

WOBBLY WHEELS

Darebin BUG Mid-week Riders' Blog



YES WE WANT THE WOBBLY!

Thanks to David for the many issues he produced.

As David mentioned in the April Wobbly I have offered to take on the task.

Hopefully with some assistance from David I will be able to do a half decent job. Please bear with me as I attempt to fill those big shoes.

In the future could ride leaders please send reports and any photos to the following email: colinrfinger52@gmail.com If you can see any improvements needed please let me know.

Colin Finger

COLIN'S IMPACT BY CAR

I was knocked off my bike by a driver who failed to give way at the new path across Cramer Street, Preston on Sunday February 26. Then I spent a couple of nights in RMH being put back together, home on crutches.

Follow up at RMH on Thursday March 16 saw stitches out, moon boot applied and physio exercises. A week later I was provided with a shower stool and knee walker by TAC.



Further visit to RMH Thursday April 13 showed all is well and I can now weight bear on left leg. Last visit to RMH Thursday May 25 saw the moon boot

come off for good, no plan to remove the metal. I am able to get back on the bike when I feel up to it, so look out, here I come! More physio ahead.

MANDY AND GRAHAM'S RIDE 2 MAY

We all met at Graham Broad's home in Seaford for a 10am start. Jopie, David, and Ed came by train, while Sue, Pam, Paul, Mandy, Graham, Ralph, and I arrived by car. The sun was out, but rain was forecast, so we all had our wet weather gear in case. Graham H led off with Mandy on tail.

We crossed the railway line at Seaford and soon headed south. With a tail wind and the warm sun on our backs, the riding along the Kananook Creek trail was very pleasant. Trees provided shade along the creek and bird life was abundant. Quite a few people were out walking dogs or babies in prams. At the end of this track, we navigated crossing Nepean Highway, riding to the Frankston Foreshore, which was our morning tea stop. The grass was freshly mown, near where we sat at very wide picnic tables with our tea and coffee.

Our next challenge was the 'hilly' section as we rode up past Frankston Football ground, advertising that they were playing the Sydney Swans on May 6th. We cycled along the Frankston – Baxter track beside the railway line. Some coats were discarded into paniers as we grew warm pedaling uphill. How pleased we were when Graham informed us we were only 200m from Peninsula link and that it was largely downhill from there!

At Skye Road we crossed to the other side of Peninsula Link and sailed down past Centenary Park Golf Course. Here the trail turns inwards for a picturesque ride through the Pines Flora and Fauna Reserve.

This was when it began to rain, so we stopped briefly to don the wet weather gear. Jopie's was a personally designed and colour matching orange garbage bag! Only a little rain initially and when we reached the Seaford wetlands Graham Broad said we could take a shortcut back to his place for 3km or continue. Bravely with only a few spots, we soldiered on. Once we rode onto Old Wells Road, down came the rain, very heavily. Those of us with glasses needed windscreen wipers!

The Thompson Road overpass was a challenge as the rain subsided. At the Patterson River we turned east to ride along to our lunch destination. By contrast to earlier, these picnic tables were rather narrow. Mandy took out her phone for a couple of photos as we all enjoyed our lunch. After lunch we took a brief tour of the Carrum foreshore, which has a great boardwalk and views of the city across the bay.



Then we retraced our steps a little and turned south towards the other side of the Seaford wetlands. A pelican was spotted on Patterson Lake and many inquisitive ducks were seen waddling up a nearby driveway. Friendly children from Seaford North PS waved to us as we cycled by. Back at Seaford Sue bid us farewell, while the rest of us had coffee, cake, and conversation at a local café. By this stage it was blue sky and sunny after our 38km ride. Many thanks to Mandy and Graham for organising the ride, and to Graham Broad for parking spaces.

Report by Nola.

WESTMEADOWS WITH VIEWS RIDE 4 MAY

With eight riders for the day, we rode west through to Brunswick West to cross City Link on a footbridge just north of Albion Street. Then crossing Moonee Ponds

Creek at the new Hopetoun link Bridge. To ring in some changes, we had our morning tea break just around the corner at Montgomery Reserve.



Morning tea done and dusted we continued north on the Moonee Ponds Creek path. Underneath the Ring Road we waved goodbye to Barbara who was gamely going to tackle the steep hill to Jacana station.

The rest of us turned left to tackle the other hill on the other side up to Gladstone Park. At the top we crossed over the Ring Road on the suspension bridge to ride to the Gladstone Park lookout. The weather was with us and we stood for a while to take in the view across Jacana Valley.

The rest of the ride to our lunch spot at Westmeadows was mainly downhill.

After a relaxed lunch we turned south to ride back. Being the Moonee Ponds Creek path another hill waited. Up the hilly streets to Jacana station and across to the Ring Road path.

Our return trip was via the Upfield path and then through the backstreets of Coburg and East Brunswick. We stopped at the Ceres Merri café for refreshments. Our fourth notable bridge for the day was the Warrk-warrk bridge across Merri Creek.

Another good ride. No punctures or mechanicals. Distance 48 km back to Westgarth.

Report by Sue Hiscock

BRIGHTON BEACH 9 MAY

With rain forecast for at least the morning, a surprising 11 keen BUG members met at our usual spot, suitably attired for the weather, which at that instant was not raining. These were: Ian S, Sue, Pam and Paul, Ian H, Jopie, Ed, Pam S, John, Ralph, and me. Jopie volunteered to be on tail. Shortly after departing, the drizzle became heavier, so I had to stop to put on the rain pants and wipe my glasses. Several others made necessary adjustments and off we cycled.

At a regrouping near the zoo, we noticed that the rain had stopped. Down towards Docklands and eventually we reached Beacon Cove for morning tea. The rotunda provided shelter from the rain, but it was rather windy. Nevertheless, we were happy to pause and enjoy a cuppa and chat. We heard tales of grandkids, great grandsons and two new grandsons coming in September for Pam Stiles.





Continuing along the Bay Trail towards St Kilda, Pam and Paul left us to return via Albert Park, while the rest of us headed south. The wind was south westerly, and the beach was empty. We stopped at Brighton so Ed could buy some lunch. Pam took off her coat and extra pants as she was hot. She assured us she still had plenty of layers on.

Soon after, we arrived at our lunch destination to find the shelter occupied by a homeless man. We headed for the picnic tables instead and began lunch. Another storm hit, so we gathered up our food and returned to the shelter. We stood outside under a veranda as inside smelled very unpleasant. Pam left us here to visit a friend in Sandringham, while the remaining 8 headed back the same way, stopping again at Brighton. The tail wind was welcome along the trail. We turned into the Grand Prix track and towards the city. Sue left for home towards Swanston Street, while John farewelled us before coffee at Bedgood & Co. in East Melbourne. Of course, we even saw the sun as we rode back to Jika. A good ride of roughly 48km.

Report by Nola

MYSTERY RIDE 11 MAY

Seven of us set off up the Merri Creek Trail until we reached the old drive-in. Am I the only one who snuck into the drive-in hiding in the boot of a car? We rode across suburban streets to Pascoe Vale finally ambling through parklands to find our spot for morning tea. There has been quite a bit of work along Gavin Park including a new wetland along Westbreen Creek, the perfect spot to prop for refreshments. Right near a toilet — who could ask for anything more?

Tootling along by Moonee Ponds Creek to Mascoma Street we headed up and over the Tullamarine Freeway to reach the bike path along the Caterpillar factory to reach the Steele Creek path leading us eventually to the Maribyrnong River for lunch.



After a pleasant sojourn we headed for Flemington to a new-to-us cafe, sitting in the pleasant sunshine which we have enjoyed all day.

We headed for home some of us peeling off along the way.

Ian H. 50 kms more or less

Ps Patrick joined us, More illusive even than Harry.

Report by Ian H

MARANOA BOTANIC GARDENS 16 MAY

After a beautiful Monday the rain on Tuesday morning was disappointing. Why am I cursed with wet weather on many rides I lead? Everyone sheltered under the Jika Jika verandah as it was raining for the start of the ride. Jika Jika staff must have felt sorry for us as they offered to let us participate in the 10am Tai Chi class. With the hope that it was near the end of the rain band on the weather radar we set off for morning tea at the Royal Botanic Gardens. It was an uneventful and largely dry ride via Canning Street and the protected bike path on Exhibition Street. At the Botanic Gardens there was a big surprise. The area where we normally had morning tea has been given a makeover with new tables and umbrellas. It is now being operated as an outdoor café with table service. We managed to have morning tea but an alternative location may need to be found for future rides.



Just as it was time to leave there was a heavy shower so departure was delayed for about 10 minutes. Fortunately, it remained dry for the rest of the ride. We proceeded on the Main Yarra Trail on the south side of the river to the MacRobertson Bridge and crossed to the north side of the river and onto the Gardiners Creek Trail to Ferndale Trail. Ferndale Trail is the start of a steady climb

via Anniversary Trail and the quiet suburban streets of Canterbury and Balwyn with a short steep climb to the Maranoa Botanical Gardens and Becketts Park for lunch. With the exception of a rather slow jogger passing numerous times we had the park to ourselves for lunch.



After lunch we strolled through the gardens with our bikes. Roger was disappointed that the information sign in the gardens did not explain where the Maranoa name had come from. Well Google has all the answers.

According to Wikipedia:

“Maranoa Gardens began in the early 1890s, when Mr John Middleton Watson purchased 1.4 hectares in Balwyn, a suburb of Melbourne, Australia, for a private garden. He planted many Australian and New Zealand native trees and shrubs and the area was maintained purely as a garden. He named the gardens Maranoa after a river in Queensland, from native words meaning flowing, alive or running..”

“The Maranoa River, part of the Murray-Darling basin, is a river situated in South West Queensland, Australia. “

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 Main Yarra Trail briefly and then onto the Boulevard using the steep hill at Eaglemont Tennis

Club to avoid the muddy trail around the river. We had an enjoyable afternoon tea at the Bean Counter Café in Caulfield.

Report by Ian S

AQUEDUCT TRAIL 18 MAY

I was looking forward to my first ride for several weeks while the rail works were in progress. I had tried to join Sue's ride a couple of weeks ago but the train unexpectedly terminated at Eltham leaving me no alternative but to ride home.

To try to avoid delays, I took the earlier train and so found no one at the start. I rode round to Phil's bakery and found Roger, returned from Germany. After a few minutes we rode back to Jika Jika to use the facilities but the code on the key box had been changed. Plan B as always was the public block on the corner of Westgarth Street. We returned to Jika Jika to find that it had been opened but the women in charge did not know the new code either.

Eight riders gathered for the start although Barbara indicated that she was only riding to morning tea. We reached Possum Park without incident and cold weather kept many people away. However, we encountered George who had driven over to join us.



Over tea, Ian asked me a lot about my electric car and others joined in the discussion. As we passed Eltham Leisure

Centre, an identical model was connected to the charging station.



Ian, Roger Ed and George had a close look.

We continued on to find that at last, the bridge had been replaced with a bright new metal one and we no longer had to detour via the Bridge Street bridge. WE stopped for lunch in the Eltham reserve. The toilets had cyclone fencing around them but Roger investigated and reported that they were open for use.



After lunch, we took the trail up the hill to Research and the Aqueduct Trail. As we arrived at the start of the trail, Michael reported that he had a slow puncture. Without any help even from Roger, he replaced the tube and was ready to ride in about ten minutes.



We rode along the Aqueduct Trail and managed the steep section without mishap. Ed came close to 80 kph down Allandale Road and lived to tell the tale. In no time we arrived at Platters in Diamond Creek for afternoon tea. Sue headed home and the rest of us had a leisurely coffee. It was 2.10 before I checked the trains, which left nearly 40 minutes to wait for the next one. Ed, Michael, Ian and John decided to ride back and get the train at Eltham. George and Roger waited it out at Diamond Creek while I rode home on the Diamond Creek Trail.

About 39 km to Diamond Creek.

Report by David

YAN YEAN & LAURIMAR LAKES 23 MAY

A big group of 14 turned up on a still cool morning for the ride to Merri station and the train trip to Mernda, joined at Croxton by 2 more and at Mernda by Nola & Ralph who had ridden there from their home in Bundoora. So we were 18! Wow! The biggest group I've been part of for quite some time. Morning tea was a leisurely affair at the top picnic area overlooking Yan Yean Reservoir. To get there we had to negotiate a short muddy section but thankfully nobody came to grief.



After a brief detour up the wrong gravel road we enjoyed the delights of Laurimar; lots of scenic lakes, bike paths and bridges with a special visit to my favourite red gum in all of Melbourne. More streets and a few lakes took us to a rather late lunch at the newly refurbished Redleap Lake picnic area. Ralph & Nola headed home from here whilst the rest of us rode via a few more lakes and a bridge and a whiz along the Ring Road path to

Watsonia and on to Rosanna where Roger hopped on a train.

The rest of us took my newly devised fairly direct with minimal hills route through Heidelberg and Ivanhoe to Darebin Parklands and home. The afternoon tailwind was a highlight. No punctures and nobody ran into a bollard that I can remember. A most enjoyable day.

Report by Jopie, photos by Wolter

ALBERT PARK LAKE ALTERNATE RIDE 25 MAY

Yet again it seems I am destined to lead wet rides. A small group assembled for the ride with heavy rain forecast for early to mid-afternoon. I proposed a shortened ride to Southbank for morning tea and then to St Kilda with return around Albert Park Lake and return for lunch at home. Agreement was quickly reached for this change.

It was an uneventful ride on Capital City Trail to morning tea. Southbank was a bit like a ghost town with many shops boarded up so we had a pick of any table. Another COVID casualty? The remaining outlets were well stocked with lunch time food so I guess it must be lunch destination for office workers. Roger headed to Southern Cross Station for an early trip home as the rest of the group travelled on Sandridge Rail Trail and then Bay Trail to St Kilda. The Bay Trail was a dream ride with a tail wind. It was so good in fact that George decided to keep going to Brighton or Sandringham or even Mordialloc and train home.

The rest of the group took the gravel trail on the edge of the western side of the lake.

The bird life both in the water and grazing on the lawn area was quite prolific. The

birds were mainly Black Swans and Eurasian Coot (looked this up on lake website)



The remainder of the ride was the William St protected bike lane, Sydney Rd service lane and Capital City Trail with riders leaving at various locations. The ride was about 37km and we did avoid the rain mostly. In my case light rain started about 5 minutes from home.

Report by Ian S

UPFIELD PATH AND DAREBIN CREEK 30 MAY

Thirteen riders met at Jika Jika and it was lovely to welcome Glenys back to the group. She reported that Bill is doing well and said he'd be fine; it was time she returned to cycling with our group. Pam S, Sue and I made up the 4 women. Ralph led us off with Ian H on tail.

We headed across the Capital City trail and turned north onto the Upfield Path beside the railway line. Some of this path is quite narrow, so single file was necessary. We had a good run with the traffic lights and stopped briefly below the Jacinda Ardern mural. The path widened once we rode under the new Moreland Station and around the new Coburg one. Crossing Bell Street, I felt I was in home

territory, as I grew up in North Coburg, with both sets of grandparents in the same suburb, one in O'Hea's Road and the other near Batman Station. I diverted near the latter to see the old house and was pleased to note it looked well cared for.



Morning tea was at Coburg Lake where we spotted lots of autumn leaves on the way down the hill. Pam and I commented on how kids would love playing here. I did enjoy talking with Pam and sharing fun stories for preschoolers. She and Glenys had a lovely chat too, catching up on each other's news. Pam and Steve left for home, so that made us a group of 11.

We rode up the Merri Creek trail and paused briefly to admire the new 'lakes' at Moomba Park, before heading to the Ring Road and turning east. Sue, Glenys, and I discussed the new series of Smother on the ABC and how dysfunctional that family is. About 2km after crossing Dalton Road, we turned onto the Darebin Creek trail and cycled to Norris Bank Park for lunch. Even the sun appeared through the clouds to surprise us. George and Glenys reminisced about early days in the bike

group. We agreed that both men and women like to have a chat! It showed how we welcome and embrace everyone in Darebin BUG. Near the end of lunch Bill arrived in the distance to 'check up on Glenys', who was delighted to see him. After lunch it was back on the Darebin Creek trail – George left for home near Reservoir, while Jopie headed off at Northland. Coffee was at Artiga in Thornbury, by which time, Sue, Michael, and Ian H had ridden towards home too. Ed, Ian S, John, Ralph, Glenys, and I enjoyed our caffeine fix. As we rode back towards Jika Jika, the sun was out and it had been a very pleasant day cycling 44km, led by Ralph.

Report by Nola