

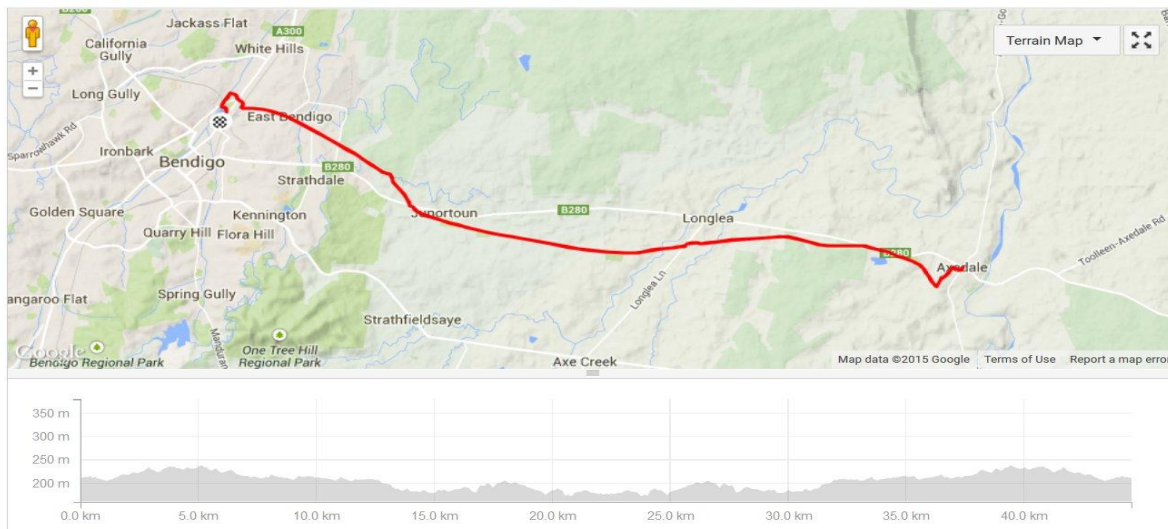
Rider's Report - O'Keefe Rail Trail – Bendigo to Axedale

Twenty years have passed, or there-about, since I first cycled the O'Keefe Rail Trail from Bendigo to Axedale. I have ridden it a number of times since then, the last on Sunday March 1 and it's transformation over those years has been remarkable. This transformation has been brought about by a growing and very dedicated band of volunteers who work and advocate for its ultimate goal of reaching Kilmore.

I rode the Bendigo Axedale section on my last ride starting at Lake Weerona. It was a sunny day following torrential storms and downpours. (you might remember that night?) The trail was firm with no sloppy sections. The trail is packed gravel for most of its length with some sections down to the earth or bed rock. These areas are where the original line went down to expose the rock reefs that run through the area and are the roughest sections of the ride. Care needs to be exercised on these sections.

Most of the recent work on the trail has been completed at the Axedale end of this section with the trail there being well formed with hard packed gravel. A number of bridges are crossed and all of these are in excellent condition. The largest is the bridge over Axe Creek which is teeming with wildlife, including snakes. One I saw there was a very large and healthy Tiger Snake.

Bendigo is on a plateau, so the trail falls gradually to the Campaspe River at Axedale. However, this fall is imperceptible and the trail can be classed as being flat. It is a picturesque ride through fenced farmland, new-growth forests and grasses; mostly in shade. It is typical gold mining areas and in parts remains of that period can be seen. At Axedale, if the trail is followed, ends at a lovely park which is a great place for lunch. The trail can be followed a short distance further to the Campaspe River. Well worth doing this last few k's.



or pump (it happens). For those who like their Latte. There is a terrific mobile coffee cart at Lake Weerona.

If time permits, an attractive end to this ride is to follow the main highway north to Bendigo Potteries, then get onto the Main Bendigo Drain and cycle back to Lake Weerona. The drain follows Bendigo Creek and is a very attractive cycle.

Allan Garbutt

Banyule Bug

Newsletter

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Any club magazine depends on contributions from members. Send yours to.
allang@bigpond.net.au

I enjoyed my cycle which was about 23 k in each direction. Once Bendigo has been left behind, it is a lovely bush cycle. The trail is never smooth and sometimes rough so cycling care is needed. It is remote and cyclists need to be self sufficient in respect to cycle repair materials. I met a group with a flat tyre who had no spare tubes, patches

New World Record
(Submitted by John Perkins)

Strange but true — John Perkins has smashed the Bicycle World Land Speed Record with an astonishing run of 509 km/h on the Heidelberg — Kinglake Rd Rd.

Let the facts speak for themselves. John commenced his attempt at the “St Andrews 8 km” road sign (Exhibit A) and scorched his way to the next sign “St Andrews 5 km” (Exhibit B) in only 21.2 seconds, as duly recorded on his GPS and speedo (Exhibit C). It should be noted that route included a corner turning right, on to the Cottles Bridge — Strathewen Rd, which slowed him somewhat.



Exhibit A



Exhibit B



Exhibit C

Combining a distance of three km with a time of 21.2 seconds gives verifiable proof of that staggering average speed — 509 km/h (rounded down). And sustained for all three km, not just at peak speed! What a performance — well done, John! The details have been sent to The Guinness Book of Records but we have yet to receive a response. Probably in the mail somewhere.

Some cynics have suggested that Vicroads must have been holding their measuring tape back to front and mucked up the distances. To which we can only answer, “Get off your arse and prove it! Write to the Minister. Raise a question in Parliament. Invite the PM to tackle the course. Try it yourself. Don’t just throw mud — do something!”

The signs remain in place. Whenever you ride those roads, just look for the scorch marks which show where a Banyule BUG rider shocked the world.

From VicRoad

Left turning vehicle

A bike rider must not ride on the left side of a vehicle that is indicating left and turning at an intersection.

Tip: Stay in the traffic lane behind the turning vehicle.

Lane markings

A bike rider must use the bicycle lane if there is a bicycle lane on a length of road in the same direction as they are riding, unless it is impracticable to do so



Linking the Darebin Trail to The Yarra Trail.

Bike Balls is a rear bike light designed to be mounted on the back of your bike seat. They hang off of the seat rail, and naturally bob-around while you ride. Who will be the first in Banyule BUG to hang a pair?

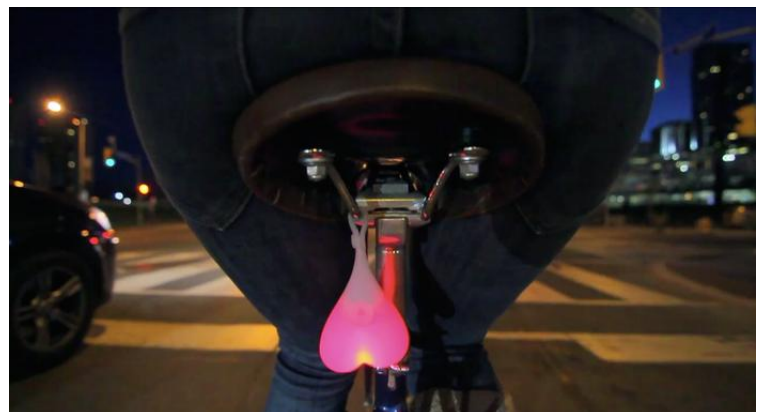
<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/bikeballs/bike-balls-bike-light>

Tyre Report – Schwalbe Marathon Plus

In October of last year, I fitted two Schwalbe Marathon Plus 700x25 to my road bike. To this point they have travelled over 8000k and I estimate that they have another 3000k + left in them. The Schwalbe site indicates life time between 6 – 10000 k depending on a number of factors. I rotated my tyres at 6000k and the wear on the rear tyre was significantly greater than to front.

I have been very pleased with their performance in all conditions and at this point, no punctures. (where's a piece of wood when you need one). I have received my replacement set and will put these on when the time is right.

Allan Garbutt



Warburton Trail
Warburton to Yarra Junction
(Submitted by Maureen Fisher)

Having heard a report on the poor condition of the Warburton Trail and having had occasion to ride part of the trail from Warburton to Yarra Junction often in the last few months have found that there is an element of truth in this.

However despite this, this part of the trail is probably where it is at its most beautiful especially in autumn and can be quiet surprising.

The trail is sealed to Milgrove then after the road crossing fine gravel. While the sealed section is far from perfect with many incidences of potholes and the surface breaking away at the edges it still makes for enjoyable riding especially at this time of the year. The view from Cogs café is unbelievable and where else would you expect to meet a camel.



Important in any cycling to chose the right conveyance for the trail. (ed.)



WANGARATTA WEEKEND

All good fun! And so a BIG thank you to Ann and Kevin who organised our three day bike ride in (and around) Wangaratta. Ann said she was expecting “somewhere between two and twenty people”. In the end there were twelve bike riders and one non-rider. It felt like a very sociable number.



At Painters Island Caravan Park half of our group were in tents, the other half were in cabins, and everyone seemed happy with their accommodation. Lorraine who had intended to go by train and camp actually ended up with a lift and a cabin. Maybe a bit tame, -- but jolly comfortable all the same.

We had three days riding with Kevin as the perfect leader; he organised the program, told us in advance where we were going and what to expect and then set a very comfortable pace for most of us. Of course there must have been a few folk who would like to have gone slightly faster but, for the sake of the group, they curbed their enthusiasm and Kevin did a magnificent job keeping us all happy.

On Friday, our first day, the ride was to a bakery in Milewa. Perfect riding weather, not much traffic, bucolic scenery and all amazingly (and comfortably!) flat. Absolutely great.

Luigi Torelli went on his own almost to Beechworth. Phew! But joined our more leisurely group the next day.

On Friday evening there was a mass exodus to Pinsent Hotel. Yummy. At least I heard no complaints -- just lots of chatter.



too



Thank you Gordon for finding the hotel and booking us in.

One little luxury for Jan, Gill and Lorraine next day was the chance to hop on our bikes and go for an early morning coffee/hot chocolate just across the river. So good we had to do it again the next day too. On Saturday Kevin said there was "one big hill over The Gap" which Ann said she was going to walk up, but Jan said she would split off and go for retail therapy instead, but in the end we all got up to the top and Allan Garbutt actually rode all the way while Alan Bishop rode it all too except for just a few steps.

I think it was at the top of this hill that Kevin drew us in to do some geo caching? In the end we found all the geo caches we set out to find except this very first one which successfully eluded twelve pairs

of eyes. Ask Kevin how many (hundreds!) he has found. But still not this one!

On the downhill on the other side Gill made a personal record: 50 km/h (Sorry, Jim. Seemed fast to me but we'll never be in your league!).



Then we turned into Bailey's Winery where we quietly circumnavigated an outdoor wedding and did some serious tasting, explored the cellar and bought an occasional bottle.

Then on to a bakery in Glenrowan. Luckily for us, no last stand, and we all made it safely back to Wang.

Back in the camp kitchen there was soon a big open fire. Rhonda T, officially a non rider (except for her 20 km sprint along the levee to Bowser Station), had very kindly done all our shopping for Sat night's barbecue. Thank you again Rhonda for so graciously and effectively doing this for a bunch of complete strangers, and thank you to all the cooks and cleaners (special!!! mention here, Alan B. Your efforts cleaning the

barbecue did not go un-noticed.)

Nor did Maureen Fisher's absence go un-noticed. We missed you, Maureen, (even though Lorraine reckons the wine went further) but hope you are well on your way to Broom. Thanks for the communal note from Alice Springs. At least we know you are alive thus far.

But a very special thank you again to Ann. Your camp meals have really become legend!

Sunday's ride was to Milewa again but this time we went along a delightful bike path and had lunch sitting outside at the cheese factory.

Thinking about the chat round the table, several people said they really enjoyed the mixed group of Latte riders, Sunday rider, partners, neighbours and friends. Jan sent a photo of us all enjoying ourselves to her daughter in Korea. But we talked too long and didn't have time to explore the cheese factory. Oh well, good reason to come back another time.

So, in the end, thank you again to the people who made it such a pleasant occasion. Sorry to the folks who didn't

make it. We thought of you (occasionally). Better luck next time! Happy cycling everyone. See you on the tracks.

Gill Scott

You will remember John Merory travelin/cycling around Europe? Here are a few images from him.



In Bristol with daughter



Cycling in Stockholm on 'city bikes'.



In Bath – cyclist who had a good time.