

WOBBLY WHEELS

Darebin BUG Mid-week Riders' Blog



Ian S is recovering well from his operation. He's a bit impatient for leg strength to improve but obeying the rules. Doing daily exercise regime and one session of supervised gym physio and hydro therapy. Doing stationary cycling.

We all wish Ian a full recovery and look forward to him returning to ride with DBUG again.

AD HOC RIDE 1 AUGUST

Somehow Ian H volunteered to lead Roger, Sue, Michael and Andrew on a two degree morning to the Western suburbs and appear to be responsible.

After sunning ourselves beside the Maribynong for MT we headed through Footscray with its mixture of cottages and massive apartment towers to Sunshine where we crossed the railway line to head for the Kororoit Creek path to Altona North. We headed to Newport Lakes for lunch, all the while bathed in gorgeous sunshine.

Yarraville flashed past on the way to the Footscray Milking Station for a pleasant reviving coffee to power us back home.



It was my choice for an abbreviated description. 53.2 km

Report by Ian H

BLACKBURN LAKE 6 AUGUST

It was a lovely spring-like morning when we gathered for the day's ride. We set off down South Crescent towards Darebin Parklands. From here we went down the steep hill, past Alphington Grammar and the golf course to the junction with the Yarra Trail. We crossed the Yarra Trail, went under the Eastern Freeway and through some parkland to the Anniversary Trail.

We followed the Anniversary Trail to Harp Village, then through Kew and Camberwell to Frog Hollow, our morning tea stop. On the way to morning tea our numbers increased from thirteen to fourteen with the arrival of Jopie. Jopie claimed we left early, I maintain we left on time and that he was late.



After morning tea we continued along the Anniversary Trail to Alamein Station. Here we left the Anniversary Trail to join the Gardiners Creek Trail east towards Burwood. We followed the Gardiners Creek Trail all the way to its ending at Canterbury Road. It was then a short ride along Middleborough Road to a path in parkland beside the Blackburn South Drain. Arriving at Blackburn Road we left the parkland and followed Alandale Road to our lunch stop at Blackburn Lake picnic area.

I have been to Blackburn Lake picnic area a number of times but had never actually seen the lake, as had a number of other riders. So, after lunch, the first thing we did was ride around the lake.



Leaving Blackburn Lake we took Oliver Street to the path running beside the railway line and headed west towards Blackburn Station. Here we needed to detour through some back streets to Laburnum Station where we rejoined a path beside the railway line and followed it to Middleborough Road. At Middleborough Road there was quite a tricky series of ramps to take us under the road. It was then a short ride to Miller Street, across Whitehorse Road and onto Dorking Road. A downhill run along Dorking Road took us to the Bushy Creek Path which we followed to Elgar Road.

After crossing Elgar Road we joined the Koonung Trail and continued west towards the city. After negotiating a long detour due to NorthEast Link works we arrived at Bulleen Road and afternoon tea at the chocolate shop.



Following afternoon tea it was back to the Koonung Trail. When we arrived at the underpass leading to the junction with the Yarra Trail I turned left towards Hays Paddock. Skirting around the edge of Hays Paddock we arrived at Kilby Road. We took Kilby Road to the other underpass leading to the Darebin Trail / Yarra Trail intersection. This route avoids the steep hill that runs beside the Kew Golf Course.

Rejoining the Darebin Trail it was a matter of retracing our steps along Wingrove Street and South Crescent to Jika Jika, losing riders along the way as they headed off home.

Report by Andrew

RUFFEY CREEK TRAIL 8 AUGUST

Started the day with overcast and cool weather. But reasonable riding weather. At the start of the ride, George was regaling his bike accident with presentation of his demolished helmet and showing off the new one!



Morning tea as Possum Park. A few rider's dropping out for a shorter ride and another joining. Then along the Yarra trail across the Yarra bridge at lower templestowe. Then onto the start of the Ruffy creek trail. Winding up the trail to the lake there were no snakes crossing the trail this time. Lunch then over to the koonung trail and back to the chocolate shop. Back along the trail and under and up chandler hwy.

Report by Jon

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS AND ST KILDA BOTANICAL GARDENS 13 AUGUST

What a day for a ride! Blue skies, sunshine and the temperature was already in double figures as 12 riders set off from Jika Jika. After a bumpy ride through Fairfield Park, Jenny joined us at Dights Falls and we rode down the Yarra Trail before turning off at the Collingwood Children's Farm. Given the leader is on a road bike without a granny gear, she had sneakily found a new way to get back onto the Yarra Trail without having to ride the hill along the Boulevard. The wattles were blooming and the river flowing as we made our way to the Melbourne Botanical Gardens for morning tea. Jenny, Ed and Barbara bid us farewell, so we were now 10.

The ride through South Bank was not too busy and we then rode along the bay which was a stunning sapphire blue and as flat as tack. Minor diversion before the St Kilda Gardens (which had not been there on the recce on Sunday) did not cause any problems and we were soon in the Gardens. Our usual spot for lunch had been taken over by a horde of children who were obviously doing some scientific study on the lake, as they were all enthusiastically using sieves to scoop samples from the water. Luckily Ian H was able to guide us to another spot where we could sit in the sun and enjoy our lunch.

Rode back through Albert Park and had afternoon tea at Fitzroy Gardens, where Bethany (Pam and Pauls' granddaughter) joined us. We even got free cookies which was a bonus (pays to have the boss with you) and Jopie was recognised as a regular partaker of tea in the gardens. Seemingly his walking group regularly finish their walk with a coffee there.

Thanks to Colin on whip duty and to Paul for carrying the First Aid kit that does not fit into my small bike bag. An enjoyable ride of 49 kms.

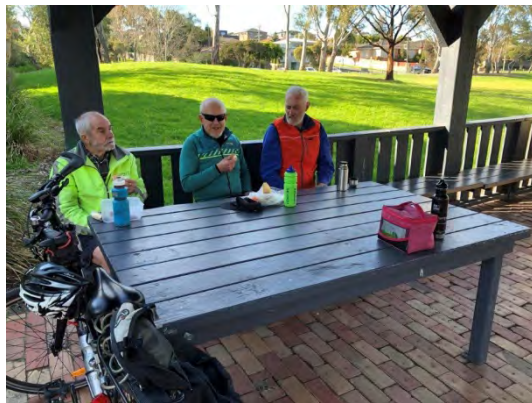
Report by Glenys

SCOTCHMAN'S AND DANDENONG CREEKS TRAILS TO HEATHERDALE 15 AUGUST

Good prospects for the day with a late winter forecast of 22C.

An early start was required from Westgarth Station to get across town to East Malvern. The Scotchman's Creek path starts next to the East Malvern Station carpark.

We collected DBUG riders along the way and by the time we got off the train at East Malvern and collected George we were a group of eight. With a lovely morning ahead of us we rode off to start the ride with a morning break at Brickmakers Park in Oakleigh.



Afterwards we continued back on the path which goes past Huntingdale wetlands and various Waverley lands and roads including the "Mount", the "Glen" and the just plain Waverley.

Pam left us at Waverley Road to go to Glen Waverley Station, the last close station until Ringwood. We had another BUG rider Graeme waiting for us just across Waverley Road, so we still had eight. Riding the quiet back streets of Glen Waverley, we met very busy Springvale Road a bit further south than I thought after a slight misstep in my navigation. Crossing at traffic lights we continued onto Whites Lane and up Wheelers Hill.

A fast downhill and we entered Jells Park for our lunch stop. The local cockatoos were busy and raucous as we sat and ate.

Heading back to Jika Jika we took the Dandenong Creek path north up to the Eastlink path turnoff. At Heatherdale Station David and George left us. The rest of us continued on the shared path to Box Hill.

Roger and Graeme continued on homewards when a few of us stopped in Laburnum at a café for a break.

Apart from my bike's slightly loose, but still rideable, back wheel hub we had no mechanicals. Another good ride. Approx. 55km

Report by Sue

WOLLERT AND UPPER DAREBIN CREEK 20 AUGUST

The forecast was for a warmish winter day with up to 6 mm of rain but it turned out much better, as so often happens, with maybe 1mm of drizzle in 2 or 3 short bursts. 7 DBUGgers were not put off by the possibility of showers and met at Merri Station for the train trip to Middle Gorge. We scooted past the ducks at the South Morang Lakes and enjoyed the new concrete path along Henderson Creek to the train line. The next section was a 13km loop taking us further up Darebin and Findon Creeks along new bike paths, a few streets and past some new lakes & wetlands to Wollert and through the pleasantly treed North Epping Redgum Reserve. Then a fast trip all the way back down Darebin Creek with a super tailwind to coffee at Artiga Cafe. No dramas, accidents or punctures today. A most pleasant ride, mostly downhill and with good northerly tailwinds.

Report by Jopie

THE 100 STEPS OF FEDERATION 22 AUGUST

Ten cyclists gathered at Jika Jika on a sunny, cloudless morning for the ride. The usual route was taken to get to Yarraville Gardens for morning tea, though there was some negotiating of roadworks along Footscray Road and Whitehall Street where we had to cross the road before the usual spot. Some of the detour signs were a bit confusing!



Riding on after morning tea we arrived at Williamstown for a brief stop before proceeding around the foreshore past Williamstown beach, through Altona Coastal Park Conservation Reserve, along Altona foreshore, then across Laverton Creek to the 100 Steps of Federation to our lunch stop.

After lunch George, David and James returned to Altona to catch a train home. The return trip for the remaining seven was via Queen Street, Maidstone Street, Blyth Street, Grieve Parade, Civic Parade, Fresno Street, then around the south and east sides of Cherry Lake. After that it was the familiar route taken many times before.

We stopped at Pango in Newport for afternoon refreshments, Roger left the group here to catch a train and head home.

The final ride back to Jika Jika was uneventful with riders peeling off as we got closer to home.

A very satisfying day of riding with good weather. About 65.5km all up.

Report by Colin

AD HOC RIDE 27 AUGUST

Tuesday was another windy day and the riders who assembled at Jika Jika had a discussion about where to go. Eleven riders eventually showed up. Andrew suggested going north into the wind to start so that the home trip would be with a tail wind, however Jopie suggested heading south and catch the train home at the end of the ride. This was the option adopted. Ed realised that he had left his wallet behind and volunteered to catch up at the MCG but the riders decided to follow him to Clifton Hill.

We rode over the Merri Creek and back to Clifton Hill and detoured around The Esplanade to see the effect of the storm on Sunday night.



Back on the bikes again down Wellington Street, past the MCG and around the Tan, we then stopped for morning tea at Albert Park. After a good chat Pam and Jon headed for home so the rest rode around the lake before Andrew headed off and Ed was the tail rider. Just near the St Kilda marina George's back wheel started making a clicking noise while riding. On inspection the brakes also seemed to be gripping the wheel making it harder to pedal. Lucky he had 2 motors to pull him along.

The rest of the group had kept riding due to the easy riding with the generous tail wind so George decided to keep going to the nearest station. Just near Elwood sailing club George indicated that his rear tyre had gone flat. On closer inspection the rim had worn out and was buckled and split meaning that it wasn't worth repairing. George decided to walk to the sailing club and call a maxi taxi but you can imagine his surprise when they said they couldn't pick him up because he didn't have a credit card. What to do? Gallant George decided to walk to the east to catch the train at Elsternwick but found it was about 3 km away, but the slow progress made it feel like 7 km. Lucky Elsternwick Park was on the route so he could stop and have lunch. The good news was that the bike still rolled well on the dodgy rim. At Flinders Street Station when crossing from platform 13 to the tube decided to play up and became wrapped around the wheel, so George had to turn the bike upside down and remove the wheel to get the tube released, all in public view. When the wheel was back on, it rolled on the rim, not a concern since it had to be replaced. At his local station there was still another kilometre walk home, so the journey from Elwood took him about 3 hours.

Pam and Paul headed off at Brighton station to catch the train home. Meanwhile the remaining riders decided to go at Half Moon Bay for lunch as Ed had also forgotten his lunch, however after skooting down the hill we found that the fish and chip shop was closed. Oh no! So it was back up the steep hill and onto the Bay Trail to Ricketts Point for lunch with a cheese and tomato toastie for Ed. After lunch, since the riding was so easy with a tailwind, the remaining riders decided to head to Mordialloc.

We finished the ride at Mordialloc and 5 riders, David, Roger, Ian, Wolter and Ed decided to stop for coffee near the station while Jopie continued riding to explore the nearby Waterways Wetlands then rode to Chelsea where he caught the train to Richmond and then the train from Jolimont to avoid the headwind. The train to Westgarth surprisingly wasn't very crowded. Most of the other riders also caught the train back from Jolimont, while Roger jumped on the train back to Gisbourne.

Report by Ed, photo by Jopie

EASTLINK SOUTH TO NORTH 29 AUGUST

The ride was planned to be from Dandenong up to Heatherdale and then back to Jika Jika. The forecast of strong NW winds made it logical to reverse the direction of the ride, so 9 of us started at Jika Jika on a mild but windy day. We had to go around a road closure of a part of Wingrove Street, along Cain Avenue and then Wilson Reserve to the Koonung Creek Trail. Some people were doing strange exercises at Koonung Creek Reserve Playground where we usually stop for morning tea, so morning tea was next to the Box Hill trains. Then we rode the Bushy Creek Trail and parts of Dorking Road up to the rail line near Box Hill. Mersey Street made the climb to Whitehorse Road a little easier.

We followed the rail line to Heatherdale Station where Kathleen and Roger left us. After a very pleasant run down the hill with a strong tail wind beside the Freeway we stopped near the bridge across Dandenong Creek. Ed, Sue, David, Jon, Michael and I sat down for lunch.



We stopped briefly in Jells Park at a "ride-through" set of toilets. The section of path led us between the cubicles and the basins. Turning the water on in the hand basins had most of us confused. There was a sign saying "press" on the front of the basins that was very difficult to find. The rest of the ride went quickly due to the tail wind.

We stopped at the coffee shop opposite the park at Dandenong. It was nice to get out of the wind. At Dandenong station we ended up on two different city bound platforms. Sue and I were on one platform and could see the rest of the group on the other platform. We caught separate trains a few minutes later. I rode home from Richmond into the relentless headwind. Apart from the last bit of headwind it was a very pleasant ride of about 65 Km.

Report by James