

WOBBLY WHEELS

Darebin BUG Mid-week Riders' Blog



SCOTCHMANS CREEK, VALLEY RESERVE & THE WAVERLEY TRAIL 2 OCTOBER

Pretty standard weather forecast for the day - wind and rain, possibly heavy. Although fine when we left. While crossing the Collins Bridge in Abbotsford we took the opportunity to have a look at the new almost complete Gibbs Street ramp. Looking pretty impressive. On the web Parks Victoria expect to complete by year end. Maybe all the cycle paths currently close to completion across Melbourne will open by end of 2025. Wouldn't that be a wonderful start to 2026.



Our morning break was at the Kooyong Park on the east side of the Gardiners Creek Trail.

Very quiet except for dog walkers and freeway noise.

Riding along the Gardiners Creek Trail we turned off to East Malvern Station, dropping off George and Roger for the train. The remaining riders continued onto the Scotchman's Creek Path just at the bottom of the station down ramp. Pretty quiet on the path considering it was school holidays.

It was a day of adding, removing and adding again raingear etc. Jumping around next to the path putting on rain-pants is always a challenge but harmless fun for the group.

Our lunch at Valley Reserve playground & picnic area was serenaded by a raven putting on a good show with lots of different sounds.

There is a lovely gravel path through bushland going north to leave the park. However, unfortunately due to a rather aggressive magpie that had swooped me earlier in the week we didn't go that way.

The roadway out of the park took us through to the quiet backstreets of Mount Waverley where we headed towards the Waverley Rail Trail.

We continued onto the Anniversary trail and at Hartwell stopped for a café break. Almost as soon as we got back on our bikes the rain and wind started up again. By the time we got to the traffic lights on Chandler Highway I was needing to hold onto the traffic light pole against the wind.

Still in all, another good ride. Approx. 50km back to Jika Jika

Report by Sue

SATURDAY RIDE GROUP 4 OCTOBER

At our last ride in September, it was decided to ride to Williamstown this Saturday. Forecast a very pleasant 26 deg. no rain and mostly sunny, truly a reward for the pure life we lead.

Come start time at Rushall Station, the weather was quite fresh and we managed to attract 6 starters but 2 more joined us at Royal Park, making us now 8 in all.

We took our usual route Flemington Bridge, Stubbs Street, Kensington Cattle Yards Estate and the Maribyrnong Trail. By the time we had got to the Cattle Yards Estate, the weather had started to warm up and the ride through the estate, which always enjoy was even better.

The ride along the Maribyrnong was smooth and quick, with a bit of gutter jumping the other side of Shepards Bridge, where path work was incomplete. On Moreland Street, we were forced onto the roadway, due to more pathway works. At Yarraville Gardens there were no takers for the toilets so we pressed on, without investigating the toilet works in progress. At Westgate Bridge we were met by a couple of visitors from Stonnington, who joined us. The vandalised toilets near the Yacht Club have now been completely repaired and are a credit to the local council. We arrived in Williamstown and took coffee at Schwab's Gallery.

The return journey we decided to come back along New Footscray Road and check on any work progress. Alas couldn't see much change but still impressed at what little we could see of the new cycle path. Our Stonnington visitors left us at the Moonee Ponds Creek Path and arrived back at Rushall about 2pm, I forgot to note milage.

Report by David D

BUNDOORA PARK AND COBURG LAKE – SENIORS WEEK RIDE 7 OCTOBER

The weather was a bit chilly out of the sun as we assembled at Jika Jika. We welcomed 1 new rider, Jan, who is a neighbour of Wolters. It warmed up quickly as the group headed to Bundoora Park via South Crescent and the Darebin Creek Trail.

At Bundoora Park everyone enjoyed a muffin and hot drink provided by Darebin Council. After a leisurely break the group headed back along the Darebin Creek Trail for a few kms.

Not paying attention I missed the turn off to head to Merri Creek Trail by 100 metres or so and had to turn around. Several riders chose the shorter ride option and headed back to Jika Jika on the Darebin Creek Trail. The rest of the group took Crookston Road and Broadhurst Avenue to the Merri Creek Trail to lunch at Coburg Lake. At the lunch spot we were greeted by a family of rosellas. We could count about 5 or 6. Two were quite content to perch low down on a tree trunk.



After lunch it was back to the Merri Creek to Jika Jika with riders breaking off at various locations to heads for home. A small group stopped along the way for afternoon tea at the Islamic Museum. Thanks to Darebin Council and Ed for picking up the vouchers.

Report by Ian S

DJERRING TRAIL TO CARRUM 9 OCTOBER

Eight keen riders turned up at Jika Jika including a new rider, Mick. It was a lovely sunny morning as we headed off to the Anniversary Trail and morning tea at Riversdale Park.

Everybody removed their winter clothing as it was getting warm by now. We rode on to join the Djerring Trail via the Malvern East Urban Forest Reserve. Heading down the Djerring Trail we didn't need to pedal as the tail wind was so strong.

Lunch was at Ross Reserve beside the Noble Park Community Centre. The wind was a howling northerly and it got very cold and looked like rain. All the winter gear went back on.



On to Yarraman Station where Ian left us. The final push to Carrum along the Paterson River was into a howling head wind. We arrived at Carrum Station just as the rain started. Up to the platform and, oh no, the Flinders Street trains had been cancelled due to an incident between Carrum and Mordialloc. Deep breaths and a quick google said it was an approx. 9km ride to Mordialloc. David D's battery was showing almost empty by now, so fingers crossed.

There was a nice bike path to around 2km before Mordialloc then it got a bit messy.

We all arrived at the station then there was a bit of confusion if the train was running or not and thoughts went to where do we ride to next? Fortunately, the train was running.

Finally, back at Richmond everybody disappeared home. Another interesting ride.

A long day and approx. 70km in the end.

Report by Graham

WILLIAMSTOWN 14 OCTOBER

The weather was overcast and coolish to start with. In total about 18 riders so a fairly long group. We did a standard classic Williamstown ride via Footscray Road path to Yarraville Gardens for morning tea.



Then down to Williamstown on the Bay Trail West. Onto the Williamstown Beach Botanical Gardens for lunch and returned via Newport Station with the weather clearing for a very nice afternoon.



Report by Jon

WOODLANDS HISTORIC PARK RIDE CANCELLED 16 OCTOBER

Riders had received an email advising them that due to the high temperatures and high winds those who turned up at Jika Jika could decide what to do.

On arrival at Jika Jika there were 4 other riders, David D, Roger, Colin and new rider Bob. Colin indicated that if he was to ride he would prefer to ride into the wind in the morning and be blown home on return.

David hadn't received the notification of a change of plans so we decided to head up the Moonee Ponds Creek and come back on the Merri Creek.

It was a bit blowy and also uphill riding and after a couple of rest breaks we stopped at Boeing Reserve for a morning cuppa and chat.



Back on the bikes we headed a short distance north to show Bob the Moonee Ponds Creek viaduct bridge. It looks like it is currently undergoing maintenance as the path had overhead protection so we rode through scaffolding with a cover over our heads. Just past the viaduct we turned around and headed back down the trail and hardly needed to pedal. It was pleasant riding being blown along while travelling downstream at the same time.

We turned off the trail at the Gaffney Street bridge and headed back up the Westbreen Creek Trail before following the signs to the Merri Creek Trail through the streets and, after passing near Merlynston Station, across the Upfield path. On the creek trail no one wanted to stop for lunch so we headed back to Jika Jika with David, then Roger and Ed leaving the ride so that only Colin and Bob completed the circuit.

Ride distance about 40 km elevation about 330m temperature at 12.30 about 32 o C

Report by Ed

FEDERATION TRAIL – WERRIBEE TO JIKA JIKA 21 OCTOBER

Isn't spring lovely. Starting earlier than usual at 9am, on a perfect day for riding, with a pleasant temperature, no clouds and no wind, ten riders set off towards North Melbourne Station with James as the tail rider. For the first couple to traffic lights and many more along the way the first couple of riders were the only ones to get through the intersection, but we all eventually reached North Melbourne station and found George waiting there.

As it is springtime the maggies are out and there is a particularly vicious one at the start of the Federation Trail, as Ed found out on a reconnaissance ride. (Magpie 6 Ed 0 with a bloody ear).

On the day we decided to detour through the streets and have the morning tea stop at the Soldiers Reserve playground to avoid the magpie and where there were some tables and toilets as well as the play equipment which no one tried out. After the break George decided to head back home leaving 10 riders to continue.

After a decent chat it was time to get back on the bikes the ride with no wind back towards Melbourne along the Federation Trail. We had a couple of stops along the way to catch breath and sip some water before arriving at Brooklyn Reserve for lunch.



Report by Ed

EASTERN SUBURBS LOOP - RINGWOOD

23 OCTOBER

It was good to see a new a face, belonging to Bob, waiting keenly for the ride to begin at Jika Jika. And nice to see all the usual faces too! Eleven of us headed off towards Darebin Parklands, down the Darebin Creek than across to the Anniversary Trail.

At East Camberwell station we hit the back roads and wound our way through Canterbury, Surrey Hills and Mont Albert to Surrey Dive for morning tea.

Spotting a Tawny Frogmouth in a tree at Surrey Dive was a highlight. It was not the least bit interested in us but we were pleased to see the bird recently voted Australia's #1 in the flesh.



More back roads and a short section of Black's Creek got us to the Box Hill to Ringwood Trail at Blackburn station where we met a couple trialling ebikes and they were given a lot of gratuitous advice by our riders. We pedalled uneventfully to Schwerkolt Cottage for a spot of lunch and a dash of sunshine.



The Eastlink and Koonung Creek Trails had us heading back towards home.

Detours associated with the NELP in North Mont Albert and North Balwyn added some spice to the later part of the ride! These detours were convoluted and hilly but at least they ensured that we had earned our afternoon tea in Alphington when we finally arrived there.

Riders headed off at various junctures along the final flat stretch back to Jika Jika.

Report by Gael

CAROLINE SPRINGS AND KOROROIT CREEK 28 OCTOBER

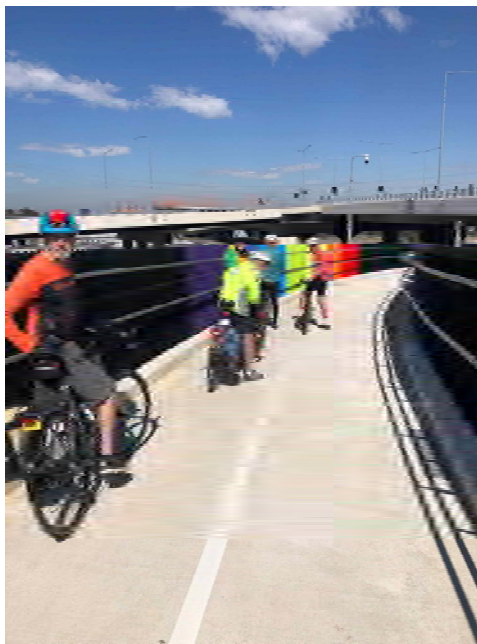
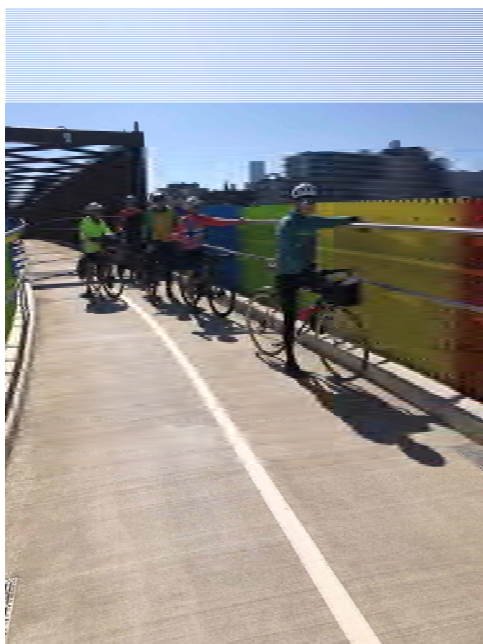
8 riders turned up at Westgarth Station on this sunny but cold wintery morning. After coping with the broken down escalator and malfunctioning lift at Southern Cross we got on the train to Watergardens where we found Roger and Ed. Now we were 10. Soon we were enjoying morning tea at Boronia Drive reserve in Hillside, having oggled at the enormous houses and large allotments of that suburb, so unusual in the north western suburbs. We pedalled south along Sugargum Reserve to Stony Hill Creek where we briefly started going upstream instead of down but soon rectified this and continued down to hit Kororoit Creek which we roughly followed all the way down to Sunshine. On the way we detoured to cycle around the extensive and very beautiful lakes system of Caroline Springs, then around the large and lovely Lake Caroline where we popped into the big shopping centre so that Bob, our new member, could get some take away lunch and then had lunch at the very conveniently situated Isabella Williams Memorial Reserve further downstream in Deer Park. Then on further downstream, around some very nice lakes in Cairnlea and finally on to Sunshine where both Roger and George bailed out (Bailey bailed ha ha. Sorry George for that terrible smart alec joke). We knew we had no hope of getting to coffee at Autumn Leaves in Newmarket before the 3pm closing time so with the help of Google we found a nice alternative in Footscray; Nan's Bakehouse which stays open till 4pm. In future there, specify china cups as they served the first two drinks in takeaway cups before we pulled them up on that one. Then a fast ride home via the usual route of the Saleyards and Royal Park. Total distance about 58km, no rain but a biting cold breeze till lunch and no mishaps apart from my rear brake getting jammed which we temporarily got around by simply disconnecting it and which I managed to fix (maybe?) when I got home.

Report by Jopie

CHERRY LAKE 30 OCTOBER

6 riders fronted up at Jika Jika on a not too cold morning for the ride; Roger, Bob, Wolter, Mike, Ian H and myself.

We took the usual Park Street route towards the Zoo where we turned left to go along the west side of the Zoo, across Elliot Avenue and Flemington Road to take Abbotsford Street to North Melbourne Station and then across the recently opened 'Rainbow' bridge across the rail yards and onto the Moonee Ponds Creek Trail.



It was then the usual route to Yarraville Gardens for morning tea. There was much discussion about when the 'Green Snake' would be open for cyclists to use!

After morning tea it was on to Williamstown where we had a brief stop for Bob to find some lunch.

We then pressed on to Cherry Lake, doing a circuit before stopping for lunch. Surprisingly the area was quite deserted with few people around.

After lunch we retraced our route until taking Maddox Road north to cross the railway line and turn right towards Newport Station. Next we were riding along Hall Street and turning right into Simcock Avenue, crossing Douglas Parade, then under the Westgate Freeway Bridge. We continued along Hyde Street to pause at Footscray Station where Roger left to catch a train.

Continuing on we made our way to Dynon Road and Lloyd Street, then Arden Street where we turned north on to the Moonee Ponds Creek Trail then on to the Capital City Trail.

Afternoon tea stop was at District 35 then back to Jika Jika, with some turning off before we made it all the way back.

A very enjoyable day for a ride of about 55km.

Report by Colin