. Steve joined us there, having forgotten about the 9am start. There were plenty of conversation with a few people having not ridden for a few weeks.



Paul and Pam left us at Reservoir Station for the quick way home via St Georges Road as we headed west to waterway #2,

by the name of Edgars Creek. Emerging on Broadhurst Avenue complete with new stretch of asphalt, it was further west to Merri Creek to sample the massive new access ramp at Spry Street, but not before some riders were distracted by food smells from the factories on Newlands Road ... possibly doughnuts or dumplings?

I proceeded to confuse everyone, as intended, so they wouldn't be able to copy the ride. Approaching Sydney Road, I even missed my turn to Keady Street, so we ended up crossing the major thoroughfare without the benefit of traffic lights. No fatalities, so we made it to creek #4, Westbreen, and the pretty wetland at the bottom for lunch. We were rather early for lunch, in fact we were finished by noon and, sunscreen reapplied, heading south ... minus George, who'd seen the bright lights of Fawkner and headed home.

By now it was a nice day and we just had a minor detour for the fence building along Moonee Ponds Creek to contend with.



The herd scattered into a clear and sunny afternoon as we approached the Westgarth corral, but Colin escorted me as far as Jika because he lives nearby. Roger went back to Phil's for a proper hot chocolate.

Wolter Kuiper



## AD HOC RIDE 9 FEBRUARY

George led the ride, Wolter provided photos.



## SOUTH MORANG 14 FEBRUARY

Ralph was supposed to lead this ride last year, but a fall off his bike and broken hip in June, prevented him doing it until now. The BOM told us cloudy with sun later and 21C. 9am saw a beautiful, sunny, cloudless

sky in Westgarth. Thirteen DBUG members, including Sue, Pam and myself, set off to the St Georges Road track, with Ralph leading and Colin on tail. Roger had the day off and rode up near the front of the group for a change.

At Oakover Road, Ian S suggested Ralph turn right here, and we cycled 100 meters or so to where Bell and Preston Stations had been built overhead. As with other lines, there is now a bike path along this short stretch of the route. Landscaping, seating and play equipment work was still underway, and Paul noticed some of the established trees planted had already died. It will look impressive once this is completed.



Crossing Murray Road, we joined the Northern Pipe track to Regent Station, then up through the park and along to Reservoir Station for morning tea. With the wind a little cool, we sat in the sun for our refreshments. Steve said the wind was behind us as we headed up Cheddar Road and eventually found the Ring Road path, then headed east. Turning onto Murchison Way, we soon joined the Darebin Creek trail north, pausing at Child's Road to admire the new rest area complete with bike pump facilities. The new path under the dual bridges is now open and we continued along the Henderson's drain track to the track beside the train line.

Just before South Morang Station, we stopped to pay homage to Ian Hamilton's

bollard. While it was dramatic at the time, with Kathy's Aunty Peg, who lived nearby, helping out with her car, it was good to see Ian's sense of humour appreciate the gesture, as the photo shows.



It was 11.20 on arrival at the station, so Ralph suggested we continue to Norris Bank Park for lunch and we all agreed.



We rode around the northern side of Plenty Valley and soon came to Plenty Road, where we rode down to the Ring Road and joined the Darebin Creek trail to lunch. It was a little warmer now and a few cotton wool clouds floated by as we ate our lunch in the shade. Steve was ready for a quick departure as he kept his helmet on.

We returned via Darebin Creek trail and stopped for coffee at Artiga in Thornbury, which is right beside the track. Sue, Roger, Ian H and Steve left for home, while the rest of us enjoyed this thriving new café. A very pleasant ride of 47km

Nola

## SANDRIDGE 16 FEBRUARY

Ride cancelled due to heat.

The ride as described was cancelled, nonetheless, five hardy (foolhardy?) souls turned up in South Crescent at 9:00 am.

I was joined by Roger, Ian S, Ed and Pam. We conferred and decided to do a cut down version of the described ride. We went along the Inner Circle and Moonee Ponds Trail to Docklands, then the path beside the light rail to Beacon Cove.

At Beacon Cove we stopped for morning tea. It was now 29 degrees with a hot wind.

After morning tea we made a quick dash to South Wharf via Todd Road and Lorimer Street. Here we finished the ride each making our own way home via various train stations. I was home by noon and the temperature was now 32 degrees and rising.

Andrew



## RUFFEY LAKE PARK 21 FEBRUARY

On a cool, overcast morning with low temperature 10 riders set off from Westgarth at 9.00am.

We took the familiar route through Darebin Parklands, Sparks Reserve, along the Boulevard, then through Wilson Reserve and along the Main Yarra Trail to Possum Hollow for morning tea (see photos).



The Main Yarra Trail was open and there was plenty of evidence of bicycles having

been through after the floods when the track was muddy!

At the Eaglemont Tennis Courts end of the dirt path there was a gate which had been blocking the path but it was pushed over and we were able to get past.

Along the way Ed was trying to set a new speed record, careering down any and every slope! Glad he survived!

After morning tea George returned home for a couple of early birthday celebrations. Happy Birthday for February 22, George. Pam also joined us at morning tea but did not continue on with the bunch.

After morning tea the group continued on through Banyule Flats Reserve to the bridge across the Yarra River at Finns Reserve which we crossed to the south side of the river and then made our way along Ruffey Creek Trail to Ruffey Lake Park for lunch at 11am! Here Steve was able to do some work on the gears of his bike.

After lunch we made our way along the path beside Schramms Reserve towards Doncaster Road where we eventually found the underpass to get us to the south side of Doncaster Road (see photo, that's Roger bringing up the rear).



From there it was down Whittens Lane and along paths and quiet roads on the north side of the Eastern Freeway to Doncaster Road where we crossed to the south west side of the freeway and on to Koonung Creek Trail.

Wolter returned home when we got to Bulleen Road and the remaining 8 riders went to Hahndorf Chocolate shop for milk shakes and chocolates!

After indulging we continued on to join the Main Yarra Trail near Burke Road. We were forced to go through the car park at the Eaglemont Tennis Courts up to the Boulevard as there was a worker repairing the broken down gate mentioned earlier thus blocking the path.

Another good ride, despite the showers, again with no accidents, injuries, punctures or major mechanical failures!  
Total ride distance recorded 41.6km (Strava) approximately.

Colin Finger

### **WILLIAMSTOWN 23 FEBRUARY**

I did a shortened ride, with Colin, Roger, Barbara, Sue and Ed.

We wandered through Brunswick, Moonee ponds to Maribyrnong to river for Morning Tea.

We then rode down the river, (towards Williamstown) and on to Kensington and Parkville Park wetlands for an early lunch. Sue and I headed home on the Upfield Trail and others rode to Jika. I got home at 12 30 pm. It was a good morning ride, Thanks for the company.

George

### **GARDINERS CREEK 28 FEBRUARY**

It was a seemingly perfect day for bike riding. A cool temperature, completely overcast sky and not a breath of wind. Six riders started out and we headed towards the Merri Creek path then along the Yarra trail to the Children's Farm and around past CUB then back onto the Yarra Trail until turning off to the Gardiners Creek Trail. No one ventured to do any laps on the Hawthorn velodrome so we continued to the George Pepperell Pavilion for morning tea and a chin wag.

After a brief discussion it was decided to make the ride slightly longer, so we headed off to Hedgeley Dene Gardens the across Burke Road to East Malvern Central Park where we circumnavigated the park and diverted to observe a few flowering orchids in the conservatory.

It was then back through Hedgeley Dene where Ian tried to invite himself to lunch where someone was setting up a lunch table with a tablecloth and lovely glasses. Alas he decided to continue riding with the scintillating company. Back on the Gardiners Creek Trail we turned off to the Anniversary Trail and headed to Frog Hollow for an early lunch.

After lunch the weather deteriorated and we were soon riding in mist conditions, so we stopped for some to put on their rain protection. We left the Anniversary Trail in East Kew and made our way to Hays Paddock and when asked about diverting to the chocolate shop most decided to head for home in the adverse conditions. Riders also didn't want to stop for warm refreshments in Alphington, so we all headed for home, and an early finish. The ride finished around 1.45pm and the distance covered was about 45km.

Ed

## SATURDAY RIDES

### Saturday 4 February

First ride of the month it was decided to ride to Williamstown and back. Forecast was for 21 deg. and slight chance of rain, with wind increasing NW to SW, increasing as the day progressed. With a bit of luck, it would blow us there then blow us back. Come start time we had 8 starters including one visitor, we picked up one more at Royal Park.

We headed to Kensington in on and off misty rain, which peated out after we had crossed the Cattle Bridge onto the Footscray side. Toilet stop taken at Yarraville Gardens, then along Hyde Street, which was clogged with vehicles, waiting to access the single lane open under Westgate Bridge, but it wasn't a problem, for us on the bike path. Nice to see the new toilets next to the Williamstown Sailing Club. It was the quietest I've seen Nelsons Place on a Saturday. Schwabs was our choice for refreshments, where we were joined by another rider. Most sat outside in the cold and some wimps like me dined within.

Rested and nourished, we headed back. Two riders rode on ahead as they had urgent matters to attend to. One rider left us at New Footscray Road and the rest took Dynon Road back with another rider leaving at the Upfield Trail. The ride back had been very pleasant having warmed up and the wind wasn't noticeable, perhaps because it was now at our backs.

### Saturday 11 February

This would be our regular ride from Rushall Station to Port Melbourne via the Outer Circle Trail and Docklands and return via the Light Rail Trail, the MCG and Napier Street.

Forecast was for 29 deg., no rain and plenty of UV.

Come start time the weather was pleasantly coolish and we had 8 riders to start and were joined by 2 more at Royal Park. Good time was made to our toilet stop, with little wind to speak of and the temperature picked up as we progressed along Lorimer Sreet. At Caps, our coffee spot, we arrived just after a helicopter had landed to show off its emergency gear to groups of young lifesavers. Here we were also joined by 2 more riders.



Having had our fill and readying for departure, we were shower by sand and coastal vegetation as

the departing helicopters took off. Good time was made to the city where at various point, 6 riders left us. The remaining half dozen riders returned to Rushall, without further incident.

David Downing

### **Saturday 18 February**

This Saturday was to be our regular ride from Rushall Station to Port Melbourne via the Inner City Rail Trail and Lorimer Street, returning past the MCG and Napier Street. Forecast was for 24 deg. and no rain. We had 8 starters at Rushall and picked up one more at Royal Park.

The ride to Port Melbourne was without incident, except Aida lost power assistance for a short time at our Lorimer Street, regroup point and mysteriously regained it without human intervention. Refreshments were taken at Caps and we were joined by 2 more riders.

Having had our fill, we headed back and the weather started to warm up. At the City we lost 4 riders and the remaining 5 headed back to Rushall, in very pleasant conditions.

### **Saturday 25 February**

Forecast 33 deg. max, chance of rain and storms in the afternoon and evening.

This Saturday was to be our regular Rushall Station to Port Melbourne and return,

At Rushall we had 6 riders to start and picked up 2 more at Royal Park.

Despite the forecast the weather was quite cool and as we headed to Flemington Bridge, I detected a few drops of rain on my face. Good progress was made being a compact group, as there was little delay in regrouping. At Lorimer Street, 2 riders took the Todd Road shortcut to jump the coffee queue. Morning coffees were taken at Caps where we were joined by 2 more riders.

Having had our fill, and the weather warmed a little, we headed back. At the City, 3 riders left us and the rest cycled back to Rushall, without further incident. The temperature would have only reached the mid-twenties and no one got wet.

David Downing