

# WOBBLY WHEELS

Darebin BUG Mid-week Riders' Blog



## PASSING THE BATON

I am pleased to announce that Colin Finger has agreed to take on the editorship of the *Wobbly Wheels*. Colin has been riding with DBUG for some years and will introduce himself in the May edition. Send reports to

[colinfinger52@gmail.com](mailto:colinfinger52@gmail.com)

David



## MULLUM MULLUM REVERSE LOOP 4 APRIL

Who would have thought that the end of daylight saving would bring out DBUG members in droves. Despite the ride starting at 9.30 instead of 9am, only George Bailey was waiting, and he insisted he hadn't been there for half an hour! Must have been that red type on the ride list that got everyone there on schedule.

By the time Pam Styles met us at Alphington I had 13, including Mike Barnes on only his second ride back after heart

bypass surgery. Roger P. wasn't back from gall bladder surgery but was in Germany, despite not being fully recovered.

In honour of the clocks going back an hour, this was a reverse-direction ride on the Mullum Mullum Loop ... well, reverse direction for me, as I think the other way offers a gentler climb (for other people I care about, off course, not for myself). Morning tea was at Edgar Park, Box Hill, by which time people had already been removing layers. It was a beautiful, still day.



After protracted conversation possibly brought on by the lack of recent riding by some members, we proceeded onward and upward to Park Road, Donvale, minus G (George) and the three Ps (Pam, Paul and Pam S.) who'd done enough social climbing for the day. The run down to Mullum Mullum Creek was uneventful and we had to slow down to ensure we didn't reach Mullum Mullum Reserve before midday, at which point the luncheon break is allowed.

There was more animated conversation and great excitement when riders learned that the Wilson Reserve Trail had reopened, via a golf course detour, after

the Yarra bank's collapse and fury that the Alphington Foodstore had locked its back gate to riders after the recent refurbishment. There were four left for afternoon tea at the golf course and finer people you will never meet. Ian H's Strava said we did 54km.

Wolter K

## **ROSSTOWN TRAIL (ANTICLOCKWISE) 6 APRIL**

It was a lovely autumn day except for the smoke haze from the ring of burn-off fires around Melbourne. The haze over the city as we were riding down Canning Street towards that direction was not the best sight.

Six riders for the day, we passed next to Albert Park Lake with all the fences still up for the Grand Prix. Heading for St. Kilda foreshore to have our morning break. We sat next to the St. Kilda Yacht club to have our snacks and drinks.



Luckily the wind had blown most for the smoke away by then. It was quite pleasant sitting watching the walkers along the foreshore and some brave swimmers.

Continuing south on the Bay Trail we turned off at Elwood Canal and continued on the Elster Creek Trail to Gardenvale to cross over busy Nepean Highway. We rode eastwards trying to name which suburbs we were riding through. Caulfield South was one of them. Our lunch was at the EE Gunn Reserve in Ormond, home to number of sporting clubs.



We turned away from the Rosstown Trail area to head north towards the Djerring Trail to meet the trail before Carnegie station. Along the way I spotted some glass that I thought I had missed but a little later I could feel my back tyre going flat. My first flat tyre with the BUG.

Mike offered to help me fix it even though he has had to fix a lot of tyres in his day job. I horrified him slightly by suggesting turning my bike upside down. Mike did a great job in finding the offending piece of glass and fixing the flat. We were on our way again in

no time and we had had an impromptu master class in fixing a flat tyre. My sole contributions were providing the spare tube and pumping up the tyre.



At the Djerring Trail Wolter left us to ride through to Mordialloc to get some special Dutch chocolate for Easter. The rest of us rode to Hughesdale station and then north to East Malvern station to the Gardiners Creek trail and onwards.

Another good ride. Just the one puncture. Distance 53 km back to Westgarth.

Report from Sue Hiscock

### **CAROLINE SPRINGS AND KOROROIT CREEK 11 APRIL**

We had a lovely, partly sunny 19 degree day sandwiched between two rather wet miserable ones. 6 keen riders turned up and off we went, riding to North Melbourne and then training to Watergardens. All went well, no dramas, punctures or crashes, lots of lovely lakes to ride past and around, nice redgum lined creeks and a few streets to join it all together. At Sunshine station only one opted to take the train back and that was only because she had to collect grandies. The other 5 of us rode back via the train line trail to Footscray and then via Newmarket to home. About 65km total.

Regards  
Jopie

### **WILLIAMSTOWN 13 APRIL**

Nice day for a ride, myself and four others did my Williamstown ride.

Brunswick, Monee Ponds, Maribyrnong River, Essendon for M/T. Then on to Lunch. at usual beach spot. Rode back via Newport, Kensington coffee there then Royal Park.

We split up. Sue off there, I went Home via Upfield Ian H, John and Lionel to Jika,

It was a good ride. Thanks For the company.

George

## BRIMBANK PARK 18 APRIL

Ten riders were at the starting point on a fine morning for riding. We set off along the Capital City trail with Mandy at the tail, riding towards Flemington Bridge until we turned off along the Moonee Ponds creek trail.

At one stage when looking back half the group was missing as the leaders had been merrily chatting and those behind didn't see where we went. Eventually we were reunited and continued riding only to be passed by the Whitehorse cyclists who were slightly faster riders. Also, along the way we met up with Harry who joined us then set off at his own pace towards the lunch spot.

We caught up the Whitehorse group again at Boeing Reserve where we stopped for a morning cuppa and chat. After the rest the three Ps decided they had more important things to do so Pam, Paul and Pam headed back towards home while the remainder hit the road towards Melrose drive then along the Ring Road to Brimbank Park. We flew down the big hill only to have another hill to ride up to reach the crowded café which we bypassed to find a quieter spot for lunch. We eventually found a site where a number of park benches/seats were stored and stopped for lunch. Harry finally found us again and stopped for a welcome chat and he also provided a brief report on the trail conditions ahead.



After lunch we joined the Maribyrnong trail only to find some challenging surfaces to negotiate. Some rutted sections of the path

that had been washed away by the last floods, and also some sandy sections and also loose gravel that made the initial journey a challenge to ride, but all riders successfully negotiated the hazards, although at one point we had to lift our bikes over an obstruction or pass it under a barricade. Graham ended up looking a bit worse for wear with some blood running down his leg, but the consensus was that the first aid kit was not needed, and Graham administered his own bandaid. Due to the senior years of most riders, there was only one rider who could get under the limbo bar obstruction. As in a Monty Python film it was only a minor flesh wound so like the black knight Graham continued on without losing any limbs. Jopie then suggested that we cross the river at Solomons Ford to avoid the rough track, but on arriving there the river seemed too high and it looked too difficult to successfully cross the river carrying a bike without some of the group going for a swim, so we gave up on that suggestion.



Back on the trail we stopped at Canning reserve for a rest before heading off downstream to stop at the Boathouse café in Moonee Ponds for afternoon tea/coffee/milkshake or ice cream. We had received word from a ride the previous week that the path from the Angler's Arms was closed so we rode down the east side to the river for a while then around the Edgewater marina and Burndap Park before heading up through Newmarket

saleyards and back on the Capital city trail towards Westgarth. Along the way various riders peeled off so only a couple completed the full circuit.

The ride was about 60 kilometres and we finished about 4 pm.

Ed

## **WOODLANDS HISTORICAL PARK 20 APRIL**

Cruising along South Crescent I spied no one waiting at our spot. Initially thinking this will be my first solo ride, two others appeared, Wolter and Sue to rescue me.

We rode with aplomb to Newmarket Station to change from bikes to a railway carriage, all the way to Jacana Station. Back on the saddle past Jacana Wetlands we landed at West Meadows for supplies and chatter.

Winding through the backlands of Woodlands Park we arrived at the homestead for lunch only to be serenaded by large and very noisy steel birds.

The mysterious Harry appeared at morning tea and later for lunch on his way back through the airport.

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Returning through the park we joined the Moonee Ponds trail to Pascoe Vale and then meandered along parkland and suburban streets to reach the Upfield Line. Sue left us at O'Hea Road leaving Wolter and me to proceed past Pentridge to Barrow Street and the wilds of Coburg.

Arriving at the Brunswick Velodrome on the Merri Creek, we left for the short distance home.

About 55km

Ian Hamilton

## **ANZAC DAY DAREBIN SHIMMIES, APRIL 25**

I attempted to run this ride last November and we got caught in one of those poxy hailstorms on the way back so, after sheltering with Sue, Ian H. and Roger in someone's carport in Preston, we made a dash for home and never did the last bit. This time we had glorious weather for Anzac Day and 12 eager participants.

I blotted my copy book in Alphington by not noticing my partner and son walking the dog on the other side of the road, but I was keeping an eye out for Pam Stiles, who was joining us at Yarana Road. There was an amazing amount of chat along the way ... I

could barely remember where I was going with all the noise.

Once I had nailed the Abbott Steet exit from the Darebin Creek Trail it was plain sailing along the Christmas Street Shimmy and up the South Morang one to the new elevated stations of Bell and Preston. We had a quick detour to the Darebin RSL but there were none of the expected floral wreaths outside, so we headed back to the sky rail trail to ride the section beyond Murray Road, which wasn't finished last time. It winds under the elevated railway to join the pipeline track, rather than going more sensibly up the eastern side but, given Dan Andrew's issues with expenditure lately, that's probably a good thing.

We had morning tea outside the Reservoir Public Toilets in High Street, where mural artist Christine Martin was at work again on a mural sponsored by the City of Darebin.



She was painting a spotted pardalote, which is native to the area and digs its tiny nest under dirt and rocks. This spot wasn't much quieter than the railway station but at

least we had someone to annoy, and Christine agreed that the area needed trees and shrubs to make it a more pleasant spot for morning tea. If the council doesn't do it, we're going to Preston velodrome next time and they'll be sorry.



Roberta, Paul and Pam left us at the Darebin Creek Trail, heading south as we headed north, and cunningly avoided the climb at the start of the Northern Shimmy. Lunch was at Crispe Park, but no one had Crispy Chicken. We did a bit of the new grass track around the Northcote Golf Club and headed east along Beaconsfield Parade to complete the South Morang Trail's southern half on the way back to Jika. Thanks to John for going tail and plaudits to Pam S. for finishing the 35km ride.

Wolter

## **CRAIGIEBURN 28 APRIL**

A gale was blowing and rain was threatening, otherwise the weather was perfect. The weather explains why Barbara was the only rider to arrive for the day's ride. You may recall that Ian S. sent an email to all riders advising them that Ian H. and I were swapping ride dates. James read the email then proceeded to ignore it and was at Jolimont Station waiting for Ian. At 9:15 he realised his mistake and called me to arrange that we meet at Kensington Station about 10:00.

Barbara and I set off along Darebin Road and Merri Parade to the Inner Circle Trail, then briefly onto the Moonee Ponds Trail before turning off it onto Racecourse Road. We left Racecourse Road and took Parsons Street to Eastwood Street, then under the railway line to Bellair Street and onto Kensington Station where James was waiting. My planning was impeccable, the main rain band passed while we were waiting for the train and in transit to Broadmeadows.

Arriving at Broadmeadows Station we found George waiting for us. It was a short ride to morning tea in Broadmeadows Town Park.

After morning tea it was a rapid ride down Dimboola Road to the Broadmeadows Valley Trail. It was a difficult ride up the valley to Craigieburn into a very strong wind, up to 60 mph, and with occasional rain showers. James found the going a bit too difficult and "bailed out" about halfway up. He turned around and headed downhill with the wind behind him to the train at Pascoe Vale Station.

The weather was starting to clear when we arrived at Craigieburn Gardens where we stopped for lunch. We had fun chasing our lunchboxes and their lids as the wind blew them off the picnic table, not to mention the bicycles that were blown over by the wind.

After lunch George left us, so Barbara and I continued across Craigieburn Road and onto the Malcolm Creek Trail via Hanson Road and Kingswood Drive. Arriving at Grand Blvd/Amaroo Road we turned onto the Galada Tamborre Pathway, downhill with a strong wind behind us "hooray, whoopee"!!

The wind blew us all the way to Coburg Lake where I went right towards Coburg and Barbara right towards Regent.

Andrew

### **EDITOR'S ENDNOTE**

David Downing tells me that the Saturday riders are no longer writing reports, so that is it for April folks.

The May *Wobbly* is in the capable hands of Colin Finger, so send your reports to his email on page 1.

I hope to see some of you on rides as the trains should be running again soon.

David