

WOBBLY WHEELS

Darebin BUG Mid-week Riders' Blog



WARBURTON TRAIL – BIKES ON CARS/TRAINS TO START AND HOME 3 JUNE

With the weather forecast looking fairly wet and cold, six brave souls turned up for the 10am start. It was raining lightly just before 10am but cleared shortly after and we set out onto the very welcome Carriage Cafe at Seville for morning tea. The rain still held off until we arrived at Warburton and had lunch under a large Cypress tree. The rain returned and it also turned a little cold, the rain then cleared and we set off back to Wandin. The sun broke through to make a pleasant ride back! In the end we did well missing the rain!



Report by Jon

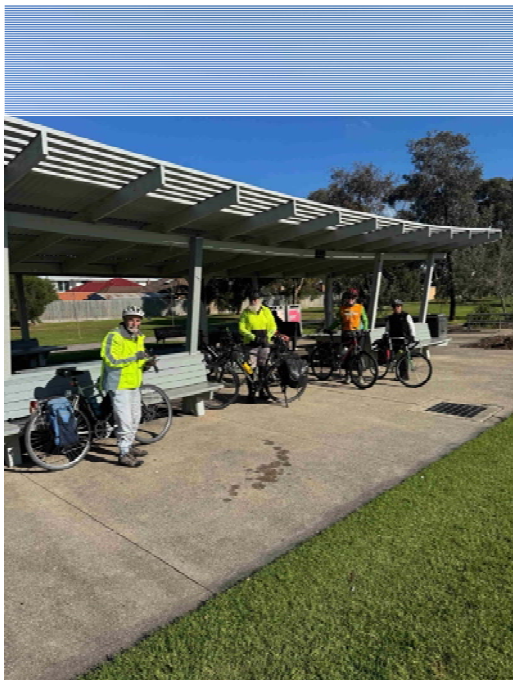
CHERRY LAKE 5 JUNE

I write up this ride with a head full of cold medication, carefully brewed nerdish espresso coffee and a bad memory.

Cherry Lake is one of our standard rides familiar to most from your internal search engine so nothing will change except the participants, the weather and the leader.

Four of us, Kathleen, Colin, Roger and Ian H rode to Yarraville Gardens to join Bruce and Franca for morning tea in the cool sunshine.

Through Williamstown following the pleasant Jawbone Reserve we stopped to admire the new bridge replacing the old ford crossing over the Kororoit Creek.



It was only a short ride to cross over Millers Road to our destination of Cherry Lake and lunch.

After the underpass at Newport Station we followed the Yarra River to Hyde Street and Footscray for afternoon delights at the Milking Station cafe.

From Dynon Road we headed for Royal Park and the Capital City Trail for home. Colin and I reached Jika Jika leaving, Bruce and Franca behind and Roger who disappeared who knows where?.

No mishaps, missteps or serendipitous moments. 55kms

Report by Ian H

FRANKSTON TO JIKA JIKA

10 JUNE

The weather looked promising as we waited at Westgarth Station. I think there were 7 of us and Jon was already on the train when it arrived. Roger and Sue met us at Richmond station. At around Carrum there was one of those hard-to-understand announcements about delays due to issues at Frankston signals. We kept moving slowly with further announcements one of which ended with 'Thanks for shopping with us'? I think we finished about 10 minutes late. Mandy was waiting to join us to make it 12 riders. We rode straight to a shelter by the beach for morning tea. The ride then took the Kananook Trail till it reached the Nepean Hwy crossing. A short ride on Overton Road took us to the path that follows the rail line to Patterson River. At Patterson River I was unsure about the state of the gravel along the beach trail with the rain we had had. The group was happy to hit the gravel trail which is more scenic. As it turned out the surface was in great condition. However, the weather gods turned against us and it was light to medium showers a lot of the way to Mordialloc. Fortunately, by lunch time at Mordialloc the sun was out and everybody spread out on the sunny sides of the rotunda.



After lunch Roger and Mandy left us. It was onto the Bay Trail. After the flat ride all morning the undulating Bay Trail was certainly more challenging. Everybody was ready for a coffee when we got to the North Point Brighton café. The still sunny weather made it pleasant on the outside tables. It was then back to the Bay Trail to Port Melbourne, Sandridge Trail to the city and then Clarendon Street and Wellington Street back to Jika Jika with people heading home in various directions along the way. It was about 60km Frankston to Jika Jika.

Report by Ian S

WERRIBEE TO JIKA JIKA VIA SKELETON CREEK

12 JUNE

It was a case of multiples of five today. Five degrees at the start time when 3 riders, James, Colin & Ed headed to North Melbourne station and found 2 more waiting, so five riders now including Bruce & Franca enjoyed the warm train ride to Werribee. We met Roger & David who had caught an earlier train and emerged to a warmer 10 degrees and perfect riding conditions with no wind. We set off along the beautiful red gum lined Werribee River and saw a couple of kangaroos along the way.

It soon became apparent that we had lost a few riders. Colin had a slow leaking tyre and stopped a couple of times to pump it up while all the others pedaled on unaware. By the time we arrived at the morning tea stop, James and Colin were already there as they had taken a short cut to the Soldiers Reserve playground and picnic tables. Colin then decided to repair the tyre and found the culprit, a small piece of glass in the tyre. He soon had a new tube in and while Roger pumped the tyre up Colin was able to enjoy a small rest before heading off back to the Federation trail.

(From Colin: A big thankyou to James for waiting with me and guiding me to morning tea, and a big thankyou to Roger for his assistance in changing the tube)

We turned off the trail to join up with the Skeleton Creek Trail, where the winter sun raised the temperature to a cool 15 degrees and were soon near Williams Landing for a photo stop.



The lunch stop was at 100 steps where the friendly magpies and other birds kept the riders entertained. After lunch riding past the Cheetham Wetlands the temperature dropped to 10 degrees but it felt like 5 degrees so we kept up a fast pace to Altona Pier where we diverted around local streets due to roadworks and then across the new Kororoit bridge and soon made it to Newport where Roger and David caught the train while everyone else decided to stop and recharge at café Pango.

After a good chat we headed back to Jika Jika past Footscray Station where James left to catch the train, then along the Maribyrnong River and through the old saleyards in Kensington, then past Royal Park where Franca and Bruce headed off leaving only Colin to complete the whole circuit back to Jika Jika by about 3.45pm.

Ride distance approximately 60 km

Report by Ed

DJERRING TRAIL, EAST CAULFIELD, MCKINNON, ALLNUT PARK, ELSTER CREEK 17 JUNE

Thanks again to Sue and Graham who had sent instructions about uploading Wolter's ride to my Garmin.

On arriving at Jika Jika shortly before 9.30, along with Roger, the rain had been gently falling for a few hours and we wondered if anyone else would turn up to ride.

Sure enough before long Sue, Jopie, Ian H and Jon arrived and as the sky to the south west was showing lots of blue we decided to proceed.

Setting my Garmin to follow Wolter's route we set off along Westgarth Street and crossed the Merri Creek to ride west along the Capital City Trail before turning south on to Apperley Street and making our way down the Inner Circle Rail Trail, through Edinburgh Gardens on to Napier Street to then turn east along the Albert Street, then south down Clarendon Street, around the MCG then to the Main Yarra Trail and towards Gardiners Creek Trail turn off.

Morning tea stop was Kooyong Park Playground in Sir Zelman Cowen Park.



After morning tea we continued along the south side of Gardiners Creek and crossed to the north side at Tooronga Road to continue east then south east along the Gardiners Creek Trail crossing from one side of the creek to the other.

We left the Gardiners Creek Trail to cross over the Monash Fwy and ride through the East Malvern Station car park to ride south along Bruce Street to cross Dandenong Road – Princes Hwy. Next we road through the Outer Circle Linear Park, Springthorpe Gardens, Arthur Street and Riley Reserve to meet the Djerring Trail.

We continued along the Djerring Trail to East Caulfield Reserve where we rode around the south west side to turn south into Queens Avenue and cross to the west side for the bike path beside Caulfield Racecourse. We then took the Caulfield-Frankston Rail Trail to Murray Road, then a few twists and turns to McKinnon Road which we crossed to continue on the Caulfield-Frankston Rail Trail before turning onto Carlton Street, through to Wheatley Road, south to Beech Street for our lunch stop at Allnut Park.

After lunch we set off along Elster Creek Trail to cross Hawthorn Road and ride west along Union Street then some back lanes to cross Nepean Hwy and head NNW on the rough path running parallel to Nepean Hwy. Next we were onto the Elster Canal Path, through Elsternwick Park, north along St Kilda Street and back on the Elster Canal Path to meet the Bay Trail. We rode the Bay Trail all the way to Kerferd Road, then through to Albert Road and St Kilda Road, along Linlithgow Avenue, across the Yarra River, around the MCG, along Clarendon Street, through the very narrow alley to Oxford Street to stop at South of Johnston for refreshments. Finally, it was back to Jika Jika by familiar routes, with riders departing as they neared their homes.

A most enjoyable day with sunny skies for most of it and no rain. Approximately 55km.

Report by Colin

HEDGELEY DENE GARDENS

19 JUNE

Astoundingly for a cold winter's day 17 punters showed up for this gentle amble to Malvern. Heading south from Jika Jika towards the Anniversary Trial the group got really strung out so there was lots of regrouping to make sure nobody was left behind! Thank you to our capable tail, Graham.

Morning tea was had in Riversdale Park, Camberwell, and then we pushed on towards Central Gardens in Malvern. From here we joined the Gardiners Creek Trail and lunched beside T H King Oval in Glen Iris. Next to our lunch site a fellow was painting an unusually shaped water fountain. Most of the painting was composed of dots so he had a slow job ahead of him.



The afternoon's highlight was afternoon tea at Abbotsford Convent. A couple of (odd?!) brave souls decided that icecream was the way to go. Hot beverages were enjoyed by most of the rest of us.



Riders continued to trickle away and before we knew it we had safely returned to Northcote after approximately 45km of pedaling.

Thanks for coming: Ed, Sue, Roger, James, Jan, Ian H, Franca and Bruce, Colin, Pam, George, David, Mick, Vangel, Graham and one more....

Report by Gael

TAYLORS CREEK, KEILOR AND BRIMBANK PARK 24 JUNE

The forecast was pretty awful with strong winds and possible later rain. The wind chill was severe. 7 of us nevertheless turned up at Jika Jika for the ride to North Melbourne station where 4 more were waiting for us. Roger unfortunately had to miss out due to VLine replacing trains with bicycle unfriendly buses. We didn't linger long at morning tea along Taylors Creek due to the biting wind, nor did we dally too long at lunch in Keilor for the same reason. We did however have a solid tail wind most of the ride which compensated in some degree for the unavoidable hills, sometimes a bit steep, that this scenic area insisted on. Afternoon tea at the Boathouse was a much more leisurely affair. All in all a nice but chilly ride in a lovely area.

Report by Jopie

RIDERS CHOICE

26 JUNE

Discussion about our destination was brisk like the cold weather. It was 5 degrees but no wind. George volunteered to lead us to Jack Roper Reserve. Ian H, Colin, Graham and I readily agreed. We started along South Crescent and then north along the Darebin Creek which was flowing very quickly due to the overnight rain. Apart from a long wait for traffic at Cheddar Road our first stop was at Edwardes Lake for morning tea. George then headed south which looked wrong to me, but he knew where he was going. We went through the old Kodak site and up a slippery path where a few of us spun our wheels on the wet grass to pick up the Merri Creek path to head north toward the Rind Road, Jack Roper Reserve and lunch. There was a lot of earthworks going on in the park. We had a fairly short lunch due to the cold. One of our riders had a flat tyre just after we passed the Ring Road. The tyre was difficult to remove from the wheel but there was plenty of assistance from the rest of the group. Then through some quiet streets and the even more quiet Fawkner Cemetery to the Icarus Coffee shop in Merlynston. We sat inside the warm coffee shop. After coffee we rode south along the Upfield Path back to Park Street Parkville and across to Jika Jika.

Report by James