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WOBBLY WHEELS
Darebin BUG Riders' Blog

FROM ED'S ARCHIVES

Right track for meals

CYCLING groups are just as much about food as they are about fitness.

Anyone who disagrees with this has never been to one of Darebin Bicycle User Group's progressive dinners.

Yes, just like big hair and big sunglasses and other 1970s and '80s fads, progressive dinners are back. Only this time, diners cycle between courses.

"We're always looking for ways to combine food with cycling," group spokeswoman Louise Nelson said. "We're doing a Rutherglen winery tour on the Anzac (April 25) weekend and we've got a yum cha ride coming up."

She said social interaction was an important aspect of the group and what better way to interact than around food?

Preston's Norm Appleby said he belonged to DBUG and Melbourne Bicycle Touring Club, which held regular food-orientated activities.

"People often say that the MBTC stands for More Bakeries Than Cycling," Mr Appleby said. "If you're going to cycle you need energy, and food from all those morning teas, lunches and afternoon teas gives you that energy."

He said cyclists burned calories between courses during the progressive dinners, which were generally held during lunchtimes rather than at night.

▶ **For more information about Darebin Bicycle User Group, go to darebinbug.org.au**



Darebin BUG members Kathleen Kemp and Paul Sierak. N39NL104

ALTONA AND 100 STEPS OF FEDERATION
1 OCTOBER

With the forecast for lots of rain on Thursday we received an email stating that the ride leader had pulled out and riders could decide what to do. Did he wimp out after looking at the forecast?
At the start time there were 5 hardy riders willing to take a punt on the weather, as the rain had not arrived. There were 3 riders with assistance and 2 human-powered cyclists.



At precisely when the ride was due to start the first drops of rain arrived but the good thing was that it was absolutely calm and the temperature was warm. Luckily the raindrops ceased by the time we hit Westgarth Street on our way to the 100 steps.
We continued on the Capital City Trail then the Dixon Veloway, then near the Yarraville gardens light rain began to fall, however it had stopped by the time we stopped for a chat in the gardens. Roger dashed into the relatively new toilets to change into his wet weather gear, while the other riders commented on the lack of precipitation and perfect riding conditions.
After the stop we cycled though Williamstown to Altona at a fair clip as there was no wind to fight against and we made it to the 100 steps just after midday and there were no magpies to greet us.
After lunch Roger and David M decided to catch the train at Altona after a 40km ride (a good move) while the remaining riders did a lap of the pier for a better view of the bay.
As we were about to start riding the light rain started so we pulled over near the fish and chip shop to put on the wet weather gear and Jon showed off his very bright new fluorescent raincoat. It then rained all the way to Newport where we decided to stop at Pango for refreshments and see if there was any chance of it clearing up. After a good chat James decided to catch the train, while the 2 remaining riders headed back towards home in the rain.
While riding through North Fitzroy the rain started belting down like a tropical rainstorm and the wind picked up to gale force as the cool change arrived. The final few kilometers were difficult with fogged glasses, large puddles to ride through and strong winds, but the intrepid riders completed the circuit.
Ride distance about 63 km



Report by Ed

SATURDAY RIDE GROUP
3 OCTOBER

The ride did not go ahead due to inclement weather and no starters.

Report by David D

SENIORS' MONTH RIDE
6 OCTOBER

Wolter gave a brief introduction to the BUG and the ride and indicated the route the new riders would take and divided the larger group into 2 smaller groups.
We set off towards the Darebin Creek Trail but decided to head through LaTrobe Uni on our way to Bundoora Park. At the café we all had a drink and cake for morning tea and had a chat inside the café area. When looking at the radar it seemed that rain was approaching so we decided to stay there until the rain had passed. So it was a longish morning tea before we headed off to the ring road then onto the Merri Creek Trail and back to Coburg Lake for lunch.
Along the way we only encountered occasional brief misty rain but not enough to get wet.



After lunch David, Gayle and Graham headed off and on the way back to Jika Jika all the riders except the tail, Colin, headed home so it was a small group of two that completed the whole circuit.

Report by Ed

We hadn't been able to attract much interest for our promotional ride at the Seniors' Festival launch at Preston Market on October 1 but we did get a late entry from Jos, who actually turned up!
What with the free morning tea and free tour of the Bundoora Park Farm, the ride did attract 20 regulars, including me, and Graham let the cat out of the back almost straight away by telling everyone it was my birthday. Bloody social media.
We split the group down the middle (by accident), with Ed leaving at 9.30am with the grizzled veterans and half the coffee and muffin vouchers in a ziplock bag.
The younger, better-looking group left at 9.35am, a relatively safe distance behind. This distance blew out a little as we took our state-government mandated rest breaks along the Darebin Creek Trail.
Upon arrival at the Bundoora Park Café, it was pleasing to note that Ed's group had parked in the bike rack closest to the door and left the other rack for us. Inside, the Darebin BUG party was in full swing to celebrate my birthday (while I was absent) and they refused to leave until manager Tim came out of his meeting to escort us around the farm. There was much interest in the damage to the back doors caused by a ramraid on September 20.
Having taken his rain pants off for morning tea, Roger had a look at the weather radar and put them back on for the ride to Coburg Lake. Four left for home from there.
Light precipitation began almost immediately but our farm tour went ahead anyway.
There were three busloads of school kids, but they had conveniently been restrained down in the old Coopers Settlement area.
We got to see a wide variety of farm animals, llamas, guinea pigs, etc and inspected the community vege plots and the Wurundjeri Native Garden but the highlight was the return of the farm tractor from the City of Darebin workshops after repairs from being hotwired and used by the ramraiding party.

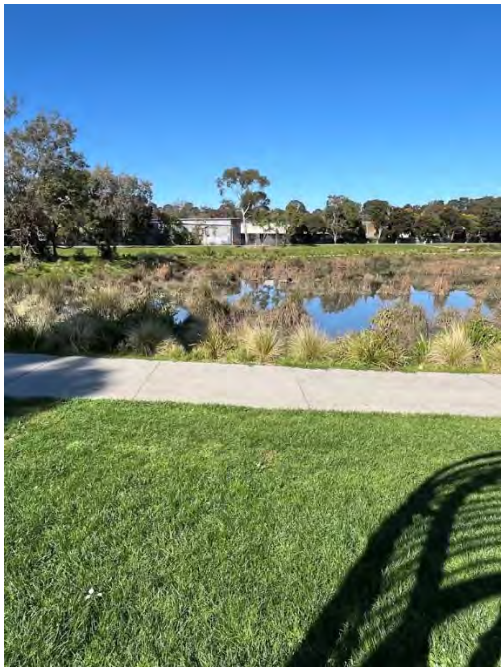


Homeward we went via La Trobe Link, which is now quite a treat with the wetland plantings taking off and the relaying of the old asphalt section.
No swooping encountered but we did have three juvenile delinquents, possibly Collingwood supporters, playing chicken with us on their scooters. Thornbury must have had an extra in-service day. Personally, I prefer magpies.

Report by Wolter

HEATHERDALE TO DANDENONG VIA TARRALLA CREEK TRAIL
8 OCTOBER

On a glorious spring day, 7 punters took the train to Heatherdale station and were soon coasting on the blissfully serene Mullum Mullum Creek trail through Ringwood to Croydon.
Morning tea at Croydon Town Park. Quite pleasant in the town where Magda Szubanski grew up and hated. Then onto the Tarralla Creek Trail where Melbourne Water have done a superb job of creating a wetlands reserve.



Tarralla Creek Wetlands

This led to the Dandenong Creek trail to Jells Park for lunch. Kathleen had trouble with the getting water to flow outside the new toilet block – you had to push a panel, hold and release which seemed to work for others.
Colin's new rear orange flag magpie deterrent seemed to do the trick.
At Dandenong, cold drinks were the order of the day before taking the train back to Parkville and ride home via Canning Street.

Report by Bob

CAPITAL CITY TRAIL TO COMO AND BURNLEY GARDENS
13 OCTOBER

The Tuesday group headed from Jika Jika a few minutes late because the leader was distracted talking. There were a total of 8 riders who rode the usual route along Park Street and stopped briefly near the Zoo. It was a fine day with often a slight threat of rain. We stopped at Ron Barassi Snr Reserve for morning tea with its view of the river and the Bolte Bridge. As we went through Docklands we could see many people setting up the Melbourne Boat Show.
We crossed the Yarra and went along Southbank and then the path away from the river bank along Linlithgow Avenue and back to the river just past the boatsheds. Then it was up the hill to Como house and gardens. We parked our bikes at the front of the house and wandered around the gardens for 20 minutes. I had not seen the downhill side of the gardens before and was very impressed with its design and beauty. After regrouping we left to the west of the house, rode down the rather steep and tricky track back to the river and continued upstream to Burnley where we stopped for lunch at the Kevin Bartlett Reserve; another football hero of Melbourne. There was a group of young people doing football training on the oval which was very entertaining.
From there it was a very short ride into Burnley Garden. We parked our bikes and walked around for about 40 minutes. The highlights for me was the lawn and pond that had some lilies whose flowers reminded me of Dutch Irises. The other highlight was the 10 wisteria plants grouped together on an arched frame. The flowers were at their peak.





We returned to the river bike path except for a diversion around the Abbotsford brewery on some side streets. Coffee was at the Abbotsford Convent. Despite the forecast we did not see a drop of rain. Thanks to Bob for being tail.

Report by James

RIDE2WORK DAY
14 OCTOBER

Jan represented the BUG at two Ride2Work day events on Wednesday, October 14. She attended the Jika Jika neighbourhood house breakfast, finding herself 'on the tools' after arriving early, then rode into the city to catch up with the Bicycle Network team at their City Square display.





It was good to see both events were well attended, with a big age range at Bicycle Network.

BOTANIC GARDENS: MELBOURNE AND ST KILDA
15 OCTOBER

We had a glorious Spring day and 14 riders for a ride that has been offered more often than any other this year, but is always different depending on the plants that are in bloom, the riders who turn up, the route variations and of course the weather.
This time we had a new rider Jocelyn (Jose) who has been a frequent volunteer on BN events and we had some detours.
Our first detour was away from our usual spot at the Melbourne Royal Botanic Gardens for morning tea. The grass near the ornamental lake was having a rest and so were the benches that had their legs in the air.
So we walked farther along and found some benches that were in the upright position on the hill and enjoyed a broader view of the lake.



Since we were already well into the gardens Jon suggested we walk through to the other side to reach the tan track. We passed through the delightful tree fern gully and exited by the Oak gate.
I was keen to take Linlithgow Avenue to Southbank through the Arts Precinct so we backtracked and added a few kms to our distance. We dodged the pedestrians on Southbank, passed the Tea House and took the Sandridge Trail and had a very pleasant ride along the foreshore to the gardens by the Blessington Street contraflow lane.
Lunch was on the tables near the glasshouse. After lunch we had a detour as we returned to the foreshore on Dickens Street where a roundabout was out of action due to significant road works. The group detoured on both sides of Dickens demonstrating that both detours were similarly circuitous.
In Albert Park the cygnets were a month older than on the last Botanic Gardens ride and looking more like small silver versions of their parents. After taking Moray Street we cycled on the east side of the Yarra past the rowing sheds and took Michael's route to Jolimont by way of the tennis centre. At the intersection of Clarendon Street and Victoria Parade we encountered our most significant detour. A tram was derailed and accompanied by some emergency vehicles. We were forced to go to Wellington Street and use it to get to South of Johnston for afternoon tea.



Thanks to Ed for photos of morning tea and the detailed team.

Report by Kathleen

WESTGARTH TO HURSTBRIDGE VIA DIAMOND CREEK TRAIL – RETURN BY TRAIN
20 OCTOBER

Ralph and I caught the early train to Westgarth. I heard my name called after I had tapped off my MYKI. There was Bob on the other side of the station, telling me I was on the wrong platform, as we were going to Hurstbridge. I assured him that we had just arrived from Watsonia, as we were riding up and catching the train back.
At Jika Jika, members drifted in slowly. Roger was already there of course and as Wolter rode in I announced, here's Number 1, El Presidente! When Pam and Paul arrived Wolter commented, 'the Royal Family has arrived'. Soon another call from Bob, saying I'm at the station, where are you? I repeated my earlier message to him and he subsequently joined us.
As the number of cyclists increased to roughly 18, I conferred with Wolter and we decided to ride in two groups. I led the first group with Glenys on tail, while Wolter led the second group and Ralph was on tail.
We headed east along South Crescent, crossing Victoria Road with the rail gates down as a bonus. In Alphington we turned into the Darebin Parklands, zoomed down the hill under the rail bridge and up to the Boulevard, where we stopped in the shade for a breather.
We joined the Yarra Trail after Wilson Reserve and appreciated the cooler temperature with the shelter of the trees. Ed had caught up to our group at this stage, as he had to go back to change bikes, so was late reaching Jika Jika.
I heard my phone go off with a message and thought I'd open it shortly, once we got to morning tea. A pleasant ride through to Heidelberg, where we stopped at Possum Hollow for refreshments. The message was from Jon, asking if we were doing the Hurstbridge ride, so I replied in the affirmative, telling him where we would be having lunch.
Wolter's group arrived to join us for morning tea, amidst many young children with their parents or grandparents.
Once our group was ready, I invited Sue to ride behind me, which worked well in keeping people at a safer distance. The electric bikes and fitter riders overtook me on the infamous Westerfolds Park hill. James and I needed a drink and a few moments to bring our heart rates back to normal after the climb.
Before long we encountered Jon on this next stretch and I asked if he wanted to join us. He replied that he would continue back the way we had come. Around this time, I thought that he had caught the train to Hurstbridge.
Once we cycled near Eltham station, James left the group and in a short while, we arrived at Eltham North Adventure Playground for lunch. A sheltered spot with two picnic tables, near toilets, proved the perfect spot.





Pam and Paul decided to head for Eltham station and perhaps visit their son, if he was home. I think that made us 17 to continue after lunch towards Diamond Creek, then Wattle Glen and Hurstbridge.

Sue noticed a particularly colourful small parrot as we left Eltham North, where I heard a kookaburra call during lunch. Tame galahs rested in the grass as we cycled past and we spied a couple of rabbits leaping across the track. From a distance Sue pointed out a mother duck with her tribe of ducklings. After winding around the track into the north wind, I walked up the final hill a km or so from Hurstbridge.
We were glad to arrive at roughly 1.40. Michael and Sue decided to catch the next train, while the rest of us proceeded to the café near the Post Office for hot and cold drinks and a welcome rest. This was a lovely time to socialize with our friends and like-minded people, after a challenging ride into the north wind. Most of us caught the next train back to our various home stations.
Thanks to Wolter for taking the first aid kit back for us and to all participants on the ride of about 40km.
We were almost home and I stopped for a phone call. It's Bob to tell me I rode the wrong direction today. I finally have an Aah Ha! Moment. When Wolter sent out the draft ride list to leaders, I corrected his listing of my ride, as I planned to ride to Hurstbridge and train back. It seems that both Bob and Jon took the draft as gospel and didn't check the amended list that was emailed to everyone!

Report by Nola

DAREBIN BUG AGM
21 OCTOBER

The AGM was held on a fine Wednesday evening at Jika Jika 2, with the usual crew in attendance, plus long-term member Peter Anderson and recent signing Jos Tait. The main order of business was to elect a replacement for our long-term secretary Ed Smart, who was willing to continue but was risking extreme burn-out.
VP Jan McCallum had kindly offered to switch jobs, and this duly took place, with Graham Hunter taking over from Jan as Vice President and Jos taking on Ed's website role. Congratulations and thanks to everyone. We plan to meet four times a year, split between on-line and in-person.

Committee Members 2026 -2027

- President – Wolter Kuiper
- Vice President – Graham Hunter (Rides organising group)
- Secretary – Jan McCallum
- Treasurer – Lee Robinson

The following nominees were elected unopposed as Ordinary Committee Members:

- Colin Finger Wobbly Wheels Executive Editor
- Jos Tait Website
- Ian Singleton
- Ed Smart

PLENTY RIVER TRAIL
22 OCTOBER

According to the Bureau of Meteorology on October 22, 2026, Melbourne recorded a minimum temperature of 15.2°C and a maximum temperature of 31.1°C. Despite the forecast of sudden heat 9 of us set out from Jika Jika and headed up the Darebin Creek. Fortunately most of the ride was well treed and quite shady.
Morning tea was at Norris Bank Park. From there we continued up the creek then east along the Ring Road to Greensborough. We lunched at Kalparrin Gardens not far from Greensborough Station whence David M and Roger left the ride. Lots of cute ducklings and other baby water fowl were in abundance in the lake at the Gardens.



Homewards via the Plenty River, Yarra Trail, Ivanhoe Boulevard and Area 52 café in Alphington for afternoon tea. Here Bob tackled a large, scrumptious looking almond croissant, much to our admiration.



Thanks for coming and thanks to our whip, Graham.

Report by Gael

DANDENONG TO JIKA JIKA
27 OCTOBER

By the time we were ready to head off there were 15 riders present. It was great to see George who had come to see us off. As he was still recovering from a not so recent accident he did not feel up to doing the forecast 70km ride. So with the remaining 14 riders we set off for Parkville Station to catch the train to Dandenong. This was a standard, uneventful ride of about 6km and we were fortunate with all the lights at the various road crossings.
Once we determined all had arrived at the station we boarded, with the assistance of a Metro staff member. The trip to Dandenong took approximately 1hr with many stops along the way.
Alighting at Dandenong Station we made our way to the car park on the south side and then along the west side of Hammond Road to the Dandenong Creek Trail on the south side of the creek.
Riding along the trail was relatively easy until we encountered a strong, chilly head wind which was a challenge for all. As a result the group ended strung out over about 500 to 750 metres. About half way along this section of the route Dandenong Creek becomes Patterson River. Thankfully everyone eventually arrived at our late morning tea stop under the shelter near Launching Way where there were some toilets.
Having completed morning tea we crossed the Station Street bridge to head north east along the shared path beside the river. Along the way we overtook, carefully, a group of secondary school students out for an excursion. We and they then turned onto the Longbeach Trail to head north west.



It took approximately 1hr to ride to Mordialloc where we had lunch in the shelter in Peter Scullin Reserve.
With lunch done and everyone happy to continue on we set out along the Bay Trail. This was mostly easy going as the wind, which was still quite strong and fresh, was mostly side on to our direction so did not affect us much. At Sandringham Nola, Roger and Jopie opted to catch a train back. The remainder continued on without incident to turn onto Kerferd Road through to St Kilda Road and when we arrived at St Kilda Road riders began to leave the group for railway stations or at various point as we got closer to home. We did not stop for afternoon tea for a couple of reasons; it was getting late and coffee shops were closing or closed and we wanted to get home before the rain arrived which was predicted by Ed to come at 6pm but a few drops were felt before then.
The ride from Dandenong Station to Jika Jika was about 62km making a total of 68km for the day.

Report by Colin

YAN YEAN AND LAURIMAR LAKES
29 OCTOBER

Seven keen riders turned up at Merri Station on a cool and overcast morning. Ed was already on the train and Vangel, Kathleen and Jos got on at various stations and David meet us at Mernda making 12 of us.
Once off the train we headed north from Mernda towards Yan Yean reservoir. A short steep climb got everybody ready for morning tea.



It was a bit misty over the nearby hills.

Two elderly gentlemen let us share their tables at the rotunda.
From the reservoir there were many twists and turns through Laurimar Lakes, Wilton Vale Wetlands, and Hendersons Creek Wetlands to lunch at Redleap Reserve.



The toilet decided to run its clean cycle just as we were getting ready to leave so there was a bit of waiting around for it to finish.
After lunch we headed to Plenty Road then Janefield Wetlands via some back roads and paths.
Heading west on to the Ring Road path then south again on the Darebin Creek Path and it was starting to warm up at last.
Ian got a flat tyre but managed to limp to Artiga Coffee for afternoon tea.
Roger got a flat tyre after afternoon tea but managed to limp to Fairfield Station for a train home.
Riders started to peel off for home as we got back to Jika Jika. 56km
Another ride with challenging navigation. Thanks for being tail Gael and Jos, Kathleen Ed, Ian, Vangel, Bob, Michael, Jon, Roger and David for coming along.
Report by Graham


your COMMUNITY HEALTH
DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE GOOD WITH BIKES AND PEOPLE?
WE'RE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR OUR BIKE LINX PROGRAM!
The Bike Linx program services and refurbishes donated used bikes for sale and distribution to the local community.
Bike Linx operates Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday (9.30am - 2.30pm) @ Your Community Health - 125 Blake St, Reservoir
ABOUT THE ROLE
• Assist with refurbishing donated bikes
• Assist with sourcing and ordering bike parts
• Catalogue bike parts and bikes
YourCH Volunteers are also required to have the following checks. We can assist you with obtaining any of these if you don't already have them:
• Volunteer Working with Children Check
• National Police Check
• NDIS Workers Screening Check
EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST AT ENGAGEMENT@YOURCH.ORG.AU