



## **WATTLE PARK VIA KOONUNG CREEK TRAIL 2 JUNE**

Plane tree leaves are banked up on the road and footpath on the way to Jika Jika from the bitter north-westerly wind overnight, but I can't hear a street sweeper. New trees have been planted in Clarke Street and South Crescent just in time for the start of winter, but maybe just in time for the end of the financial year?

The forecast is for rain at 1pm but who knows if it will come if the wind keeps blowing? Roger has already got to Jika Jika and before long there are five. Great I can count them with one hand. Jan M and Jon are backing up after an arduous ride planning team meeting the night before.

We're outbound on what's left of the Koonung Creek Trail. Part of the new shared path along the Eastern Freeway is already in place before the underpass to Musca Street Reserve.

We have morning tea at Elgar Park, where Bob dispenses medical advice and Robin admires the Box Hill Miniature Railway.

Heading up the Bushy Creek Trail, we notice it's not very bushy at all and the creek is somewhere below ground encased in concrete pipes.

We head for Wattle Park for lunch via quiet streets and the Gardiners Creek Trail.

Robin complements me on the navigation and, swelled with pride, I miss Wattle Park completely and we have lunch at Gardiners Reserve among the play equipment.



The trip homeward via Ashburton, the Ferndale Trail, more Gardiners Creek and the Capital City Trail is uneventful. Roger leaves us at the St Kevins Boathouse and three more in Yarra Bend Park.

At last, I hear a street sweeper, but it's in the City of Yarra, not Darebin. Bob comes to Phil's Bakehouse because it's over the road from home. He records 50km and drinks a large latte. Roger rocks up soon afterwards having caught two trains to feed his hot chocolate addiction.

The rain doesn't come.

Report by Wolter

## **FEDERATION TRAIL**

### **4 JUNE**

Due to the nominated leader (Gael) having a lurgy and the weather forecast being diabolic the ride was cancelled.

Roger made the trip down and waited at Jika Jika until 9.35. As no one else showed up he returned home.

I recorded 25mm of rain in the 24 hours from 9am 4 June to 9am 5 June.

Colin

## **SATURDAY RIDE GROUP**

### **6 JUNE**

Forecast was for a coolish day with a small chance of rain. Come start time it was, cool with wet fog hanging in the air.

The intention was to ride to Bundoora Park via Darebin Creek Trail and return past the velodrome and follow the path under the Mernda Rail-line back to Rushall.

Come start time we had myself, Patrick, a visitor named Jake and Reg, who advised would have to leave near Northcote Station, with the possibility of one more rider joining at Darebin Parklands.

We headed off, the moisture was so thick that water dripped off the metal parts of the bike but not wet enough to put on the waterproofs. Ride to Bundoora was without incident but no additional rider at Darebin Parklands. Dined at the Bundoora Park visitor's centre. The refreshments and conversations were good and as we were leaving we were joined by Chris, who had been delayed by the demands of her companion animals. Alas no coffee for Chris, we headed back.

The air had cleared considerably and the return ride back was much more pleasant. Chris and Patrick peeled off to their respective homes and Jake and I arrived back at Rushall. Jake indicated he did enjoy the ride.

Report by David D

## **AD HOC RIDE (BRIGHTON BEACH)**

### **9 JUNE**

I had never been on a DBUG "Riders' Decide" ride. As I was recovering from hand surgery, I thought I would show up and ride as far as morning tea, or perhaps lunch.

At assembly there was interest in two destinations – Brighton, and a Yarra ride. A show of hands was no help; about half and half. There appeared more vocal support for Brighton, with someone needed to lead the group of about 12 to the Bayside Trail.

While I was talking football post-mortem at length with Ralph, and despite Kathleen's best efforts, we were still standing around holding our bikes at Jika Jika. It was threatening to become "Riders' Dither". I raised my hand: 'I'll lead us to the bay, via Wellington Street.'

We set off with Bob doing tail duty, over the railway line and down Victoria Street to Fairfield Park. After crossing the Yarra, we went westwards and then turned south at Wellington Street. When we got to the MCG and Birrarung Marr, Roger said, 'I know where we are, but I don't know how we got here.' I took that as a compliment from the veteran cyclist/meteorologist.

Skirting the gardens we went down St Kilda Road and crossed at the new Anzac Metro station. This took us to Albert Park for morning tea. When checking that Nola was doing okay on the ride (after a calf complaint) she told me about a writing course she is currently enjoying.

Weaving our way around a couple of ovals, we got to Fitzroy Street which has a separated two-way bike land that takes you down to Beach Road. A few people told me the route, or at least parts of it, were new to them.

The group made good time to Green Point in Brighton for lunch. We took up a couple of tables with lovely views of the bay (see my photo of 'bike leaning against something'). The weather was clear and fine, although over lunch we realised our good time was aided by what would be a headwind on the return journey. My hand had coped well with the ride, but as I did not want to overdo it, I joined Roger on catching the train back. I now handed over to Jopie ...

#### Report by Ken

We had 14 riders turn up on a cool morning at Jika Jika for our Ad Hoc ride. 2 others, Wolter & Steve also turned up to say hello before heading off to inspect the proposed new 2km section of trail in Banyule from Darebin station to Ivanhoe. After a brief discussion we settled on Brighton Beach with Ken leading till lunch at Green Point from where he would train back and someone else would take over for the return ride.

Almost immediately we were down to 13 when Bruce got a puncture! That was the only one for the day and he rejoined us on our return ride as we came through Brighton. Our route was the Yarra Trail to Clifton Hill, Wellington Street, Yarra Trail again, St Kilda Road to M/T at Albert Park Lake. Then Fitzroy Street to the St Kilda Foreshore and the Bay Trail to Green Point at Brighton Beach where we lunched at the picnic tables right on the point with fabulous CBD views.

I was then deputised to get us all safely home. We pushed into a stiff headwind and detoured up to the Point Ormond beacon at Elwood for the views and to get a group photo.



Then around the east side of Albert Park Lake and through Fawkner Park where we realised we had lost 2 of our group. Not good. We however reconnected at South of Johnston for coffee and all was forgiven.

No rain, some cool sunshine, bit windy, no mishaps apart from Bruce's puncture and temporarily misplacing over 10% of the group. Altogether a good fun day

#### Report by Jopie

## DAREBIN TO IVANHOE LINK 9 JUNE

In a stroke of genius by the Banyule City Council, a public consultation for cyclists in relation to a new railside trail from near Darebin Station (which isn't in Darebin) to near Mont Albert Station was organised for the day of our June 9 "ad hoc" ride. As it turned out, you had to be pretty quick to get one of the 15 spots and most of them were grabbed by Banyule BUG members. Steve M. got a golden ticket, while Kathleen got the last and was kind enough to give it to me. Bob was on the waiting list and still on it when he rocked up at Jika Jika to go on the ad hoc ride, along with Kathleen. Let's just say Steve and I were heavily outnumbered by Darebin BUG members who prefer pedalling to politics and they were still sorting out the ad hoc destination when we left.

The Darebin to Ivanhoe link is the first stage of Banyule's plan to make it easier to walk and cycle near the rail corridor as far as Heidelberg with shared paths where possible and improved on-road treatments where not.

You can find out more at [shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/HFS/DarebinIvanhoe](http://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/HFS/DarebinIvanhoe)



We got to see how the council was proposing to handle the different sections and were all done before noon, leaving plenty of time to re-recce my notorious Wattle Park ride of June 2, of which you may have read elsewhere in Wobbly.

Report by Wolter

## CAIRNLEA 11 JUNE

We gathered at Jika Jika in the fog. Thirteen of us headed off and by the time we were a little way along Park Street in Fitzroy North the sun had come out. We met Sue, David D and David S at Royal Park Station. Bruce and Franca were at Flemington Bridge soaking up the sunshine. After the usual run through the Kensington Saleyards, it was time for morning tea at Footscray Park with a view of the river.



Pam left us after morning tea and we doubled back to Newells Paddock, rode past Footscray Station and along the railway to Sunshine Station. Apparently the renovations of this station will bring a dedicated bridge over the railway line for cyclists. A short ride brought us to Kororoit Creek where we turned right. There was a problem with the lights crossing Ballarat Road so this took longer than expected. We were then in the suburb of Cairnlea and a short ride led us to the Flint Memorial Reserve for lunch on top of a small hill with a view of an unnamed lake that had a pair of white geese.



Bruce and Franca left us after lunch.

We returned to Kororoit Creek and stopped very briefly at the Black Powder Mill. We left the creek at Tamar Drive Reserve and rode past a series of lakes before arriving at Albion Station.

A short wait for a train to Parkville where a few of us found that the station concourse extends to the west side of Royal Parade. Coffee was at the nearby Dr Dax before a return to Jika Jika. About 43 km of easy riding with no wind and no rain all day.

Report by James

## ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, MELBOURNE AND ST KILDA BOTANICAL GARDENS 16 JUNE

Despite forecast for a lot of rain and cloud in the early morning we had a fabulous sunny winter day and a group of 13 riders. It was nice to introduce my friends Glen and Masumi who work in the snowfields in Nozawa Onsen Japan and Hotham Australia to the group. Meg who is often busy with other commitments also joined us.



We wound our way along the Main Yarra Trail to Anderson Street for morning tea at the Royal Botanical Gardens on the lawn beside the ornamental lake.



Jopie, Masumi and Glen had other places they needed to go and left us but the rest of us continued to ride through Southbank and the Sandridge and Bay trails to the St Kilda Botanical gardens.



Another lawn and pond and lunch before we rode back along the foreshore and through Albert Park. I missed the turnoff for Moray Street so we took Albert Road to Anzac Station and then St Kilda Road to Birrarung Marr and through the snicket to afternoon tea at South of Johnston where we basked in the weakening sun before disbursing to our homes.

Thanks to Graham who gave me a GPS map of the route which Nola had lead before.

(Another route that Ed has used involved some fancy turns which I didn't try)

All up almost 50 km.

Report by Kathleen

## **FINDON CREEK, EDGARS CREEK AND GALADA TAMBOORE 18 JUNE**

The forecast for Thursday was dire with 1 to 10mm of rain.

8 hardy souls turned up at Merri Station with a howling northerly and dark clouds on the horizon. Ed was already on the train and David M met us at Hawkstowe Station. It was quite a bit cooler in Hawkstowe but after a quick toilet stop we headed off into the elements.

With a strong northerly blowing us down the South Morang Trail past Hendersons Creek Wetlands we soon arrived at Mill Park All Abilities Play Space for morning tea.

After morning tea it was back to the South Morang Rail Trail then right on to the Darebin Creek Trail and into the howling head wind. We wound our way up the Darebin Creek Trail then Findon Creek Trail to almost the head waters of Findon Creek.

We headed west on numerous trails to Aurora. Rain did threaten with a couple of drops but held off and then we reached the Galada Tamboore Trail. Turning south on the Galada Tamboore Trail we had a great tail wind to blow us to lunch at Whittlesea Public Gardens.



With lots of checking out of the radar everybody had a quick lunch, and we headed back to the Galada Tamboore Trail with the tail wind to the Merri Creek Trail. David M and Kate left us here to head home and we continued on the Merri Creek Trail with our tail wind.

With an afternoon tea stop at Islamic Museum, everybody still looking at the rain clouds and having avoided the rain so far we didn't hang around. Gael and I left the group at the Warrk-warrk Bridge while the others carried on to Jika Jika. Thanks for taking the first aid kit back Colin.

We missed the forecast rain for a windy 50km.

Report by Graham

## **WILLIAMSTOWN BEACH 23 JUNE**

18 keen riders had assembled at Jika Jika on a fine and sunny Winter's morning for the ride.

After some initial directions and with Wolter volunteering to be tail we set off.

With such a large group there were the inevitable missings of traffic lights as we headed west, requiring stops to wait for regrouping.

At the Poplar Road end of the Upfield Shared Path we were joined by 3 riders, making an even larger group!

At the same time we discovered that the Shared Path was closed to the south west and we were required to make a detour west-north-west along Poplar Road past the CSL site on our left and the Parkville Youth Justice Precinct on our left before making a left turn into Oak Street which became Manningham Street where we found a ramp up to the Upfield Shared Path. Yours truly initially thought we could not get through, but others smarter than me saw that we could rejoin the Shared Path.

From thereon it was a pleasant ride down the Moonee Ponds Creek Trail, and with the water being calm we admired the picture-like reflections on the surface.

As all the riders had experienced the ride along the Dixon Veloway, I opted to take the "old" route along Footscray Road at ground level (mostly). I had really decided this was what I was going to do the night before the ride!

As some of the group got separated from the front Wolter kindly took care of the last riders to make sure they stayed safe. Thanks Wolter.

We all eventually arrived at Yarraville Gardens for morning tea, where many issues were discussed.



Jopie left the group after morning tea, not wanting to over-extend his knee recovery.

The remaining 20 riders continued along the familiar route towards Williamston Beach where we were due to have lunch. This section of the ride was without incident, with Wolter again guiding a small group which had become separated from the front riders.

All arrived at the shelter at Williamstown Beach for a slightly early lunch. Again there was much discussion. A fresh breeze blew up during lunch, cooling things down somewhat.

With everyone having had their fill, we set off west along the Bay Trail West before turning north into Maddox Road. With works still in progress for the new railway overpass we were fortunate to have friendly traffic control personnel who stopped other traffic from between just south of the railway line to just north of Railway Parade, which was closed, giving us the use of the whole of Maddox Road. We then turned right at the roundabout into Jubilee Street, then a slight right into Champion Road, another roundabout, then left into Market Street to make our way to the underpass below Newport Station to the Hall Street side. Roger left the group here to catch a train to the city and home.

The group, now numbering 19, rode the full length of Hall Street to take Stony Creek Walk east to Hyde Street. Turning north we went all the way along Hyde Street to Footscray Station turning into Bunbury Street to stop at Footscray Milking Station for refreshments. At this point Wolter continued on without stopping, tired of mingling with the riff-raff!



Being refreshed we continued along Bunbury Street before turning left into Moreland Street where we were momentarily held up while a semi-trailer driver skillfully reversed a long load into the building site. Proceeding again we turned right into Dynon Road and crossed to the north side at the pedestrian crossing to head east as far as Lloyd Street, turning left there to go as far as Arden Street, which we turned right into. Along Arden Street we turned left into Abbotsford Street heading to Flemington Road, which we crossed and rode into Royal Park.

By this stage the group had fragmented considerably with riders keen to get home.

Through the park we made our way to Gatehouse Street, then College Crescent after crossing Royal Parade, then Princes Park Drive to Garton Street finally getting back onto the Inner Circle Rail Trail heading for home.

Some of those who had gone ahead waited to farewell us as we and they got closer to home.

At the end 5 riders made it back to or near Jika Jika.

A very pleasant day for a ride even though it did get a bit chilly after lunch.

Ride distance approx. 46.5km. No emergencies or bike failures.

Report by Colin

## **ELSTER CREEK AND ALLNUT PARK 25 JUNE**

Riding to the city we took the Napier Street shimmy and then continued south to turn at the MCG for the William Barak Bridge. It was a lovely day for a winter's ride, light winds with no rain and the fog had cleared from the CBD. Through Birrarung Marr we turned at Swanston Street/St Kilda Road to ride along the separated bike lane to the Domain.

Our morning tea stop was at Albert Park Lake where groups of pairs of black swans were pecking around on the grass, starting to think of Spring.



After our break and photo, we continued through Albert Park to the bayside. The bay was looking fabulous – calm and still, but we turned off anyway at Elwood Canal. Riding to Elsternwick Park and the start of the Elster Creek trail.

*A little bit of history - Elster Creek originally drained into a swamp by the bay. Now Elster Creek drains into Elwood Canal, and lovely beachside parks replace the swamp.*

Just prior to Gardenvale Railway Station we turned off the creek trail into Asling Street to take us down to Bay Street, Brighton. From Bay Street we crossed the spaghetti junction that is Nepean Highway intersections.

Onwards to the other side where we met up with the Elster Creek trail again. Our lunch stop was at Allnut Park in McKinnon. After lunch we returned via the path along next to the Frankston line to Caulfield and the Djerring trail. Two riders left us on the return trip at different train lines.

Going via the Gardiners Creek and Capital City Trails, we had afternoon tea sitting in the sun at a café a few minutes from Dights Falls in Clifton Hill.

It was a good day for a bike ride and good company. No mechanicals.

Approx. 55km back to Jika Jika

Report by Sue

## FRANKSTON 30 JUNE

Having reversed this ride to take advantage of the prevailing north-westerly, it was pleasing to see aircraft tracking in to Tullamarine from the south, although the wind was little more than a gentle breeze. Less pleasing was the leaden sky and the gentle rain that was falling.

Still, I had seven riders and with Ken wearing a bright yellow fluoro jacket (even my iPhone camera couldn't handle it) he was the natural choice to go tail, and the BUG's new fluoro vests remained unsullied.

Following a slight variation on the route into town, we started following the Bay Trail. After I overshot the Catani Gardens' 1916 rotunda, we ended up having morning tea under the Catani Archway. It proved a little low for some members, but kept the rain off. Mick told us about the folks who were on the Melburn Roobaix (that's how they spell it) who were built like fridges, took pleasure in riding up steep hills and enjoyed yelling stuff like "go hard or go home".



The run to Mordialloc was a bit dull, apart from my mirror falling off. James found the missing screw on the path but it turned out that it had sheared off, so no quick fix. The sea was dead flat. As the rain worsened, I wondered why I'd taken my coat off. I'd decided it was too warm for some reason.

I wondered how long before my phone would get wet and pack it in. Long enough as it turned out, but the charging port is still drying out as I write this.

I wondered why my headlight was not working. That was because I'd turned it off!

The picnic shelter at the Parkdale Café + Kiosk was still not finished so we headed on to the shelter in Peter Scullin Reserve, Mordialloc, for lunch. Tour De Café was not open for fish and chips but we were still closely supervised by pigeons up in the rafters.

James consulted the BOM app, which indicated the rain would abate so I still had four volunteers for the run to Frankston with Ken, Mary and Mick having taken the wise choice to catch the train at Mordialloc's new station.

The rain picked up almost straight away and the crushed limestone on the Longbeach Trail became a bit of a chore. Luckily, I'd plotted a route to the beautiful concrete Frankston Rail Trail at Edithvale to relieve the boredom.

After getting lost in Frankston's malls we finally managed to find the Little Sparrow Café to warm up with hot chocolates and cakes and mess up the furniture and leave puddles on their floor.

The trip home, with train swap at Parliament Station worked great with only a five-minute wait. Approaching Clifton Hill we saw Ed, who'd got off at Richmond, crossing the Hoddle Street Bridge on his way home. What are the chances of that?

Report by Wolter