

WOBBLY WHEELS

Darebin BUG Mid-week Riders' Blog



DO WE WANT THE WOBBLY?

After my editorial in the January Wobbly stating that I intended to retire, I have had a total of zero responses about a replacement editor.

Time to get assertive. I am away from 29 June, so I am happy to edit for April and May. After that, we can let the Wobbly die or find a replacement editor or editors. I suggest a young rider: I was a mere 65 when I started editing the newsletter. Perhaps the committee or ride planners could give it some thought.

David

SANDRINGHAM AND SEAFORD WETLANDS 2 MARCH

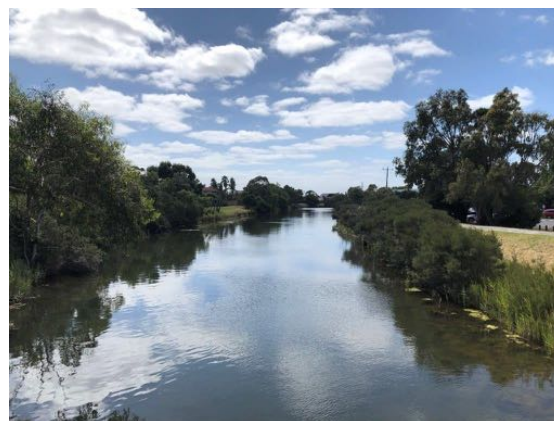
Eight keen BUG riders disembarked at Sandringham railway station on a cloudy but fine morning. Morning tea was to be looking out over the water at Ricketts Reserve further south.

After our break, we continued south towards Mordialloc on the Bay trail passing some very nice yacht and lifesaving clubs. A good path runs all the way down to Mordialloc now.

We turned off at Mordialloc onto the Longbeach trail. Apart from some concreted parts it is a rather straight gravel path that runs along next to parklands and wetlands to Patterson River at Carrum.

Lunch was to be at the Roy Dore Reserve in Carrum. Pam left us after lunch to go to Carrum station and the rest of us continued

to cross over Kananook Creek and to the Seaford Wetlands path.



We stopped at the wetlands viewing platform at the southern point to have a look over the area. We must have been there in the wrong season as unfortunately we only saw a few birds. We had seen a flock of geese on a nature strip on the way there. Perhaps they were having a break away from their usual day on the wetlands.

James left us there to go to Seaford station.

Seaford Wetlands Reserve – from the Frankston Enjoy Every Moment website

The wetlands are well known for superb bird watching opportunities. The remnant wetland areas are the largest remaining natural wetlands of their type in Port Phillip and Western Port basins. The wetlands are an internationally significant habitat for diversity of bird life, including a number of rare and endangered migratory water birds from as far afield as Siberia.

The remaining six of us continued around the wetlands which took us back to Patterson River and the Longbeach trail.



We got back to Mordialloc station and took the train back.



Another good ride. Distance approximately 45 km back to Richmond.

Report from Sue Hiscock

O'KEEFE RAIL TRAIL 7 MARCH

Seven riders journeyed to Heathcote early on Tuesday 7 March.

Ralph and I met Ian S, Roger, and Sue at the facilities in town, before driving to the start of the trail near Heathcote Primary School. The one main downfall of this track is no toilets along the way. Ed and Ian H soon joined us, so we set off with Ralph leading by 9.30am. All except Ian H were in shorts, but as it was only 13C with a westerly wind, long sleeves and coats were the uniform of choice.

As Ian S mentioned in his email and photos, this was where Ralph and Ian H intended to have morning tea. The first stop was unfamiliar, and they wondered how much further. Eventually after almost 10km, we stopped for morning tea at a pretty spot on the banks of Lake Eppalock.



The Ians and Ralph continued this debate until Ian S finally said, "I think it's just out of Axedale". No one was willing to ride further to find out, but as Ian did his research later, this proved to be the case.

The wind was quite strong on the way to Axedale, and it certainly slowed me on the long inclines. Thanks to Ed for telling me to ride at my own pace! At Knowsley, the track continued along side streets, which were very rough with gravel and harder riding than the trail. Once we crossed the McIvor Highway, we knew Axedale was growing closer. Before we went through the tunnel under the road, Ralph pointed out the level

of the October flood. A short pretty ride beside the creek and then a sharp upward turn. Well done everyone for managing your gears. I decided a walk up to level ground was a better option for this tired cyclist.

Lunch was in Axedale Park near the preschool, a welcome break from 27km of riding to date. On the return trip, Ralph said we would all regroup at the top of That Hill out of town. He and I stopped halfway up to regain our breath and drink some water, then we managed the remaining climb in

JIKA TO MERNDA 9 MARCH

A strong group of around ten gathered at Jika, including Roger who I thought had fled to Germany but apparently not until later in the month. We rode to Norris Bank for morning tea without incident.



Sue informed us that the detour before Childs Road was no longer required, and we arrived to find a magnificent underpass under Childs Road.



We continued to find that this joined the Henderson Drain Trail which was somewhat shorter than the trail we used to take which went closer to Epping Station.

our lowest gears. Generally, the wind was behind us, so we sailed along the downhill sections, lifting off our seats for the ten stock grids [20 for the whole day!]. The sun was well out by now so coats and some long sleeves were packed into paniers as sunscreen was applied. One more long uphill and we were on the outskirts of Heathcote, where the track could do with some maintenance. We arrived at the cars at 2.40pm and loaded our bikes. Sue was heading straight home, while the rest of us enjoyed coffees and vanilla slices at Gaffney's Bakery. A good day's ride of 54-55km depending which lan you asked.

Nola

We rode on to South Morang, not commemorating the bollard as this has been remembered last month. We arrived at Hawkestone Park for lunch and were greeted by a mob of kangaroos. One decided to watch the humans feeding and came closer.



After lunch, we completed the remaining few kilometers to Mernda. One or two had indicated that they would miss afternoon tea and take the train and this resulted in everyone except Ed and myself departing at the station.

Ed and I had a Portuguese tart (me) and vanilla slice (Ed) at the bakery. The slice was enormous, and Ed must be commended for finishing it. He then rode

LATROBE LINK 14 MARCH

When we did this ride back in August, the contractors at the university were still doing wombat crossings and concreting the section through Car Park 8 on the way to Main Drive. This time the wide, separated path was all done and even the giant COVID testing tent was gone.

There had been consternation when I arrived at Plant Street in Westgarth to find no Roger. The sky grew dark with this portent of disaster ... who would go tail? Ian S. brought news that the great man was in Sunshine Hospital after an "medical emergency overnight". When I checked my phone, I had this message also! How does that work?

Having been the bearer of bad news, Ian S. kindly volunteered to ride tail. We had 10 riders setting off along Westgarth Street and up the Merri Creek Trail. It was a day like Goldie Lock's porridge, not too hot and not too cold. The air was clear after the long weekend and birds were singing their hearts out, possibly due to sleeping in due to later sunrise.



Morning tea was at Edwardes Lake, where Pam and Paul left us, and then we headed

off towards Epping and I rode through Laurimar and Doreen to home.

About 39 km

David

north again through Reservoir to avoid the preparatory work for the Keon Park level-crossing removal. The path through J. C. Donath Reserve was as beautiful as ever. Predictably, the northerly we'd been riding into ceased operation just as we headed south towards La Trobe. There was lunchtime entertainment outside the Agora for the freshwomen, and men, so we had a fairly quiet lunch outside the Union Hall.



George shot through when we got to Main Drive, David M. quit at McLeod Station with threats to not come for a month, while the Hurstbridge line is out of action, and so we had a select bunch for the trip home.

It was too early for afternoon tea, so everyone was home and tucked up in bed by about 2pm after a pleasant 50km. Word came through later in the day that Roger had pancreatitis brought on by gallstones and required surgery. Don't think our first aid kit would have done the job. Get well soon, Roger.

Wolter

BLACKBURN LAKE 16 MARCH

It was getting close to 9am and it looked like no other riders were going to turn up. Within a few minutes a small a small group had assembled including an infrequent rider, Michael Barnes.

The route to morning tea at Frog Hollow was South Crescent, Wingrove Street, Darebin Greek Trail, Hyde Park and Outer Circle/Anniversary Trail. After morning tea continued along Anniversary Trail to just past Alamein Station to join the Gardiners Creek Trail and Blackburn South Drain path onto Blackburn Lake for lunch.

After lunch took Springfield Road east to Bushy Creek Trail to Koonung Creek Trail and onto the Chocolate Shop for afternoon tea. After afternoon tea, we headed back to Westgarth via Koonung Trail, Yarra Trial and the Boulevard.

The following elevation profile clearly shows it is a climb to lunch and downhill after lunch.



Ian

NOT POINT COOK AND SANCTURARY LAKES 21 MARCH

Only 3 of us turned up. Maybe the forecast for possible showers starting about 2 pm and the 2 train trips making for a longer day may have reduced the allure of this otherwise very interesting and new ride. Not wanting to get wet and not wanting to waste a good ride on such a small group we decided to revert to a default ride which included the Commonwealth Games village area, Docklands past the Alma Doepel boat shed, the beach at Middle Park, a tour of the preparations for the Grand Prix around Albert Park Lake, Fawkner Park (lunch) and home via the Yarra Trail Southside and Victoria Park.

Beautiful riding weather and no rain apart from a few spits. 44km and back to Jika by 1.30pm.

Jopie

WOODLANDS HISTORIC PARK 23 MARCH

Ride cancelled.

WESTGARTH TOWN 28 MARCH

Nine riders gathered for the day's ride, Steve, Mandy, Graham, Ed, Ralph, Nola, Jopie, Ian and myself. We set off along South Crescent in cool but dry conditions. When we reached Darebin Parklands, we turned left and headed north on the Darebin Creek Trail. After passing the turnoffs to LaTrobe University and Bundoora Park we arrived at Norris Bank Parklands for morning tea.



The weather forecast was for rain from mid-afternoon so we didn't spend too much time over morning tea. Leaving Norris Bank, it was a short ride up the Darebin Creek Trail to the Ring Road where we turned right and headed west. After crossing Dalton Road and High Street we reached the Edgars Creek path and turned right and headed north along it.

After following the Edgars Creek path for about 2 kilometres we arrived at Westgarth town. We received a very informative talk from the curator before spending time looking at the museum and its surroundings.





After finishing at Westgarth town, we headed back down the Edgars Creek Path to a picnic shelter in a playground beside Thomastown Football Ground. The local postman was eating his lunch at the picnic shelter when we arrived to disturb his peace and tranquillity.



After lunch Steve left us. The rest of the group continued down the Edgars Creek path and turned onto the Ring Road Path again, continuing west for a short while before crossing the Ring Road and turning onto the Merri Creek Trail. The predicted mid-afternoon rain didn't materialise, in fact, the sun came out and it was a very pleasant afternoon.

We stopped at Coburg Lake to discuss where afternoon tea would be, deciding on the Islamic Museum a few kilometres further along the trail.



Following afternoon tea we continued down the Merri Creek Trail. Jopie left us as we passed Sumner Park. After passing under St Georges Road we crossed over the creek and headed along the path beside Merri Parade. At the intersection with the path leading across the creek to Rushall Crescent we finished the day's ride with some of us taking the path crossing the creek to pick up the Capital City Trail and others continuing on towards Jika.

Andrew

CHERRY LAKE 30 MARCH

During the week the forecast for the Thursday ride looked bleak, however at 9am all was fine. Maybe the weather and the early start meant that riders chose not front up. So we set off with 2 brave souls, Ian and Wolter on a lovely day for riding. Since there were only 3 riders the pace was faster than normal and we reached Footscray Road in good time. Each time we ride there are more extensive roadworks to view.



At the morning tea stop in the Yarraville Gardens we were able to watch 300 primary school children running around the edge of the gardens as part of their physical education program. It must have been activity day at primary schools as we passed 2 more sports events on our ride, while other school children were also able to attend a free day at the preamble to the grand prix event.



SATURDAY RIDES

No reports received for March.

ROGER

Thanks are due to Ian Singleton for keeping everyone informed about Roger's gall bladder operation and recovery. After convalescing with Carol, he returned briefly to Gisborne and then caught his planned

After a lovely chat in the sun it was back on the bikes but when we reached the bay pedalling became much harder due to a very strong south westerly wind, so it was a push heading to Cherry lake into the wind. On nearing Cherry lake, from behind me, I heard a very bad attempt at singing the song Cherry. I don't think it was the Neil Diamond song Cherry Cherry, but maybe it was Sherry by the Four Seasons or one of the more than 50 songs with cherry in the title, but to me it was unrecognizable and inspired the leader to accelerate and hurry to the lunch spot overlooking Cherry Lake.

After lunch we headed south to the bay at Altona beach then rode back through Seaholme with a lovely tail wind. At Footscray the signs indicated that Footscray Road was closed so we headed along the Maribyrnong River past the Heavenly Queen Temple then via Kensington and back to the Westgarth by which time the two other riders had headed off in different directions.

It was a lovely day for riding 58km and the ride finished at about 2.15pm with not a drop of rain during the day.

Ed

flight to Germany to spend the remainder of his convalescence with the Bade family in Lubmin. We look forward to seeing him on his return next month.