

# WOBBLY WHEELS

## Darebin BUG Mid-week Riders' Blog



### NEW LAYOUT, ETC

All the responses I have received thus far are in favour of the new layout, so I will continue to use it for future issues of WW.

I have decided that in future issues I will only be putting rider's first names in reports. I have decided to do this to help protect individual's privacy. As there are members with the same first name, I will identify them by adding the initial of their family name, eg Ian S, Ian H, Pam Si, Pam St. I would appreciate being made aware of any others I may have missed.

Thanks  
Colin

### SATURDAY RIDING GROUP 2 SEPTEMBER

First ride of the month, it was decided to take the Main Yarra Trail to Gardiners Creek and return via the Anniversary trail. Forecast was for a very comfortable 18 degrees and clear sky.

Start time at Rushall station, we had a clear blue sky but the air was absolutely freezing. No doubt put off by the cold weather we only had 6 riders including myself. George turned up to see us off but didn't ride due to a bout of non covid flu. Reg, Alf, Ivan, Carmel, Octavio and myself headed off through Edinburgh Gardens and Napier Street, past the MCG to the Tennis Centre, where we had our toilet stop. From here we headed to the Main Yarra Trail where, at Morell Bridge, we were joined by Sandra.

For such a lovely day the Main Yarra Trail was relatively quiet, a few cyclists and pedestrians but fewer dogs than usual and not too many boats on the river. We crossed over the river at Gardiners Creek and followed the trail. Usually we take the Ferndale Trail, to Glen Iris but this time we kept with Gardiners Creek until the start of the Anniversary Trail at Alamein. By this time, it had started to warm up and it was a real joy to ride through such a scenic area.

The Anniversary Trail brought us to the Golden Child Café, near the Burwood Station, where we stopped for refreshments. Quite good, but Reg's order went missing for a while but after a reminder it was filled with apologies. While at the eatery we were joined by Roberta, who had ridden the other direction to join us.

Having had our fill we headed off, except for Alf who decided to catch the train at Burwood Station. The rest of the trail was very nice except the ordeal of crossing the freeway entrances, at Chandler Highway. Riders dropped off as we passed by their home territories and a couple of riders arrived back at Rushall at about 2.30 pm. Having done by my measure 36.5 Km.

Report David D

### AITKEN CREEK 5 SEPTEMBER

How is it that Roger can get to Jika Jika from Gisborne before people who live only blocks away? It's one of the great mysteries of the universe. Luckily, he wasn't the only volunteer and we had eight by the time 9.30am ticked over on the Rocket Clock, including Jon on his second ride back after spending seven weeks trapped in Western Europe, poor bastard.

The weather wasn't looking very encouraging but I had managed to trim a few kilometres from the route after emailing Jopie about his Attwood Creek Ride that was in the last Wobbly. I'd been bypassing The Homestead Community Centre in Roxburgh Park because the public conveniences

were closed the first time I went through there. Turns out you can use the bathrooms inside the centre and the staff are even inviting us to free community lunches!

The idea for this ride started about a year ago, when I noticed all the waterways feeding into the Moonee Ponds Creek around Westmeadows and Roxburgh Park that we didn't seem to be riding along (although you'd have to say Malcolm Creek further north is very pretty).

So we had morning tea at Boeing Reserve before bidding farewell to Barbara and hooking into the Broad Street Drain/Attwood Creek Trail from West Meadows. This stops rather inexplicably before the east-west flight path to Tulla, even though there are already dirt walking tracks on both sides of the creek. I tried to get Ed to do a couple of laps on his Bombtrack while we did the recently concreted pipe track nearby, but he declined. I had got him to be the tail rider.

From Attwood Creek it was across to the Barrymore Road Recreation Reserve to get to the Greenvale Creek Trail and then another cut across through back streets to go south on the Yuroke Creek Trail. The weather was struggling to make up its mind, so the temperature was going up and down a fair bit. Finally, we were heading north again on the Broadmeadows Valley Trail and admiring all the McMansions on our way to The Homestead Community Centre to meet our new best friends. Turns out they don't open the public toilets behind the training centre unless there is something going on. Lunch was cut a little short when the sky started getting dark and the wind picked up briefly.

It was only a few more kilometres to the Aitken Creek Trail heading to Craigieburn Railway Station for the trip home. The creek trail goes a fair way further west, but Aitken Boulevard is being duplicated so it's not much fun in that direction at the moment, apart from the first bit through the golf course. Next time those road works should be finished and maybe we'll catch the train out to Craigieburn for a downhill run home. We did 53km.





**WESTERFOLDS PARK  
VIA MACLEOD  
7 SEPTEMBER**



The first week of spring heralded a forecast of a sunny 22c and strong northerly winds. The storms were coming later.

Seven riders to start. We turned off the Darebin Creek trail at the Darebin Creek Bridge taking us to Abercorn Avenue and through to the Donaldson Creek path. Going north we turned at Banksia Street and Waterdale Road detouring through the Austin & Repat. Hospital grounds. Across Bell Street and onto slightly uphill, designated bicycle streets to Macleod. The northerly wind was pretty fierce so not a 'walk in the park'.

Turning off at Dougharty Road, we escaped the wind for a while and rode downhill to the Rosanna Parklands. We continued north to Macleod and stopped for our morning tea at the Macleod village.



Roberta left us at Macleod as we continued on up Erskine Road and through the backstreets to the River Gum Walk. At Banyule Flats we took the Main Yarra Trail through to Westerfolds Park.

By the time we got to Bonds Road some of us were taking off layers to shirt sleeves. Amazing for spring. Lunching at the Porter Street picnic area the clouds started to come in and the rain band seemed much closer on the BOM rain radar. It was a nice relaxing lunch but we didn't linger too long before haring it back along the Main Yarra Trail to Fairfield. There was a general

consensus to stop for coffee. I think everyone except Roger would have got home before the rains came through.

The weather was pretty much as advertised. No mechanicals or punctures.

Another good ride. Distance 42km.

Report by Sue

## **RALPH'S MYSTERY RIDE 12 SEPTEMBER**

On a beautiful spring morning 12 riders met at Jika Jika. Pam and Paul were very happy to be back on their bikes on such a good day and Ian S had returned from 3 months in the States. Ralph announced that morning tea was at Reservoir Station and Ed was the nominated tail.

Pam and I took off our coats before setting off as we were already warming up. The BOM predicted 22C so a perfect day for a ride. Ralph led us up the St George's Road path, to Oakover Road, where he turned right and rode up the side of the tram depot towards the overhead train line. He turned left/north towards Bell station. This is a lovely part of the ride, under two stations, Bell, and Preston, well landscaped with seating and recreational areas.

Soon we arrived at Reservoir for morning tea and a chat in the sunshine. Steve wondered if the magpies were out yet in Cheddar Road, while Paul remembered being attacked near Axedale a few years ago, when he was wearing blue.

After successfully riding up Cheddar Road without any swooping, we reached Keon Parade, where Colin bid us farewell as he turned for home. Ralph led us to the Ring Road track and headed east to Murchison Way. Crossing McKimmies Road, we cycled around Findon Recreation Reserve to Childs Road. From a part of this track, where we were quite elevated, there was a great view of the city that I pointed out to Tim. Soon we were sailing down the Yan Yean Pipe track, which Ralph explained later, was a new track, having been completed earlier this year. A few more back streets and we were back on the Darebin Creek path riding to our lunch destination at Norris Bank Park.



We sat at two picnic tables under cover and enjoyed catching up on each other's news as we ate our lunch. By this time, I had taken off my fleecy top and many were down to short sleeves, such was the warm temperature. Many were wishing they had worn shorts! On our return trip Ralph led us via Bundoora Park and Latrobe Uni to the Darebin trail, where we stopped at Artiga Café for coffee. The music was good, and we commended one of the workers on her playlist. Roger scored an iced chocolate with ice cream, no ice, just the way he likes it. More lively conversation and then it was back to Jika Jika. A lovely ride of approximately 43km.

Report by Nola



## **ED'S MYSTERY RIDE 14 SEPTEMBER**

Eight riders turned out on a lovely morning to ride to an unknown destination on a mystery ride. The ride however followed a number of well-known routes but linked in a different way.

We started heading west and turned off near Princes Park to deviate through Melbourne University, our second route through a uni this week. We circled on top of the South lawn and then ventured into the darkness of the underground carpark below the lawn. A number of riders turned on their lights to see their way through. Then out onto Grattan Street, but we were diverted around the massive works of the new underground station. The ride then joined the separated lane on Swanston Street and through the city then along St Kilda Road past the massive building of Anzac Railway Station to the Victorian College of the deaf before turning west and riding around Albert Park Lake. The ride though the city took some time as we had lots of stops for red lights, then a reasonable strong northerly wind around Albert Park, so it was a welcome stop for a chat at the northern end of the lake of the peaceful lake.

After the rest David and Jenny headed off while the other riders journeyed around the lake and then through St Kilda and the St Kilda Botanical Gardens and onto the Elwood Canal linear reserve. At the end of the reserve, we crossed into the new Elsternwick Park Wetlands and managed to lose the tail rider Roger on the rambling trails. Roger rang and indicated that he could see a church and a busy road and wondered where we were. So it took some time to all regroup again and continue across the Nepean Highway overpass then stop for lunch in the shade at Princes Park, Caulfield. Along the way we saw that James had become a saint and had a street named after him.

Report by Ed

## **SUNSHINE AND KOROROIT CREEK 19 SEPTEMBER**

A baker's dozen of riders mingled at Jika Jika in the forecourt while yours truly hoped for no mishaps, missteps and flawless leadership.

From morning tea chatter at Footscray Park we headed past the colourful market and small cottages to the path leading us to Sunshine Station and over the rails to Kororoit Creek trail.

This section to Federation Trail is an enjoyable mix of river views and industry.

The Federation Trail led us along the sensory trail tickling our noses with assorted ripe smells to the footbridge over the freeway, leading us though Altona North to Newport Lakes for a welcome lunch.

We replicated Jopie's way through many streets passing Kingsville, Spotswood, Yarraville, Seddon and finally Footscray Milking Station cafe for arvo tea. Some of us enjoyed tasty Padre coffee along with other refreshments. A new spot to enjoy.



Arden and Abbotsford Streets led us through Royal Park and Carlton to the Capital City Trail where those remaining went home.

60 kms

Report by Ian H

## **BRIGHTON BEACH 21 SEPTEMBER**



The ride occurring almost at the equinox. The 'classic' ride south via Docklands, Southbank and along the bay trail. Weather was patchy sunny, but coolish. Around St Kilda there was a brief, but heavy, shower thankfully clearing by Brighton Beach. New facilities have been completed at Brighton Beach Gardens! For a twist on the return we rode out through Albert Park Lake and through the almost completed Copenhagen bike lanes through the domain and onto the shared bike track along the shrine. Then onto queen Victoria Gardens, and then the Swanston St climb up through the city. As it was school holidays there was some extra foot traffic. At the top of Swanston Street we rode through the Melbourne Cemetery with a look at the Elvis Presley memorial roughly in the centre. (Report-ably, the only official Elvis memorial out of the USA). Return to Westgarth via the Capital City Trail and café.

Approx 55km.





Report by Jon

## **WATTLE PARK 26 SEPTEMBER**

It was a lovely sunny morning for a bicycle ride. Seven riders started; we picked up another rider along the way before we got past Dennis Station. Once on the Anniversary Trail it got very busy with walkers and there was lots of bell ringing and voices to indicate bikes passing.

Getting to the usual morning tea spot we gained another rider, one who had come from the dentist. That's perseverance! Being school holidays the playground and sporting grounds at Frog's Hollow were being well used, with a few families out and about.

So, we were nine riders. Continuing on south towards Alamein, we turned off onto the Gardiners Creek Trail. By almost lunchtime we were climbing a gravel path in Wattle Park leading to the picnic area.

Someone has been spending some money on the park facilities. There are well surfaced gravel paths now to replace the dodgy ones around the edge of the park. Plus a new playground and concrete paths around the picnic and BBQ area with flash new tables and seats. Very comfortable. Unfortunately, the two old trams that sit in the picnic area are fenced off, closed for repair.

Good weather still holding after lunch we took the downhill gravel path on the other side of the park to go back to the Gardiners Creek Trail and went north.

Turning off the trail after the Box Hill Golf course we rode through backstreets towards Box Hill Central. Then onwards to the Koonung Creek Trail. Of course, stopping at Hahndorf's Chocolate shop for afternoon tea on the way through.

The weather was exceptional for Spring, sunny mostly, not too hot nor too cold.

No mechanicals or punctures.

I got almost home before I realised that I had not taken any photos. As a last-minute stand in leader, I was just happy to not get the group lost.

Another good ride. Distance 50km.

Report by Sue



## MARANOA GARDENS, BALWYN 28 SEPTEMBER

Seven riders, Sue, Jon, Ed, Ian, James, Roger and myself, left Jika Jika on a lovely spring morning. After crossing the creek we turned left onto the Capital City Trail before turning right onto Kneen Street and making our way to Wellington Street via Falconer and Michael Streets.

We followed Wellington Street all the way down to Victoria Parade. After crossing Victoria Parade we followed Powlett Street to Wellington Parade, crossed into Yarra Park and then to the MCG.

Being two days before the Grand Final a lot of footy fans were around for the Festival of Football and Collingwood Training. There was a lot to see, to say the least. Leaving the MCG we crossed to rail yards on the Melbourne Arena footbridge passing the Tennis Centre and over Olympic Boulevard to Gosch's Paddock. From here we used the Morell Bridge to get to the Botanic Gardens, where we had morning tea.



*We found "my" seat.*

After morning tea we stayed on the southern bank of the Yarra. We had a brief stop at a cafe to allow Ian to buy his lunch, replacing the one that he had left on the kitchen bench, before crossing to the northern bank at MacRobertson Bridge.

We travelled on the northern bank to the footbridge that leads to Gardeners Creek Trail. We followed the Gardiners Creek Trail to the Ferndale Trail stopping on the way at the Hawthorn Velodrome for a quick lap in memory of Bruce.

The Ferndale Trail took us to the Anniversary Trail where our easy ride on flat paths finished and we started on a few hills. We left the Anniversary Trail at Matlock Street just after passing the Camberwell Hockey Club and took a small track that started at the aptly named Magpie Park, given the team that would win the GF two days later. This trail ended at Warburton Road where we turned right and then left onto Kendall Street. Kendall Street took us to Canterbury Gardens which we used to get to Canterbury Road. After crossing Canterbury Road we took Shierlaw Avenue to Faversham Road. With a few "wiggles" we were able to follow back streets to Whitehorse Road. There we turned right, then left into Parring Road.



It is a long uphill to Maranoa Gardens along Parring Road but it is not as bad as the climb from the opposite direction that we have done in the past.

After lunch we had a great downhill ride on Yarrbat Avenue, then Gordon Street to a trail through parkland that took us to Belmore Road. After crossing Burke Road it was into Stradbroke Park and on towards Hays Paddock. Just before Hays Paddock we turned left onto Kilby Road which we took up to Belford Road, thereby avoiding the nasty hill beside Kew Golf Club.

From Belford Road we rejoined the Main Yarra Trail and after a quick downhill we joined the Darebin Creek Trail. This took us to Heidelberg Road, after crossing Heidelberg Road it was past Dan Murphies and onto Wingrove Street where we stopped at The Alphington Food Store for afternoon coffee.



It was then the final section along Wingrove Street across Station Street and into South Crescent to Jika, with riders leaving to make their way home along the way. The ride was not much more than 40 km long, there are some challenging hills, but also some rewarding sections of downhill, pleasant parkland and quiet back streets.

Report by Andrew

## **THIS IS PROBABLY A BIT LATE BUT IT IS IN JUST IN CASE ANYONE IS REALLY KEEN**

United Energy Around the Bay -Sunday 8 October 2023– Bicycle Network

<https://www.facebook.com/BicycleNetwork/>

<https://bicyclenetwork.com.au/rides-and-events/around-the-bay/>

The team at Bicycle Network have asked us to share the information about special offers for United Energy Around the Bay on the 8th October.

From Leanne Tolra, General Manager, Public Affairs and Communications, Bicycle Network:

*I'm sure most of your members are already aware of the event, but we are hoping to get a few extra last-minute entries and can't think of better people to join us.*

*Bicycle Network are offering free United Energy Around The Bay entry to BUG ride leaders who take a group on the event. If one of the members signs up a team, please ask them to get in touch with me and I will send them their personal entry code.*

*Join Melbourne's iconic bike ride and help get more people on bikes!*

*Melbourne's iconic bike ride, United Energy Around the Bay is set to take place on Sunday 8 October.*

*From the Family Ride (on closed roads around Albert Park) to the iconic Classic and exclusive 300km club, no matter which distance you choose your efforts will be rewarded when you cross the finish line and join in the celebrations at the event village.*

*In addition to being a fun day out on the bike, everyone who participates in United Energy Around the Bay is also supporting Bicycle Network's advocacy work. Our mission is to make it easier for everyone to ride a bike, every day.*

*eBikes and cargo bikes are welcome on this event! Sign up by 30 September using the promo code GIVEME20 to save 20% off your entry. And one of the best bits for families, Kids 14 years and under ride free on the Family Ride and 50km ride!*

*Enter now: <https://bicyclenetwork.com.au/rides-and-events/around-the-bay/routes-prices/>*

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