



LA NIGHT AT THE BOATSHED

ATTENDEES : Joe, Geoff, Frank, Frances, Andrew, Ted, Neil, John, Peter H, Peter S, Don B and Charles.

The night started early for me. Not just because Neil and had travelled from Geelong but because of the vehicle we arrived in. we arrived in style. Neil had just purchased a restored Citroen 2CV Dolly and wanted to take it for a run and show our fellow Solex riders. The trip was a highlight and his “new” car ran extremely well. I was surprised to see how much attention it attracted from pedestrians and fellow motorists. Many people stared, smiled, waved, tooted and gave the thumbs up in appreciation of this strange but charismatic car.

We arrived at the boatshed a little early and began to set up the food bench and BBQ area. It wasn't long before people started arriving carrying plenty more food and grog. It was great to see all there and there was a lot of conversation happening.

Frances had made up a 2018 calendar based upon our decade of Solexing. She had expertly made up a montage of photo's representing our early rides starting in January and progressing through time with each successive month. Frances had done an extremely good job and it wasn't long before people were placing orders for them at a price which covered her production costs.





Some smoke But
no firebrigade !



Sometimes it gets a little challenging working out where our next ride will take place and I encourage all to make suggestions- especially if they know the route and have ridden it. Don S and Geoff have been very active in this area and come up with some terrific runs. Don B has come up with some suggestions and explained them in detail at the boatshed. He has ridden all of the routes and they sound extremely good.

Buckie's Rides - Some Notes/ Suggestions

There are three maps following – Eastlink Trail, Great Vic Rail Trail and “High Country Challenge”.

I have ridden most of the main Eastlink Trail, relevant sections of the two “High Country Challenge” routes, and a representative section of the Great Victorian Rail Trail – all seemed to be attractive propositions for enthusiastic Solexers/Solexists, based on my admittedly limited experience of what really “floats a Solex rider’s boat”.

Please note that the “High Country” routes are on public roads, and can be busy on weekends.

EASTLINK TRAIL

I assume this path was incorporated into the overall Eastlink construction program, and the extent of construction work undertaken to provide a dedicated public pathway is truly awesome.

We could start from the northern end at Schwerkolt Cottage (parking, toilets and BBQ’s) on Deep Creek Road just west of Ringwood, have a look at Ringwood Lake and part of the Mullum Mullum Creek Trail, and then head south through Ringwood following Eastlink, Dandenong Creek, and the mail electricity transmission lines and associated wetlands.

All sealed concrete pathways, and only a few major road crossings with appropriate traffic signalling.

Suggest lunch break at Chesterfield Farm tea, coffee, pies, pasties etc AND toilets. Then continue south until you’ve had enough cruising – I’ve been as far as Narraman railway station, and that was far enough as the scenery seemed to be getting pretty repetitive.

Round trip Schwerkolt- Narraman Rail Station and return to Schwerkolt around 50 km, mostly undulating and only a few long gradual inclines and relatively few walkers/joggers.

Plenty of extra riding challenges from Schwerkolt Cottage along the Koonung Creek trail towards the city if you feel the need to extend the day a little further – this trail also of very high standard with all concrete pathway and plenty of signage etc.

GREAT VICTORIAN RAIL TRAIL

I’ve driven alongside parts of this extensive trail many times on the way to ski slopes and trout fishing spots, and recently had a look around the Yea section on an electric bike that really made life easy, even on a freezing rainy day ... be assured the gravel surface gave no trouble even in really lousy conditions.

We talked about this ride at the Boatshed recently, and most agreed it would be well suited to a 2-day effort, staying overnight at Yea (or maybe Molesworth) for a bit of a social evening with rides westward to Tallarook on the first day and north/eastward to Merton/Bonnie Doon on day two.

Yea is pretty much “half way house” for the overall trail, and has two motels, a well equipped caravan park, coffee shops, pubs and an excellent Visitors Centre.

HIGH COUNTRY CHALLENGE

I've included this suggestion because Marg and I have spent a great deal of our most memorable time in these mountains, skiing in winter and trout fishing/camping in the warmer months, and we still love the place and are always looking for another way to keep the flame alive.

The area is pretty remote in one sense, with few full-time residents and a relatively long way (approx 6 hour drive) from Melbourne. Omeo is the nearest shopping/fuel opportunity and mobile phone access

There are two quite different rides (both on-road) waiting for you in the area :-

The first is a return ride along the Omeo Valley Highway from Angler's Rest (Blue Duck Hotel) to Glen Valley/Glen Wills, following the Mitta Mitta River with endless river views and glimpses of Mount Wills and surrounding peaks along the way.

There are few permanent residents along the way, including Payne's Hut and the Mittagundi Youth Camp, which we could visit by arrangement if you wish.

The second is a return ride across the Bogong High Plains from Trapyard Gap/Faithfull's Hut (some 1500 vertical metres above the Mitta Mitta River) to the Falls Creek ski village. I have done the trip both ways on my trusty Solex, and had no trouble apart from some pedalling on a few really steep pinches AND the views are truly sensational.

Be assured, there is no way our brave Solexes could manage the climb up onto the High Plains from the Mitta Mitta River (or be able to stop going downhill the other way), so we would need to transport bikes from the valley by car to our agreed rendezvous/starting point on the High Plains.

I suggest this junket would be best undertaken during the week outside school/public holiday periods, mainly to avoid peak traffic periods along the Omeo Valley Highway.

Accommodation is available in **Omeo** (caravan park, hotels, motel), **Blue Duck/Angler's rest** (cabins and riverside free camping on Cobungra River, **Joker Camp** (riverside free camping on Mitta River) and at **Paynes Hut B&B** (at Shannonvale) if you want a truly unique B&B experience with mountain views towards Mount Bogong and the High Plains.

Access to the area is all by sealed highway :-

via Gippsland and Omeo from the south, or

via Hume Highway, Bright & Mt Hotham, or

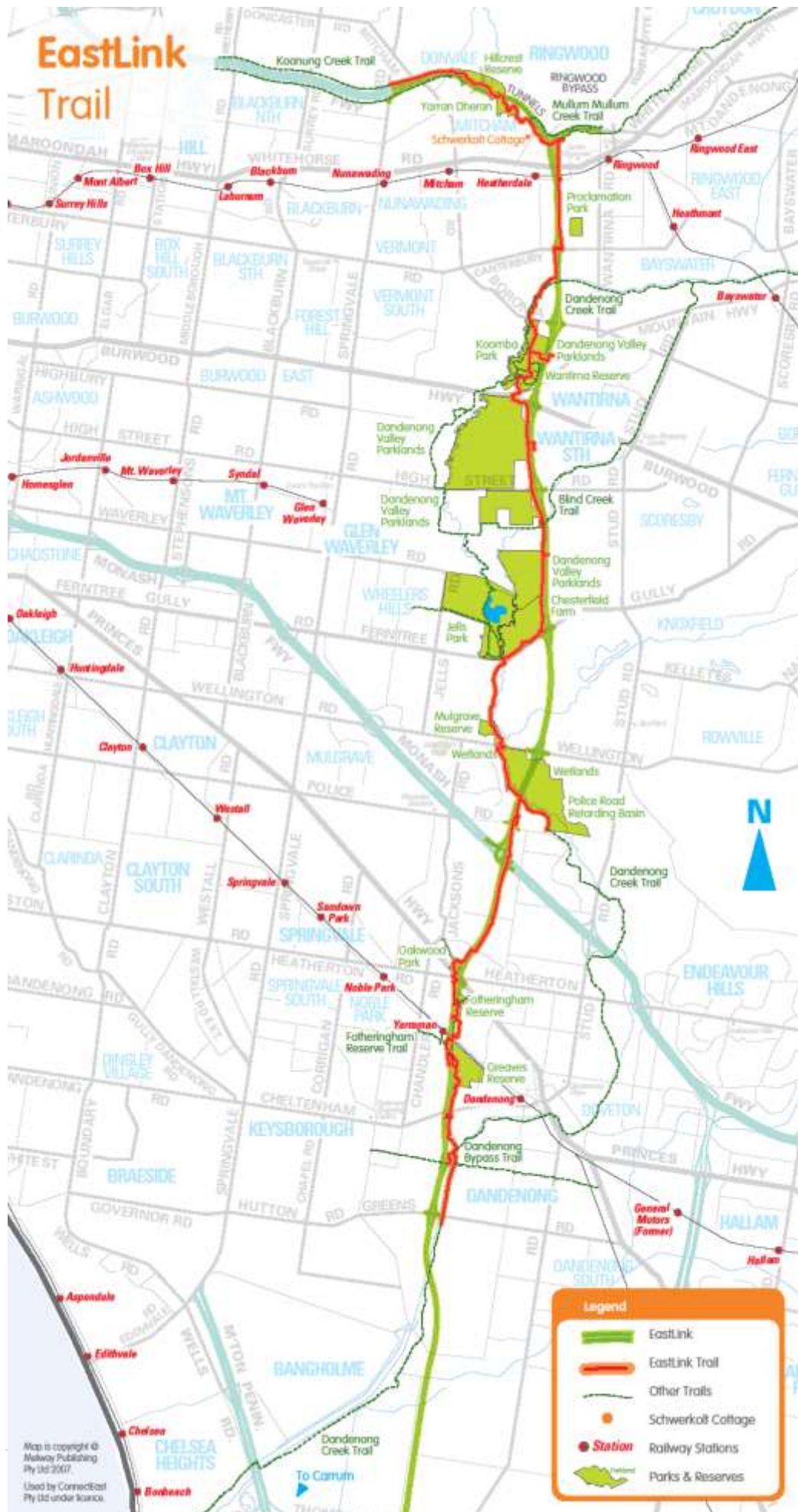
via Hume Highway, Wangaratta & Falls Creek (our preferred route both ways)

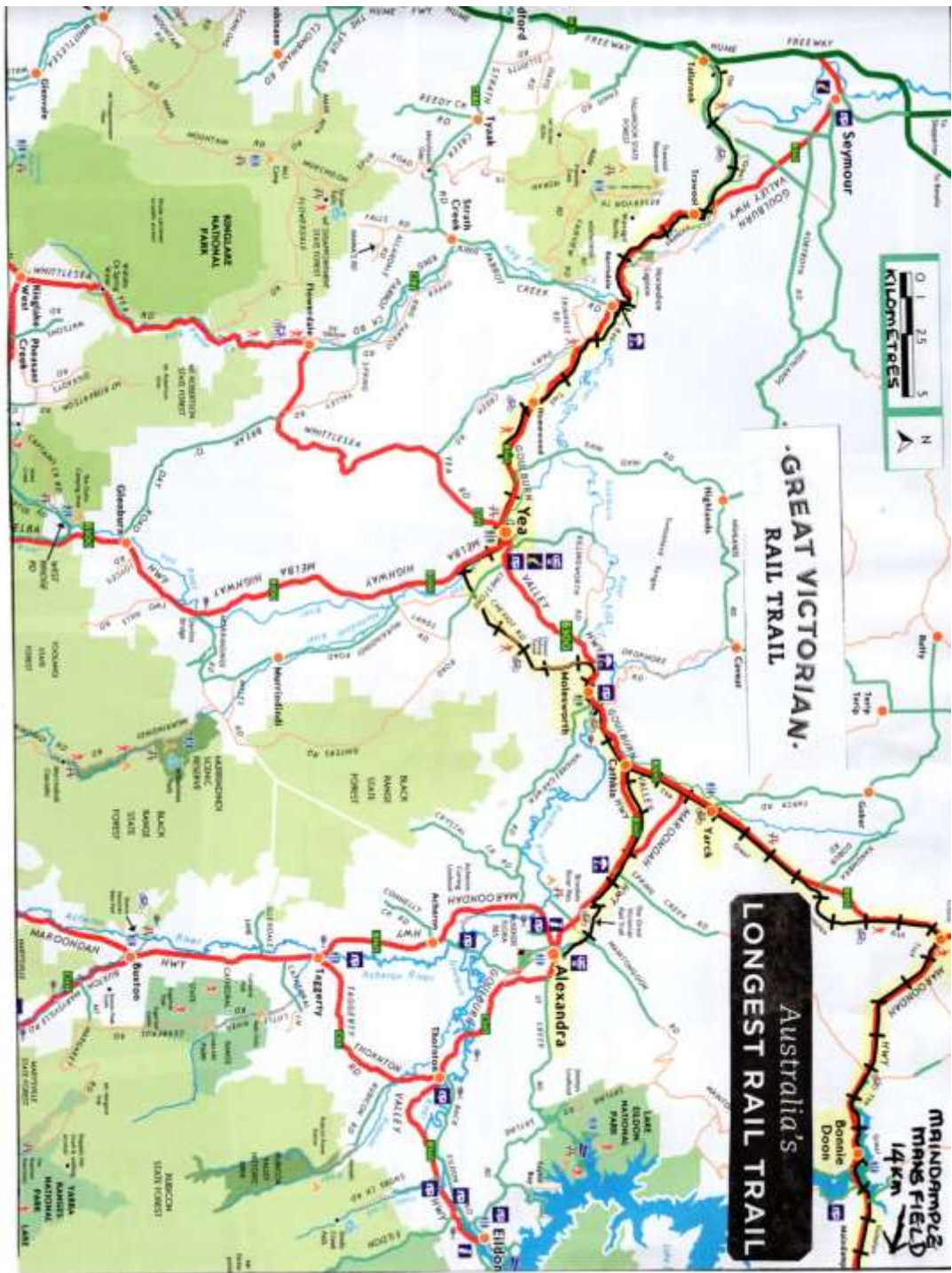
There are endless options for incorporating a unique Solex ride into a bigger holiday plan, and the Buckshots would be happy to assist with any forward planning on request.

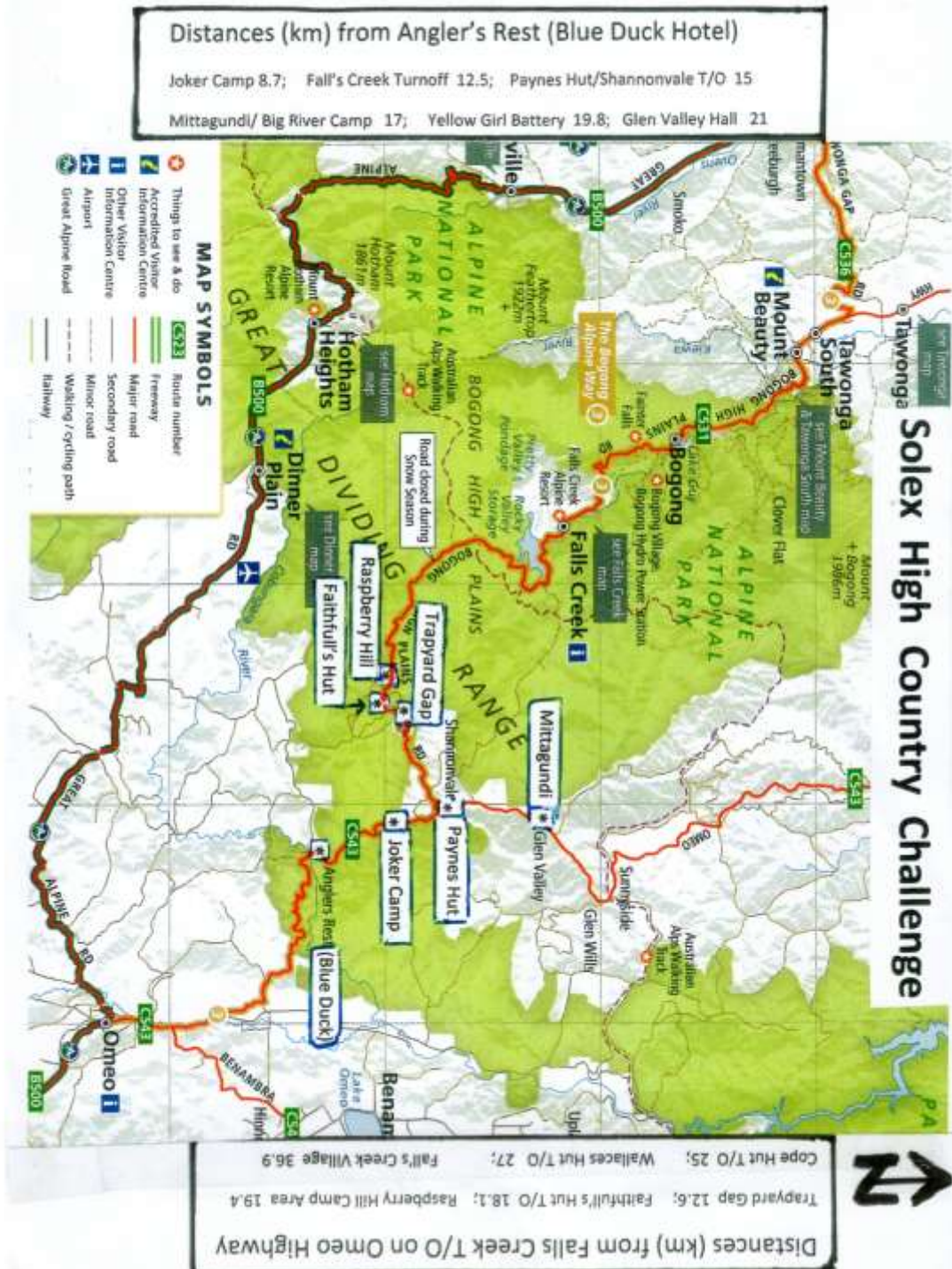
Happy to spend some time discussing anything at all about any of the above three rides at your convenience or when next we meet, including a few limitations on caravan access which need to be considered regarding the High Country event.

Cheers Don B 8/7/17 (0419 546 065)

PLEASE REFER TO MAPS BELOW AND ALSO DETAILS OF OUR NEXT RIDE.







I'd like to thank Don for his suggestions and I would also like some feedback from you all as to whether you would like to participate . I have penned the Eastlink ride in for Saturday August 26th due to Don's availability.

OUR NEXT RUN.

LARA TO GEELONG WATERFRONT RUN 2016

SATURDAY JULY 22nd

This is a very scenic and free flowing run. The run follows Hovell's Creek from Lara, makes its way to Corio Bay and then follows the bay all the way to the Geelong waterfront (where we can find a coffee/rest place) . It is paved the whole way and most of the run is on dedicated trail.

START POINT

Lara railway station carpark (Melways map 423 – D5). Arrive by 9.15 for a 9.30 start time.

The round trip is aprox 50 kms so a full fuel tank is advised.
Any further details please call me on 0404970075.