

WOBBLY WHEELS

Darebin BUG Mid-week Riders' Blog



WHITTLESEA GARDENS – RIDE CANCELLED 2 APRIL

There was over 50 mm of rain overnight. As the ride would take us along both the Darebin and Merri Creeks I felt the chance of flooding was very high. So, for safety reasons, I cancelled the days ride.

One rider, Ken, turned up at Jika Jika and after a brief discussion we both decided to just go home.

Report by Andrew

SANDRINGHAM TO SEAFORD WETLANDS 4 APRIL

Seven of us for the day and except for a bit of a southerly headwind it looked good for a bicycle ride.

Four of us got to Jolimont station with no train delays. We travelled in a very quiet last carriage with not many others, probably because of school holidays. Collecting the other three riders on the Richmond platform we also had a fairly quiet train trip to Sandringham. Morning tea was at Ricketts Point and an accommodating yoga group meant we got a prime table with a sea view.



Continuing down the Bay Trail the bay views were still fantastic, some riders at the back being lucky enough to spot a small group of pelicans flying. We stopped at a couple of viewpoints. The clubhouses for lifesaving clubs seemed to get bigger and grander as we moved further south. At Mordialloc we turned off to the Longbeach Trail that runs along next to the Edithvale – Seaford Wetlands areas. There were some distractions on the trail with dog owners and their dogs darting across us and groups of kids building BMX jumps and digging holes in the parklands.

Arriving at Patterson River in Carrum we turned towards the bay to cross over and around to the Roy Dore Park for our lunch. While we lunched, we watched a couple of older folks using the park's exercise equipment. Some of us could not help ourselves and had to have a go as well when they moved away.

Leaving the park and getting onto the Seaford Wetlands Trail and past Kananook Creek we struck a detour sign that I firstly ignored. However, the path was in fact closed and we needed to backtrack into the side streets and across small parks. Some very dodgy park barrier/entrances and deep sand to get through on the way.

Getting back to the wetlands path we were off again. We stopped next at the wetlands viewing platform at the Seaford end to see what we could see.



Star attractions that we could have seen include:

- ☐ 190 bird species
- ☐ 38 migratory species protected under international agreements and Australian legislation
- ☐ migratory waders, including Latham's Snipe from the northern islands of Japan

We did see some ducks and lots of ants. In fact, too many ants to stand in one place or leave your bike unattended for long.

Back at Mordialloc to catch the train we had afternoon tea at a café just next to the station. Ed left us at Mordialloc to ride a bit more.

It was 45km round trip from Sandringham around the wetlands and back to Mordialloc then a train back to Richmond station where we all went our various ways.

Weather – good. Mechanical - adjustment to a mudguard. Punctures – Nil.

Report by Sue

PLENTY RIVER 9 APRIL

With 24mm of overnight rain and a weather forecast for more rain during the day I wondered if anybody would turn up. By 9.30 a few brave or mad souls had arrived at Jika Jika including Roger the two Ians, Sue, Jopie and Graham. The sky looked overcast but otherwise ok.

We set off along South Crescent but had only ridden as far as Victoria Street before it started to rain so we stopped under a dense tree for all to put on more raincoats and rain protection. Roger set a new record when he informed us that he didn't have his rain trousers so decided to quit the ride after 1.5km and return home. The remainder of us ventured on, but soon we noted that Jopie was missing, and discovered he had also been hiding under a tree to shelter from the rain while adjusting his garbage bag rain protection trousers. Reunited we continued riding up the Darebin Creek path in the heavy rain and stopped outside the Artiga coffee shop to see if anyone wanted to shelter from the rain and the cold wind, but all indicated that they would continue riding. They must be looney.



Reprieve from the rain at Norris Bank Park

Morning tea was at Norris Bank Parkland where the rain eased. Just as we were about to start riding it started again for a short while. By the time we reached the Ring Road we found that the underpass was flooded and no one was game to ride through the water so we headed back south and diverted over the Greenhills Road bridge to rejoin the trail. We diverted through the Janefield Wetlands and the Plenty Gorge Park, past a few kangaroos and rabbits before heading downhill and crossing the Plenty River for a pleasant ride back to Kalparrin Gardens for lunch as by now it had stopped raining enough for us to sit in the open and lap up a tiny bit of sun.

After lunch we headed back along the Plenty River trail to the Main Yarra trail then stopped for a refreshment drink and chat at the Bean Counter Cafe opposite Fairfield Station, before dispersing for home around 3.15pm having ridden approximately 50km.

Report by Ed

HALF MOON BAY 11 APRIL

Seven rode on bikes to the fish and chips run. Drizzle and mizzle all the way to morning tea were not conducive for endorphin production. At least it wasn't as bad as Tuesday's ride where we received a right drenching.

The rain petered out as we followed the well-heeled suburbs along the bay to Half Moon Bay. With fingers crossed, the unreliable narrator hoped to find the joint open. Tears of joy ran down my face - it was finally operating after the last two unsuccessful rides. This could have ended in tears (again) if the food was crap but there was universal agreement on the quality of the fish and chips.



On the way back people were dropping like flies; George at St Kilda before lunch, Roger, David and Kathleen at Sandringham. The rest of us managed to make it intact past the sad dismantled Grand Prix track to the city, where Sue left us to flounder through the detours until we reached the Capital City Trail. Voting to skip arvo tea Michael, Colin and I went home. Or is it me? 60km or so.

Report by Ian H

DJERRING PATH/ROSSTOWN TRAIL

16 APRIL

15 riders were to start from Jika Jika but Ian S suddenly realized he did not have his helmet and dashed home to get it. So 14 of us headed off with Roberta joining us on the Anniversary Trail just after Harp Road. Morning tea was taken at Frogs Hollow and Ian rejoined the group there, so we were now 16.

George took the train at Hughesdale Station as he was concerned that his mudguard was hanging by a thread and he was worried it may cause a problem. We then headed down the Djerring Trail, stopping for lunch at the old golf course in Elwood. The sun was out, and it was a very pleasant ride through Elwood Canal and down around the bay. The foreshore was quiet as school was back in session.

Roberta had left us at lunch, Ed put the foot down from Station Pier as he had an appointment and Roger headed to Southern Cross Station when we got to Spencer Street. The group was down to 7 by the time afternoon tea was had at 4 Beans. Unfortunately, we hit it just before closing so it was not as pleasant a stop as usual, although we all enjoyed a pick me up coffee.

An enjoyable ride of 52 kms as the sun was shining, the wind was not chilly and there was no rain.

Report by Glenys

STATE OF THE UNION

18 APRIL

Planning rides around state government infrastructure projects is fraught with danger, and not always in the way you'd expect. We've run this ride twice to see the new Union Station, between the old Mont Albert and Surrey Hills ones.

The first time, part of the path remained fenced off although seemingly finished, and the second time the consortium had ripped up the footpath next to the disabled bays, possibly because it was too low.

This time, the eight of us had got barely 10km when Roger came a cropper on a pedestrian crossing near the new Bulleen Park and Ride (it accommodates 370 cars for whoever asked me).

I ran to get the BUG first aid kit out of my pannier, Michael ran to get one from a nearby North East Link work camp and several others got Roger off the road and tried to get him to sit down.

There was a sizeable piece of skin hanging off his shin, but he refused to quit and we managed to patch him up and continue the 2km to morning tea at the Koonung Reserve, a venue with cunningly disguised restrooms that were unlocked, unlike the ones further along at Manningham Park Reserve we've tried previously, that were clearly marked as public toilets but closed.

Further inspection of Roger's leg showed blood was not oozing through his sock and the dressing was still okay ... obviously his battered body was trying to avoid another trip to hospital.

After enjoying morning tea with the melodious accompaniment of a two-stroke whipper snipper, we continued to Box Hill where the Suburban Rail Loop project team had blocked the pedestrian crossing to Box Hill Central.

We then began our return journey along what is a very disjointed Hawthorn to Box Hill Trail, where even the Union Road level-crossing removal project hasn't provided as much shared path as it could have.



Lunch was at Canterbury Gardens, where the Exeloo had miraculously re-opened and the Canterbury Community Precinct seemed to be finished ... hallelujah!

George caught the train after lunch while I rerouted the ride via the Outer Circle/Anniversary Trail to cut 5km of stopping and starting out of Roger's day.

James was obviously determined to see Camberwell Station anyway, so headed off in that direction. Strava said only 31km but at least we made it past Union Station without any dramas. Next up Bedford Road level-crossing removal??

Report by Wolter

LAVERTON, ALTONA & KOROROIT CREEK 23 APRIL

What a beautiful day. 25 degrees in late April with lots of sun but a bit headwindy at times. We had 10 on the ride. 6 out of 7 got on the correct train at Westgarth. Ian used a different door that would not respond to his finger poking and open sesame and was left fuming and confused on the platform like a jilted bride. Luckily another train was only 4 minutes behind and so Ian made the connection to the Werribee train at Flinders Street Station by the skin of his teeth. More joiners at Flinders Street, North Melbourne & Footscray Stations put us into double digits with a nice round 10. Only a couple of minor missteps as we cruised along our route via the 100 steps, Altona Beach, a circumnavigation of Cherry Lake and then the run along the stunning often 4m wide new Kororoit Creek Trail complete with viewing platforms and assorted silver statues to connect to the older 3m wide trail. This took us to Sunshine where we saw a crumpled crashed car being hoisted from the roundabout near the station as a huge line of traffic sat helplessly waiting for it all to happen. We lost 2 at West Footscray and then Roger at Footscray and Sue at Royal Park. Four of the remnant group had good reasons to get home quickly so coffee was voted down and we all went home. Roger later texted to advise that he had gotten home and hadn't fallen off his bike or anything else (I made the "or anything else" up).

Report by Jopie

BLACKBURN LAKE 25 APRIL (ANZAC DAY)

The weather was cool and rain threatening but started dry. Through the back streets of Fairfield over to the outer circle railway and onto the Anniversary Trail. Morning tea at Frog Hollow Reserve brought a light shower on arrival.



Then down past Alamein Station and onto the Gardiners Creek trail. Lunch at Blackburn Lake again brought a brief shower.



Then continued on more directly onto the Koonung Trail via Springfield Road.
 Afternoon latte was to be the chocolate shop in North Balwyn, however as it was closed for Anzac Day another cafe two doors down was fine.
 Weather was pleasant for the ride home via Chandler Highway.

Report by Jon

WARBURTON TRAIL (WANDIN NORTH TO WARBURTON AND RETURN) 30 APRIL

As Kathleen and I were driving through the lightly drizzling rain we were wondering if we were in for a wet ride! However, after crawling through the Mullum Mullum tunnel at 40kph, due to a lane closure, we emerged to blue sky and sunshine. Things were looking up.

On arrival at the car park at the Wandin North entry to the Warburton Trail most people had arrived.

Unfortunately Roger had gone to a different car park, one that had been used on previous rides. On contacting him by phone he was ready to pull out of the ride but, after determining where he was and giving instructions about how to get to the correct car park he eventually joined the group, and we had not really lost any time. Now we were 10 riders.

Off we go! We had not gone very far before a small flock of Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoos was spotted in trees close to the trail, we stopped for a moment to watch and admire them.

Continuing on we arrived at the Carriage Café Seville, about 10 minutes after leaving the car park. The timing was perfect because while we all partook of hot chocolates, various coffees, scones, jam and cream there was a quite heavy downpour!



By the time we were ready to move on the rain had passed.

We rode on through some heavily treed parts, some rural properties with various livestock including horses, sheep, camels and deer.

Upon arriving at Warburton the leader, that's me, handed over to others who indicated they knew the way to a suitable lunch spot by the Yarra River. Once down beside the river it was decided we were not at the spot we should be so we had to traverse a rough track beside the river. Part way along there was a set of steps we had to climb! After much heaving, huffing and puffing all riders were finally at the top.

Roger and others appreciated the assistance given to get their bikes up those steps. I take full responsibility for this detour as I should have done more thorough investigation prior to the day. We eventually found a suitable picnic table for lunch. (see photo)



After lunch it was a matter of retracing our route to eventually arrive back at the vehicles. The ride had been a very pleasant one and we were fortunate with the weather. Ride distance 57.5km (Strava)

Report by Colin

PHOTOS

This edition is light on for photos. Please continue to submit and I will do my best to make sure they get included with reports. Colin



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