

Trail updates

With the completion of various works, we have won back a number of important Trails recently:

- As described above, at long last, detours on the Gardiners Ck Trail affected by the Monash upgrade have been removed. In late August, the new bridge at East Malvern station was also opened.
- The Merri Creek Trail near Rushall station is again open.
- The Darebin Creek Trail now has a concrete path from Norris Bank Reserve all the way to the Ring Rd. This leaves a "missing link" along the creek through Bundoora Park.
- Much of the Plenty River Trail has now been resealed and this pretty route once again makes a pleasant ride.
- The Aqueduct Trail in Eltham has been extended beyond Allendale Rd. But it has a rather high cost/benefit ratio, as the new part is a short loop that comes back to Allendale Rd at the top of the very steep gradient down to the rail line.
- A concrete path has now replaced the "lumpy" section of the Bay Trail south of Elwood.
- Steady progress is being made on constructing a concrete path alongside Hyde and Whitehall Streets to upgrade the Bay Trail between the Maribyrrong bridge and Francis St. So it will soon be possible to go off-road on a good surface from the city to Williamstown.
- On the other side of the ledger, a lengthy, rough detour is required on the MYT while maintenance is carried out on the boardwalk section near Odyssey House. Hopefully, this will be finished in October.

History ride

Alan's latest history ride took the Tuesday 9 am group through the new housing developments in north Epping. Good to see all the solar hot water systems in place and evidence of other sustainability initiatives. The area is well serviced with concrete paths that would pay further investigation. In the midst of all the new buildings, remnants of some original 1850s farm buildings remain and Alan was able to impart some of their history.



A Pedal On The Loose

Mechanical failures are always a possibility on a ride. A loose pedal is not necessarily a disaster if someone handy has a suitable spanner to tighten it. So it was that John noticed he was losing power on a ride recently. A quick examination showed his left pedal was loose in the crank. Robert to the rescue with an adjustable wrench was able to get things tight again and we were all on our way confident the problems were over. Not so. On the return journey the pedal came loose again but this time the thread in the alloy crank had given up the fight and it was no longer possible to get it tight.

Bravely John soldiered on, coasting the downhills and pedaling the uphill with a strong right-leg bias. But after a few km the battle was lost. As the photo shows, the pedal was still attached, but only to John's foot.



Fortunately, it was now only a short walk to a local bike shop, which had a suitable replacement crank that could be fitted on the spot. Soon John would be on his way. Or would he? Look closely at the photo of the newly fitted crank on the upended bike.

Would John have to learn a new knees-together riding style? At first the mechanic couldn't see what all the fuss was about. Then the penny dropped and the embarrassed mechanic soon had things righted. Smiles all around and a promise extracted that we would never reveal the identity of the LBS.



Alan Preacher

Shared trails get more users

We all know a shared trail means bikes and pedestrians have to share the path. Occasionally we cyclists also have to share with other animals and wildlife such as dogs, birds and snakes. Imagine my surprise to see a koala walking the rail at the edge of the boardwalk on the MYT just east of Fitzsimons Lane. The little fellow seemed quite unconcerned to have nearby spectators and seemed to be in good physical condition. When we returned later he was nowhere to be seen.

Alan Preacher

