

WOBBLY WHEELS

Darebin BUG Mid-week Riders' Blog



UPDATE ON COLIN

On June 26, four months to the day since I was knocked off my bike, I had an interviewer and a camera man from the Channel 9 show Emergency doing a follow-up. They were busy for 3 hours with interview and camera shots from all angles! The producers will let me know when it will be going to air, so I will let you know, for those interested.

ANY OTHER INTERESTING NEWS

If any member has some news they want to share with the group please send details and photos (if there are any) to me. If the information is about someone other than the person submitting, please be sure they have given permission.
Email: colinrfinger52@gmail.com

RING OF STEELE 1 JUNE

It seemed like only yesterday, but it was October 11 last year when I last ran this ride with new recruit John bravely tackling the 55km outing as his first ride with the Darebin BUG! He made it as far as the Royal Park climb on the way home before calling it quits, his face as red as a beetroot. Here we were, nine months later, and John was riding tail for the group of seven, looking a lot slimmer and healthier than back then.

Also in attendance were Ed, Roger, Sue, Mike and George Bailey (who had his two-wheel-drive system reinstalled, perhaps thinking we were going to ride up the eastern side of Moonee Ponds Creek). There was a formal apology from Ian H but we decided to proceed without him. The weather was in our favour, with cloud

forecast for the afternoon, and there seemed to be a lot to talk about.



After morning tea at the Austin Crescent Reserve in Pascoe Vale, we kept heading north on Moonee Ponds Creek and notice that the Nursery Corner Reserve in Strathmore had been cleared of buildings and introduced trees, but no painted markings to indicate the imminent appearance of a new shared path.

This time we had lunch at Elms Court Reserve, after a quick loop to take in the view from Gowanbrae Community Reserve, which has no public toilets so you have to stop at Elms Court anyway. During the pre-run I'd had a look at another route through the Airport West shopping centre, but it was just as busy. Why do developers build carpark with no footpaths for their customers?

Why do councils allow it to happen? Instead, we headed along the Western Ring Road Path to get to Westfield Drive over the railway lines, but the shared path there was in poor shape. Back to Plan A.

After riding it on Monday, I'd been worried that the Airport West Green Spine would be closed by Thursday as wooden stakes were being driven into the ground at the first two road crossings. Luckily, the contractor hadn't started digging three

days later and it turns out they are building raised level crossings at the first two busy roads the Green Spine meets.

The Moonee Valley council is also building a large play space further down, at AJ Davis Reserve, which might make a good spot for lunch, although public toilets appear to be part of a subsequent project.

Afternoon tea was at The Boathouse, to the accompaniment of much noise from the flood-repair crew at the Anglers Tavern across the Maribyrnong River.

This trail had been subject to a detour around Edgewater Marina on Monday, and I started taking the detour again before realising the new, 3m wide concrete path was open. Now they just have to fix the narrow bit under Maribyrnong Road Bridge.

Riders disappeared in all directions from Royal Park onwards, leaving me with just John and Mike to Jika Jika.

Report by Wolter

SATURDAY RIDE GROUP

3 JUNE

For the first Saturday of June, we planned a ride to Altona, designed to broaden our horizons. It did that.

The day started with a shower, but it was dry when five of us left Rushall along the Inner Circle path: David (leading from behind), Mary, Octavio, Ivan and George (mainly following from the front). We collected Alf at Flemington Bridge and Sandra and Anne at Yarraville Gardens.

We rode south along the Moonee Ponds Creek, then west along Dynon Road, with a long pause at the service station at the Lloyd Street corner to sit out a shower, which turned out to be our last for the day. Then we continued down Whitehall and Hyde Streets to Williamstown, where we stopped at Schwab's Galley for morning tea, which by then we needed, even if it was earlier than the Plan. (I'm asked to

commend the cinnamon scrolls in particular, but it was all good.)

After morning tea, a consensus was announced that we would continue to Altona along the Bay Trail. That leg turned out well, being both flat and scenic (sea views, birds, wetlands). We passed a large group from an Indian charity who were replanting native vegetation near the fishing shacks before the Mobil refinery (it's a very refined area).

The proposed morning tea stop at Altona wasn't very inviting, and we kept going, pleased with ourselves for having had the foresight to refuel at Williamstown. Sandra, Anne, and Alf caught the train home, an option mentioned in the Plan. The rest (the original five) rode up to Cherry Lake and then back along the foreshore. At Maddox Road we turned inland and took Railway Terrace, then Market, Hall, and Craig Streets to Scienceworks, from where we backtracked home.

We made different measurements of the distance, but it was somewhere between 50 and 55 km. Some got cold, bikes got muddy, and Mary's rear derailleur needs tlc, but nobody gave up or got very wet. Worth the effort, and the "gentlemen in England now a-bed" missed out on something.

Report supplied by George Durbridge

WERRIBEE RIVER AND SKELETON CREEK

6 JUNE

A cast of thousands turned up including 3 new riders to head off into the wild west. Well 17 at least, so we set off to North Melbourne station past the zoo to catch the train to Werribee. After a wait we were on our way to Werribee where it took some time for all to have a wee stop then on the bikes for a pleasant ride along the Werribee River. When we headed down

under the freeway our path was blocked by a car and a nervous apologetic driver, with lots of wires spread around. Later discussion indicated that he was burning the plastic off copper wires (probably stolen) and was trying to do so in a secluded place where he wouldn't be noticed. Obviously he didn't expect 18 bike riders to come past.

On emerging up the hill we had a pleasant tailwind ride towards the Werribee mansion river crossing, only to find a locked gate on the bridge across the river. Oh no, the leader hadn't done his reconnaissance homework. The only option to get across was to ride to the sea or swim across the river with the bikes so reluctantly we turned around and rode back into a headwind to the start of the Federation trail. By the time we got back to the freeway our copper wire fiend had disappeared.

It was a bit of a slog with the strong winds but we eventually found a spot around midday to stop pedaling for a while for a late morning tea lunch break, but with no facilities. Roger inspected a portaloo on a nearby building site but gave it the thumbs down and indicated that it wasn't suitable for our use.



Lunch stop at Nagel Drive playground.

Back on the bikes again into a head wind to the start of the Skeleton Creek trail. It was a bit calmer in the creek valley but overall riding in the windy conditions was a bit of a challenge for most riders. We finally arrived at "The 100 steps of Federation" at Truganina Park much too late for lunch but Graeme and Fred decided to inspect the installation at the top of the mound while the rest of us headed towards the Altona Apex Park playground for a rest at the tables slightly protected from the wind. A number of keen riders tried to revive their childhood memories by using some of the playground equipment including monkey bars and the gym equipment.





Back on the bikes a four riders decided to catch the train at Altona while 4 more jumped aboard at Newport and one other left at Footscray. As we headed back through the city more headed off north, so only 4 riders made the complete circuit back to Jika Jika, quite late in the afternoon, after a long hard ride due to the windy conditions. The ride distance was 67 km.

Back at Jika Jika I talked to an artist Rosa who is seeking input from centre users about making the more friendly and accessible. It is planned to remove the fences and have more art in the vicinity and Rosa is keen to meet and discuss any ideas with interested BUG riders.

From July the BUG rides will start from the Jika Jika centre.

Report by Ed

SUNSHINE AND KOROROIT CREEK 8 JUNE

After a little confusion five of us passed through the old Kensington stock yards as we headed to Footscray Park for morning tea, skirting puddles from yesterday's rain. The morning's weather prediction of sunshine boded well for the ride.

Riding past the cosmopolitan market and small cottages we followed the bike path along the rail line to Sunshine station. Up and over the line we headed for the Kororoit Creek path to the wilds of the river valley replete with water, rocks, trees and open blue skies. This area is a treat for the olfactory senses allowing us to identify the various industrial smells greeting us all the way to the Federation Trail and the foot bridge over the West Gate Freeway to Altona North.

The backstreets led us from the statue lined Kororoit Creek path to Newport Lakes for lunch and much welcomed tucker.





From the lakes we headed through the backstreets of South Kingsville where we once again crossed over the West Gate Freeway along back streets to Yarraville, Seddon and Footscray. From here we headed along Arden Street to Abbotsford Street, Royal Park, Parkville and finally the Capital City Trail, leaving Sue to ride back to Brunswick and realising Roger must have left at Footscray Station - the ghost who rides.

That left Jon, Ed and me back to Jika Jika. 50 or so km

Report by Ian H

MULLUM MULLEM CREEK (WITH TRAIN) 13 JUNE

6 of us set off from Jika Jika on a cool morning for the ride to Camberwell Station. The train trip to Heatherdale was uneventful except Steve got a message requiring his attendance for a lunch so after our steep descent down to morning tea at Schwerkholt's Cottage he headed home along the Koonung Trail. The rest of

us took the scenic, mainly downhill run, down Mullum Mullum Creek to the Yarra & to lunch at Westerfolds. Then over the bridge at Finns Reserve to Birrarung Park for a loop through the red gums along the river, ditto for Banksia Park and then via the streets of Ivanhoe to the Boulevard where on the voices we decided to bypass coffee at the golf club to head home.

We did have a few spits and sprinkles of rain: enough to make most of us put on our raincoats, but otherwise no punctures, injuries, people getting mislaid or other dramas.

Report by Jopie

CHERRY LAKE 15 JUNE

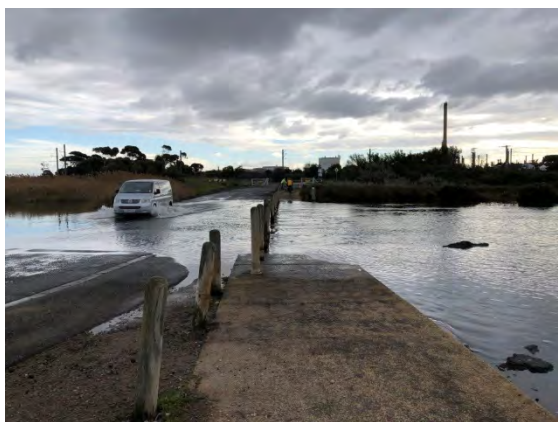
With six riders for the day, we rode west to the Moonee Ponds Creek path, turning off at Arden Street to get through to Dynon Road for an anti-clockwise ride. Our morning tea was at McNish Reserve in Yarraville next to Stony Creek. Jon took the opportunity to heat up his morning tea on one of the BBQs.





Continuing south we crossed the Westgate Freeway at the Muir Street footbridge. On the Yarraville side the fences that had been next to the new shared path have finally been removed. There is a lot of stark concrete.

Via Maddox Road onto the Bay Trail West, we were slightly startled to find the tide up a bit on the ford across Kororoit Creek. Not being put off we rode through carefully - it was a few centimetres of water. No wet feet.



At Cherry Lake we did a short ride next to the more scenic part of the lake then turned back for lunch.

The day remained dry with only a few spots of the rain forecast. After lunch riding back towards the ford we were startled again by the tide being a bit higher. Some of us held back a little, but two of the riders rode straight through with barely a pause. After we were all through, riding carefully with no issues, Andrew kindly rode back and through again for me to get a photo to show depth and perspective. I think he got a wet foot for his trouble.



Our return trip was via the Bay Trail and along Footscray Road. The works along there are changing the area almost beyond recognition.

Andrew left us at the Moonee Ponds Creek path but the rest of the group turned east at Arden Street, then along Queensberry Street to ride along the top of the CBD and then via Carlton, etc.

Another good ride. No punctures or mechanicals. Distance approx. 55km back to Westgarth.

Report by Sue

WARBURTON TRAIL (WANDIN NORTH TO WARBURTON AND RETURN) 20 JUNE

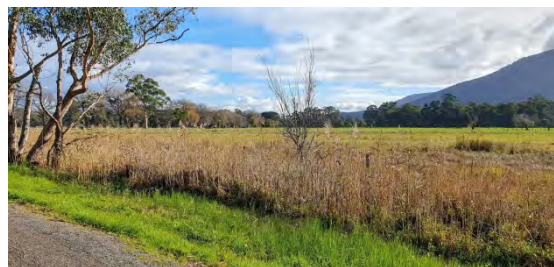
It was a lovely fresh and cold winter morning start for our ride to Warburton. On the way to Wandin North there were a couple of drops of rain but not enough for riders to turn back home. So, 7 riders started but two, Roger and Michael, had ridden from Lilydale and reached the start by 10am.

When we started riding downhill was easy, but most riders may have preferred a bit more pedaling to warm up. In less than 10 minutes we reached the train carriage café at Seville to find a group of horse riders sitting under the outdoor heater, so the bike riders had to settle for a cooler table. Most had a large hot drink to warm their hands and insides. I think the general consensus was that the early stop was worthwhile and better than having to race back in the afternoon to have a coffee before the café closed.

Back on the bikes after a good chat we headed through the forest on the trail which was wet but not too soft. Luckily there was not a drop of wind, so it was lovely riding in the fresh mountain air.

After much chatting and riding we reached Warburton for lunch by the Yarra River. The seats at the picnic tables were still a bit wet and those who had plastic bags or waterproofs used them to avoid getting a wet bottom.

After lunch it was another start, riding gently downhill until about half way, before starting the gradual climb back to Wandin North where we finished an enjoyable ride at about 3pm and covered about 56km.



A view from the trail.

Report by Ed

WESTGATE PARK, PORT MELBOURNE 22 JUNE

Eight riders were a good turnout for a cold day though with no sign of rain. It was nice to see George after a break, with Roger, Ian H, Wolter, Susan, Leon and David forming rest of the pelaton!

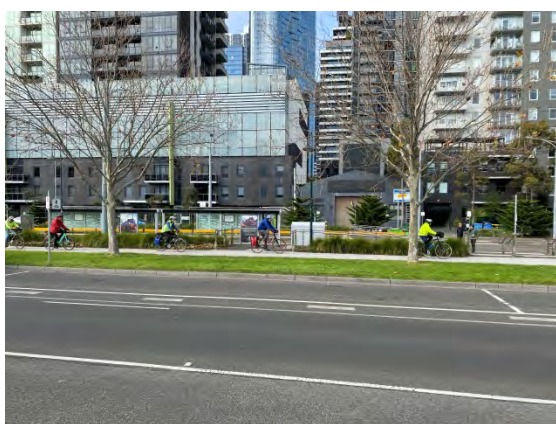
We headed for the Yarra Trail and I was grateful for Susan's advice in negotiating the brewery diversion. We were soon on the main trail again and into the Botanical Gardens (Royal) for morning tea. The pleasant spot by the lake is now reserved for café patrons so we took over the hut by the Separation Tree watched by a pair of noisy miners.



After tea, we set off along the tan as Susan wanted to check out a rotunda in the Alexandra Gardens as a possible future tea stop. After the check, we continued along Southbank.



Wolter rode ahead in order to get some photos as we passed.



We had a good ride along the light rail and arrived a station pier. We continued along the Bay and had a brief stop at Caps Café for David to get some lunch and then arrived at Westgate Park.

We had a pleasant chat over lunch, though the toilets were in need of some attention. We continued along Lorimer Street and then on to the Yarra bank. We crossed the river after the casino and George headed off along Swanston Street. Passing Flinders Street Station and then the MCG, we rode along Clarendon Street and then Wellington Street bringing us to Clifton Hill. The group then split up to head to home. Around 38 km.

Report by David
Photos by Wolter

THE 100 STEPS (OF FEDERATION) 27 JUNE

We had twelve riders participate in the ride, some joining along the way, others leaving along the way. Anyway, a good number for a cold winter's day with rain forecast for later in the day.

We headed off on the familiar route across Merri Parade, along Capital City and Moonee Ponds Trails towards Docklands. We were stopped by a boom gate at Dynon Road where major road works were occurring. Eventually the gate was lifted and we continued down the trail. Not far past Dynon Road the trail was flooded. It had been flooded the week before when I did a reconnaissance, I don't think the flooded area is being pumped out while the road works are continuing. One intrepid rider passed us and tried to cross through the flooding. After seeing him in water higher than his axles we turned around. Back at Dynon Road we turned left, following it to Moreland Street which we took to Bunbury Street and then across to the top of Hyde Street. This avoided all the traffic and road building chaos around Footscray Road and Whitehall Street. We followed Hyde Street to Yarraville Gardens where we stopped for morning tea.



Harry appeared somewhere along our route to the gardens, and after morning tea Pam and Jopie left us. Pam travelled to Southern Cross Station along Footscray Road, which was closed to traffic, and sent me this photo of road building works there.



After morning tea we continued along Hyde Street to the Westgate Bridge where we joined the Bay Trail and headed to Williamstown. From Williamstown we continued on the Bay Trail to Williamstown Beach and then into Jawbone Reserve. We crossed Maddox Road and continued past the Angling Clubs beside Kororoit Creek to the ford at Racecourse/Altona Road, which today was dry. After crossing Altona Coastal Park we followed the Esplanade to Altona Beach. We had passed construction work at Dynon Road, Footscray Road, Westgate, Battery Road and now Altona Pier. A great time to be in the construction business.



Leaving the Esplanade it was a short ride through the coastal park and across Laverton Creek to the lunch stop at The 100 Steps.





After lunch we retraced our steps as far as Maddox Road. Here we followed Maddox Road across Kororoit Creek Road and started a meander through the back streets of Newport, Yarraville and Footscray. We turned off Maddox Road and onto Challis Street which we followed all the way to Mason Street. From here we went through Newport Lakes Reserve, across Blackshaws Road and onto Vernon Street. At the end on Vernon Street we made our way across the railway line, into Muir Street, over the freeway on the pedestrian bridge to Fogarty Avenue. We followed Fogarty Avenue to Stony Creek, then up Stony Creek to Buddy Point. From here we were able to make our way to Yarraville Station via Austin Crescent and Anderson Street. We turned left off Anderson Street before crossing the railway line and made our way along the western side of the railway line via Birmingham Street, Pentland Parade and Albert Street to Pilgrim Street. Here we turned right and crossed under the railway line to Hyde Street. It was a short ride to Footscray Arts Centre where I had hoped we would have afternoon tea, but we were too late. We made our way to Kensington Station via the river, the Stockyard bridge and Belair Street. Harry disappeared somewhere along this section. Again the coffee shops were all closing.

Abandoning the idea of afternoon tea we continued along Belair Street and after crossing under the railway line went down Parson Street to Stubbs Street, across Racecourse Road and onto the Moonee Ponds Trail. From here we made our way through Royal Park towards Jika Jika with a steady stream of riders departing to make their way home.

Report by Andrew

AD HOC RIDE 29 JUNE

Myself, Roger, John, Sue and Ian H. rode. I led what I described as a mystery ride. We rode Canning Street, St Kilda Road to Albert Park Lake.

Morning Tea, then on to beach path to St Kilda gardens

Lunch.

Returned to Port Melbourne, South Gate, Napier Street, to Jika Jika.

Had a pigeon attack at lunch. One bird was very keen on getting Ian's lunch, also mine. Had to ward off many others as well.

Aside from that we had a nice easy ride.

Thanks for having company.

Report by George