

DAREBIN BUG – Mid-Week Riders’ Group - Ride Schedule January to March 2026

1. All rides start at **the earlier time of 9.00 am** unless otherwise stated. **Alternate start times and/or meeting places are marked**
2. Meet at the **Jika Jika Community Centre, Northcote (corner of Plant and Union Sts)** unless otherwise stated below
3. The ride leader sets the route and nominates a tail. (The leader needs to maintain a ride speed to suit all the group)
4. Hot weather riding –
 - a. Up to 30°C - The programmed ride will go ahead
 - b. Between 30 to 35°C - The programmed ride may go ahead but may be altered
 - c. Over 35°C - There will be no “official” ride but any riders still wishing to ride can turn up at the starting point to meet up with like-minded riders

DATE	RIDE NAME	DESCRIPTION & APPROX km	LEADER
Tuesday, 6 Jan 2026	Yarra & Westgate with variations	The ride includes Yarra Bend, the new Gipps St ramp and various interesting deviations in Hawthorn & Toorak. Then the Shrine, Albert Park, Westgate & Northbank. Morning tea and lunch along the way. Coffees at South of Johnston. We cross the Yarra 10 times! <i>Approx 52km. Moderate riding with some steep hills. Walk up short steep sections if necessary.</i>	Jopie
Thursday 8 Jan 2026	Merri-bek shimmies, Upfield path	Riding around Brunswick & environs to look at some wall art, (morning tea along the way) following Merri-bek shimmies, Upfield path, ultimately across to Bundoora Park for lunch in the great outdoors (not the café) . Return via Heidelberg shimmies. <i>Approx. 45km easy to moderate riding</i>	Sue H
Tuesday 13 Jan 2026	Westgate Tunnel Trails	Rainbow Bridge, Footscray Rd, Shepherd Bridge, Whitehall St bridge, Yarraville Gardens MT, Stony Ck Trail to new bit of Federation Trail, Kororoit Ck Trail new bit, Cherry Lake LUNCH, Green Serpent above Footscray Rd. <i>Approx 50km easy to moderate riding</i>	Wolter
Thursday 15 Jan 2026	Taylors Creek, Keilor & Brimbank Park	Ride to North Melbourne station for the train to Watergardens. Ride along treelined Taylors Creek to Brimbank Park and on to Keilor for lunch. Return via Steele Creek, Lily St lookout & Flemington Racecourse. Afternoon tea at the Boathouse (but negotiable). BRING MYKI. <i>Approximately 47km. Moderate riding with some steep hills and gravel.</i>	Gael
Tuesday, 20 Jan 2026	Mordialloc Massive Murals Street Art	Early start. Meet at Westgarth station for the 8.57am train to Jolimont then ride to Richmond station for the train to Carrum. MT at Patterson River. From Patterson River take the Longbeach trail (gravel) to Mordialloc. View the extensive Street Art Murals and then lunch at Mordialloc foreshore. Take the Bay trail north and then onto Westgarth. Note - this is a relatively flat ride with escape routes by catching the train along the way. <i>Approximately 50km. Easy to moderate riding with some gravel</i>	Ian S
Thursday, 22 Jan 2026	Newport Lakes	Ride to Yarraville Gardens (MT). Head south on Hyde st towards Newport. Take the Bay Trail West through Williamstown and Jawbone Reserve and wetlands. At Maddox Rd turn north continue to Mason St. Turn left to Newport Lakes (L). Return via Mason st Newport Railway Station. Take the station underpass to travel back to the Bay Trail West. Return via Yarraville and Footscray Rd or Kensington. <i>Approx. 50km. Easy riding almost flat.</i>	James

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Tuesday, 27 Jan 2026	Warburton trail (Wandin North to Warburton & return)	Later start. Meet at Wandin North - Lilydale/Warburton carpark for a 10am ride start. Ride along the Lilydale/Warburton trail towards Warburton. Stop at the Carriage Cafe, Seville for morning tea at the cafe. Continue to Yarra Junction (toilets). Lunch at Warburton. Return to Wandin North carpark. Riders can drive to Wandin North or take the train to Lilydale and meet the group at Wandin North. NOTE CAFE FOR MORNING TEA STOP. Afternoon tea is optional. Contact the leader if you intend to ride. <i>Approximately 56 km, easy to moderate riding mainly gravel</i>	Jon
Thursday, 29 Jan 2026	Latrobe Link	Ride up the Merri Creek trail to Broadhurst Ave. Turn off to Edwardes Lake (MT) Return to Broadhurst Ave then to High St, cross at Ruthven station. Continue to JC Donath reserve and St Georges Rd trail. From Tunaley Pde/Clough Pde continue east to the Darebin Creek trail then towards Latrobe University (L). Continue north to Main Drive. At McLeod station cross to ride through backstreets to River Gum Walk. Continue to the Main Yarra Trail and return to Westgarth. <i>Approx 50km Moderate riding mainly flat but with some hills</i>	Graham H
Tuesday, 3 Feb 2026	Glen Waverley to Heatherdale Loop	Early start. Meet at Westgarth Station for the 8.57am train to Jolimont. Ride to Richmond Station for the 9.36 train to Glen Waverley (Platforms 9/10). "Waverley Rail Trail" to Dandenong Creek Trail to Jells Park (MT), DCT to the magnificent new railway line underpass and across Lonsdale St for lunch at Dandenong Park. Heatherdale Station via Eastlink Trail for train back to Richmond and ride home. <i>Approx. 50km and mainly flat</i>	Wolter
Thursday, 5 Feb 2026	Mernda and Hawkstowe Park	Ride to Merri station to take the 9.17am train to Mernda. Ride south along the Mernda Rail Trail, turn off to Hawkestone Reserve (MT). Continue on the South Morang Rail Trail turning onto the Darebin Creek trail south to Norris Bank Park (L), return to Westgarth on the Darebin Creek trail. <i>Approx 40km of easy to moderate riding with some hills & gravel.</i>	Sue H
Tuesday, 10 Feb 2026	Williamstown Beach	Ride along Footscray Rd to Yarraville Gardens (MT). Head south on Hyde st towards Newport and Williamstown onto the Bay Trail West. Continue on Bay Trail West to Williamstown beach (L). Return via Newport. <i>Approx. 50km, easy riding, can be subject to headwinds along the coast</i>	Nola
Thursday, 12 Feb 2026	Half Moon Bay - fish n chip ride	Ride south on the Bay trail to Half Moon Bay/ Black Rock – morning tea and lunch along the way. Return via the Bay Trail. Riders that want to shorten the ride can take the train back from Sandringham or Brighton. Note: There is a kiosk at Half Moon Bay where riders can buy fish and chips etc for lunch. <i>Approx. 60km. Easy riding mainly flat, however being coastal can be subject to strong winds.</i>	Kathleen
Tuesday, 17 Feb 2026	Sandridge Beach Pancake Ride	Along the Yarra Trail to the city and then out to Sandridge Beach – Port Melbourne for pancakes for lunch. Lot's of pancake mix will be provided and you will need to supply your toppings of lemon, jam, sugar, honey, maple syrup etc. Plate etc. It's usually a gold coin needed to cover the cost of the pancake mixes. <i>Approx 40km easy to moderate riding</i>	Ian S

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DATE	RIDE NAME	DESCRIPTION & APPROX KMs	Leader
Thursday, 19 Feb 2026	Hurstbridge (Diamond Creek trail) Train/Ride	Later start. Meet at Westgarth Station Plat 2 for 9.07am train to Hurstbridge. NOTE CAFE FOR MORNING TEA STOP. Ride via Wattle Glen to Diamond Creek. Continue to Eltham and then onto the Main Yarra Trail to Westerfolds Park or Finns Reserve (L). Return via the Main Yarra Trail. BRING MYKI. <i>Approximately 45km, moderate riding with some gravel sections.</i>	Gael
Tuesday, 24 Feb 2026	Hadfield - George's 90th Birthday ride	Later start 9.30am at Jika Jika. Ride the Moonee Ponds Creek path, turning off at Gaffney St to get to Kent Rd through to Hadfield for a morning tea, lunch get together for George's 90 th Birthday. George will be providing food and drinks for the occasion. Darebin BUG current and past members are invited. The return trip will be via the Western ring rd (M80) and Merri Creek path. Approx 40km. Easy to moderate riding. Further details will follow at a later stage.	George
Thursday, 26 Feb 2026	Warrandyte – Pound Bend	Later start. Meet at Westgarth Station Plat 2 for 9.07am train to Eltham. Ride to the Main Yarra trail & onto Pettys Orchard café. Riders can purchase drinks /eats at the café or there are usually some outside tables to have your own drinks/eats (MT) then onto Beasleys nursery via the Mullum Mullum trail. Along the extension to the Main Yarra trail over Warrandyte hill then down into Pound Bend National park, Warrandyte (L). Return via the Main Yarra trail to ride back to Jika Jika. <i>Approx. 56km. Moderate to hard riding with gravel and some steep hills.</i> Riders wanting a shorter ride can go back to Eltham station independently and return by train.	Jon
Tuesday, 3 Mar 2026	Royal Botanic Gardens & St Kilda Botanical Gardens	Ride via Dights Falls to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Alexandra Ave (MT). Continue along the Main Yarra Trail to Southbank, take the Sandridge Trail to Beacon Cove. Take the Bay Trail south to the St Kilda Marina. Cross Marine Parade to Dickens st, to the St Kilda Botanical Gardens (L). Return to Westgarth via Bay Trail or Albert Park Lake/Moray street. <i>Approximately 50 km easy riding.</i>	Nola
Thursday, 5 Mar 2026	Eastlink-Yarraman/Dandenong	Early start. Meet at Westgarth station for the 8.57am train to Jolimont then ride to Richmond station for the train to Yarraman. Ride from Yarraman to meet the Dandenong Creek trail north through Dandenong to Jells Park. On the Eastlink trail ride to Ringwood. Turn off to the Box Hill to Ringwood Rail Trail west. Riders can catch a train to return or continue on the backstreets to get to the Anniversary Trail. This ride may be reversed if strong winds are expected. <i>Approx. 64km Moderate riding with some hills</i>	Graham H
Tuesday, 10 Mar 2026	O'Keefe Rail Trail - Heathcote to Axedale	Later start - Drive to Heathcote to arrive for a 10 am ride start, parking Herriot Street car park adjacent to the trail shelter. Morning tea along the trail. Ride to Axedale (L), then return to Heathcote. Contact the leader if you intend to ride. <i>Approx 55km easy to moderate riding on mainly gravel paths.</i>	Ralph
Thursday, 12 Mar 2026	Wattle Park	Ride to the Anniversary Trail. Continue past Alamein (morning tea along the way). Turnoff onto the Gardiners Creek trail. Continue on the Gardiners Creek trail until just past Burwood Highway. Turn off to go to Wattle Park picnic area (L). Return back to the Gardeners Creek trail. Return to Jika via the Koonung trail. <i>Approx. 55km. Easy to moderate riding with some hills and gravel in the park</i>	Colin

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DATE	RIDE NAME	DESCRIPTION & APPROX km	LEADER
Tuesday 17 Mar 2026	Geelong & Barwon River	<p>Later start - Meet at Westgarth Station for the 9.04am train to Southern Cross and the 9.30am Vline train to Lara. V/Line trains have space limits for bikes, so some riders may need to take the next train 20 mins later. If preferred riders can alternatively drive to Lara station for 10.16am to meet the group but let the leader know.</p> <p>The route includes the Geelong foreshore, Cowies Creek, a section on the Bypass Trail, Fyansford, the Barwon River and Eastern Beach where we could decide to go for a dip (bring bathers if this is your thing). Please note that parts of this ride are not previewed and although it all looks fine on the maps, glitches are possible! We finish at North Geelong station for the train trip home or back to cars at Lara.</p> <p><i>Approx 49km with an opt out option to South Geelong Station at 35km or Geelong Station at 44.5km. Moderate riding with some gravel.</i></p>	Jopie
Thursday, 19 Mar 2026	Mullum Mullum Creek path	<p>Early start. Meet at Westgarth station for the 8.57am train to Jolimont. Ride to Richmond station for the train to Heatherdale. Ride to the Eastlink trail (west) then turn right onto the Mullum Mullum trail to continue to the Main Yarra trail. Morning tea and lunch along the way. Continue on Main Yarra trail to Jika Jika. <i>Approx. 55 km. Moderate riding with some gravel</i></p>	Ian H
Tuesday, 24 Mar 2026	Jack Roper Reserve	Ride to the Western Ring Road path (Morning tea along the way). Ride west on the Ring Road path. Cross Sydney Road and after the small lake, take the turn north under the Ring Road to Jack Roper Reserve. (L) Return via the Merri Creek trail or the Upfield trail to Jika. Approximately 60 km. Easy to moderate riding	Col
Thursday, 26 Mar 2026	100 steps of Federation - Truganina Park	Ride to Yarraville (MT). Head south on Hyde st towards Newport and Williamstown and around to the Altona foreshore, to Laverton Creek to the “100 steps” (L). Return via backstreets to Jika Jika. <i>Approx. 66km. Easy riding almost flat, however being coastal can be subject to strong winds. Riders wanting a shorter ride can catch trains back at Altona or Newport.”</i>	Ian H
Tuesday, 31 Mar 2026	Upfield Bikeway extension	Upfield Bikeway to Fawkner and M80 Ring Road via new extension. Morning tea along way, lunch Tom Roper Reserve, home via Darebin Creek. <i>About 40km easy & moderate riding</i>	Wolter