



SATURDAY RIDE

1 AUGUST

The plan was to ride The Capital City / Main Yarra Trails and loop around through the Collingwood Children's Farm then back to Rushall Station.

Saturday morning turned out crisp but sunny. We had 4 starters at Rushall Station and picked up 3 more at Royal Park, making us now 7 in number.

On to Docklands where we took our usual toilet stop. Then crossed over the Eel Trap Bridge, to Southbank and cycled along the Southbank Promenade. At Queensbridge we lost 2 of our riders at the traffic lights and waited at the start of Southbank Blvd but alas, unnoticed by us, the 2 riders continued alongside the river. Some confusion for a while but thanks to the mobile phones we all rejoined and continued along south of the river.

Starting to warm up a bit, we seemed to come across every man and his dog out to enjoy the sunshine. The south path is narrower and more undulating than the north path.

Eventually we arrived at our coffee spot, called Kanteen, opposite Como Park. Here we met 4 riders from Stonnington.

Coffee was good, the food was good and the conversations were engaging. Time to press on.

We headed up to MacRobertson Bridge. No question of riding through the approach or crossing on our bikes, too many pedestrians and companion animals. Over on the north bank the path was much better, so now we set off at a good riding rhythm. The new (to me) path in Collingwood was very nice, removing the need to explore the back streets. At Burnley/Kew bridge a Stonnington and a Darebin rider left us and at the Children's Farm another Darebin rider left us. Through Yarra Bend Park and back to Rushall where we left the Stonnington riders and they continued back on the Capitol City Trail. A pleasant ride ended.

Report by David D

NEWPORT LAKES

4 AUGUST

16 riders were assembled at Jika Jika on an overcast and drizzly morning.

The ride proceeded as expected along South Crescent, Westgarth Street and onto the path beside Merri Parade to cross Merri Creek and make our way to the Capital City Trail running parallel with Park Street, with Sue joining in at the Nicholson Street crossing. It was great to see Sue back riding with DBUG again. Proceeding on along the Inner Circle Rail Trail and Upfield Shared Path to Royal Park Station where we were joined by Franca and Bruce.

Not crossing the railway line we continued on the path between the tram lines and the Zoo, crossing Elliott Avenue then through Royal Park, crossing Flemington Road to take Abbotsford Street and Adderley Street all the way to North Melbourne Station. From here we crossed the rail yards on the Rainbow Bridge to make our way to Moonee Ponds Creek Trail. Then it was a familiar route via the Dixon Veloway, across Maribyrnong River, along the Maribyrnong River Trail, along the path beside Harris Street and finally along Hyde Street to enter Yarraville Gardens for morning tea.



Morning tea done it was on along Hyde Street and the Bay Trail West through Williamstown and Jawbone Reserve before turning north onto Maddox Road, making our way to Mason Street then into Newport Lakes Reserve for lunch. During lunch everyone was able to dry off after all the drizzle from the ride thus far. By this stage a few riders had left due to the wet conditions.



After lunch it was back to Mason Street towards Newport Station where there was considerable confusion about crossing Melbourne Road as the leader had not reced the area previously! All eventually managed to get across and through the underpass to arrive at Hall Street to head north. Hall Street was followed to cross Hudson Road then onto the path beside Hall Street and into Stony Creek Reserve and along Stony Creek Walk to head north along the Hyde Street footpath until we were able to move into an on-road bike lane near Yarraville Gardens. Our next stop was Footscray Milking Station for refreshments, with some riders continuing on.

All refreshed we continued along Bunbury Street, Moreland Street, Dynon Road, Lloyd Street and Arden Street to turn north onto the Moonee Ponds Creek Trail then onto the Upfield Shared Path at Flemington Bridge Station. The Upfield Shared Path was once again fully open, with a refurbished bridge at the bottom of the dip. Sue left the group at Poplar Road while those that remained continued along the Upfield Shared Path, Inner Circle Rail Trail and Capital City Trail, with others leaving as they got close home, finally retracing some of our route back to Jika Jika.

All in all a good day despite the drizzle during the early part of the ride. Approx 46km covered.

Report by Colin

MULLUM MULLUM CREEK TRAIL (WITH TRAIN)

6 AUGUST

On a cool morning Roger, Bob, David, Bruce, Franca, Mary, Kathleen, Colin, Alison, Ian H and Michael all met at Jika Jika. This was Alison's first ride with Darebin BUG. We rode approximately 12 km to Camberwell Station and waited 13 minutes for the Belgrave train.

We then got off the train at Heatherdale Station and rode the short distance to Schwerkolt Cottage for morning tea along the Eastlink Trail.



We then took the Mullum Mullum Trail turn off and rode along the Mullum Mullum Creek until we got to the Main Yarra Trail and had lunch at Westerfolds Park.



From Westerfolds Park we continued along the Main Yarra Trail to afternoon tea in Alphington . It turned in to a nice day with intermittent sun and there were no mishaps to report which makes for a pleasant ride but a short ride report. Total distance was just under 50 km.

Report by Franca

MALCOLM CREEK AND MOUNT RIDLEY

11 AUGUST

Another bleak cold winter's day didn't stop 12 keen riders enjoying a good ride.

We departed Jika Jika promptly at 9.31am and rode briskly to make sure we made it to Newmarket for the 10.09 to Craigieburn. We needn't have worried as we had 10 minutes to spare. Next time I could slackly leave a bit later and cruise a bit more genteely!

We were soon biking happily along lovely Malcolm Creek with its gorgeous old contorted red gums. Morning tea was at Golden Sun Moth play & picnic area. Then came the fun part. A steady grind up Mt Ridley to its 280+ metre summit for great views to the CBD, Mt Gellibrand and more.



This was followed by a superb whiz down, watching out for that speed hump part way. The Galada Tamboore Trail took us to lunch at the City of Whittlesea Public Gardens in record time as we had a very helpful and much appreciated tail breeze to speed us along. Then on the rusty old Ned Kelly Bridge over the freeway and Merri Creek to the rarely ridden but very scenic trail down the western side of the creek, which unfortunately eventually stops and necessitates a somewhat ugly traverse through an industrial wasteland and along the Sydney Road footpath to get to the Ring Road path and eventually back onto the main Merri Creek Path.

Our mission since lunch was to get to the Boot Factory Cafe at Pentridge well before it closed at 3pm. Unfortunately, one rider, who shall remain nameless, had left his/her phone on the table at lunch necessitating a frantic race back to find it before any bad people found it. It was retrieved but it delayed us a good 20 minutes so I had to execute plan B, which was to bypass a long section of Merri Creek by using a more direct street route. We got to the cafe by 2.30 and the drinks were good and relaxed but I've seen reports of a nearby patisserie that stays open till 4.30 so I shall investigate further to ensure it's not just a cruel urban myth.

We finished with the usual whiz down Merri Creek. Luckily the raging creek from the previous day's heavy rain had subsided enough so that we only had to ride through a long shallow puddle in the flood prone section just before St Georges Road. Also, no injuries, mechanicals, punctures or other mishaps apart from that one temporarily abandoned phone.

Report by Jopie

PLENTY RIVER TRAIL 13 AUGUST

The usual suspects (15 in all) gathered at Jika Jika despite it being a drab and rainy morning. Graham remarked that Ed was travelling very light – no pannier in sight!

This turned out to be an oversight that meant no lunch for Ed! Luckily he was able to grab some sustenance from Artiga Café as we rode up the Darebin Creek.

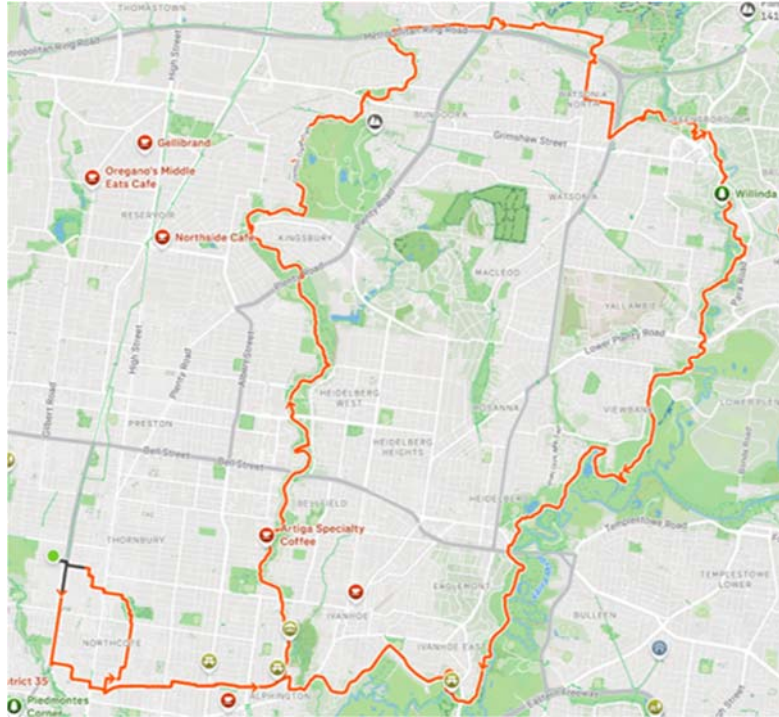
Morning tea was had at Norris Bank Park where we ummed and ahed about continuing the drizzly ride. Sue (has a sore knee and planned to leave the ride at morning tea time), Franca and Bruce all decided that they had other places to be and the rest of us trundled onwards.

The lack of a recce ride was, alas, obvious at times but we managed to get to Kalparrin Gardens Lake for lunch. In my defence I did have a cold and it was raining properly on the Sunday penciled in as recce day...

Homewards via the Plenty River, Yarra Trail, Ivanhoe Boulevard and Area 52 café in Alphington for afternoon tea. Great work team on such a cruddy winter's day!

Thanks for coming and thanks to our whip, Graham.

No photos of riders were taken but this is what the route looked like:



Report by Gael

BRIGHTON BEACH GARDENS 18 AUGUST

With recent large numbers in our group, combined with a few falls or accidents, I approached this ride with a feeling of trepidation. A cool start, with promise of 20 degrees greeted us at Jika Jika. Roger informed us that the wind was coming!

Addressing the group, I stressed that we keep a distance from the next rider, as cycling too close causes falls after sudden stops. The group was 20, then 21 as Pam S arrived to join us. I said we would keep riding to the zoo and regroup there, with Ralph on tail.

At the zoo, I noticed that Kathleen had joined the group along the way, so that made us 22. We paused again after Flemington Bridge Station and then rode down the Moonee Ponds Creek Trail to Docklands. At a further stop near toilets, I informed the group that once on the Light Rail Trail, I would keep going to the Beacon Cove rotunda.

This worked well and the large group spread out for morning tea, with some sitting inside and several people sitting outside enjoying the sunshine for their morning tea. Colin left from here, while Pam S was riding to a station.

The bay was like a mill pond and it was pleasant riding south. Ed called us to stop at Elwood Sailing Club. Jenny had informed him that James had fallen at the Elwood Canal Bridge. It seems he had a mishap with a cyclist coming the opposite way. There was blood and shock involved. After an appropriate time assessing the patient, Pam S and Jenny accompanied James to a nearby station, with Jenny returning on the train with James. Sue also departed at this point.

Eventually, this was all reported to us and the rest of the group rode to join us. A further 20 minutes or so of pedalling saw us arrive at Brighton Beach for lunch.



With a group just leaving the picnic table, we secured both tables with great views back to the city. Roger's prediction proved to be correct as the wind gusts increased while we were having lunch. We were entertained by a man taking posed photos of people holding a guitar, reading a book and pretending to drink from a wine glass. They were in a small tourist bus and the man was only using his phone to take the photos!

The head wind on the return journey was a challenge, but there were enough sheltered spots along the way back to St Kilda. From here we turned towards Albert Park, taking the first left turn, which offered more shelter. I did turn right a bit too early there and some riding on grass brought us to the road we needed. When we came to Flinders Street Station, the sign said path closed and I foolishly rode on. It was closed under the bridge, with the option of dragging our bikes up a lot of stairs! No good for anyone with an E Bike and certainly a challenge for regular bikes. So, we backtracked and walked across the pedestrian bridge to the south side of the Yarra.

Cycling to the Swan Street Bridge, we crossed there and took Ed's route via the Tennis Centre, which proved quicker. Coffee, cake and conversation were enjoyed at South of Johnston, before heading home. Many thanks to Mary for her assistance and to Ralph for being tail on the day.

It was a good day's ride of 50km.

I called James before dinner and he said he'd had a lie down, didn't want to look in the mirror at his 'fat lip' and had booked a doctor's appointment for tomorrow.

Report by Nola

CARRUM 20 AUGUST

10 riders were ready to go at Jika Jika when Ed arrived with his back tyre a bit flat. Somebody has stolen the track pump at Jika Jika so he had to get his pump out. As he removed the pump the valve core came out as well, so the tyre was flat now. As he pumped the tyre up a second time Bob and David decided the bird poo needed to be washed off Ed's bike fork as well so got the hose out. Eventually we headed off on the ride with a clean bike and hard back tyre.

We had a little tail wind to help us to Frog Hollow for morning tea.

On the way to the Djerring Trail we passed another ride group going in the opposite direction. Nice to see others enjoying the trails.

The sun had come out, and it was starting to warm up.

Lunch was at Ross Reserve in Noble Park. The wind had picked up, and it was getting cool again.



At the last bailout point on the ride at Yarraman Station and everybody was happy to carry on. The last section on the Patterson River Trail into Carrum we had a bit of a head wind. At Carrum we checked out the beach before heading to the train station.



Most of us got off at Richmond and we stopped at South of Johnston for coffee and cake. In the end it was just Gael and I left to drop the first aid kit off at Jika Jika. A dry and very pleasant 57km ride.

Report by Graham

SANDRIDGE BEACH 25 AUGUST

Given the forecast of considerable amounts of rain for Tuesday, I was surprised to find a total of 10 starters at Jika Jika. Most of us already had raincoats on even though there was just the slightest drizzle. After a short stop near the zoo, it was an uneventful ride to Docklands. There was a lot of water in Merri and Moonee Ponds creeks. Morning tea was amongst the trees near the Jimmy Stynes bridge.



After going beside the light rail to Port Melbourne we turned right and stopped to see the model of dwarf planet Pluto on the foreshore. We had a look at the cranes loading containers at Webb Dock before doubling back to our lunch spot on the Sandridge Foreshore. We had a great view of the new Spirit of Tasmania IV turn around and reverse park at Station Pier. This is where we saw the only rain for the day.

After lunch we rode along the foreshore to Catanis Gardens in St Kilda and turned inland and rode north along a series of quiet streets back to the light rail we turned towards Southbank and rode past the MCG on our way to coffee at South of Johnson. There was general agreement that we would sit inside today given that it was cold, windy with some light rain. After coffee, riders peeled off and it was only Colin and I that returned to Jika Jika. About 40 km.

Report by James

MARANOA GARDENS 27 AUGUST

Nine of us set off along Wellington Street, around the MCG, and over the Morell Bridge for morning tea in the Botanical Gardens. Ed suggested an arbour which was restored from the original 1894 site befitting our somewhat mature riders.



After much gaiety we followed the Yarra until the Ferndale Trail and the streets of Canterbury and Balwyn for Beckett Park next to Maranoa Botanical Gardens, which are a treat for a leisurely stroll. Lunch in the sunshine away from the constant overwhelming news and AI, just some senior citizens chin wagging.

From whizzing down Yarrbat Avenue and Gordon Street we passed Kew High, Kilby Road and finally Alphington for arvo tea at the delightful Area 52 cafe.



We dispersed for the final leg home leaving Meg and I heading for Jika Jika where the precious first aid kit resides.

45 kms

PS this report was abridged and heavily redacted

Report by Ian H

Those who were on Bob's Bundoora Park and McLeod ride on July 7 would remember the cruise down Silk Street to St Martin Primary School and the shared bridge over Plenty Road before the little shimmy to the River Gum "Walk" down Banyule Creek. As part of the North East Link project, we'll have this alternative crossing. It looks like we'll have to climb the rest of the way up Erskine Road, McLeod, then down the other side to the new trail along the Greensborough Bypass to this bridge. The curved, gold safety barriers you see are for Ed to show off his "wall of death" act and attain maximum velocity down the creek trail.

