



FEBRUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER

GREAT SOUTHERN RAIL TRAIL RUN

ATTENDEES : Andrew, Don and Peter (3800's), Frances 5000), John (1700), Neil (650), Dee and Elsie (back up vehicle and cheer squad) and special guest appearance of Ted and Vicki (showing Ted's beautifully restored 1700).

Frances has kindly written up an excellent run report. Thank you Frances.

VELOSOLEX WEEKEND ALONG THE GREAT SOUTHERN RAILWAY FROM KOONWARRA TO PORT WELSHPOOL AND RETURN

What a great weekend away on our velosolex bikes following the Great Southern Railway Rail Trail from Koonwarra to Port Welshpool. The distance covered over two days was 128km. Six hardy riders took on all that mother nature could throw at us—rain, small hail, strong winds and sunshine! The riders were John, Neil, Don, Peter, Andrew & Frances and they were ably supported by Dee & Elsie in the back up car.

The weekend started with an overnight at Don & Dee 's place at Venus Bay with a game of golf croquet and a BBQ during which we were entertained by the resident wombat.



Saturday morning dawned sunny but this was just an illusion as the rain soon arrived in bucket loads but velosolex riders are made of sterner stuff, so the bikes were loaded up on the trailer and we headed off to the start at Koonwarra. We were met by Peter and Ted & Vicki, who had their newly restored 1700 on the back of the car. This bike has been in Ted 's family from new and it will be good to see it out on a future run.

As the rain showed no sign of letting up, coffee in the café was most welcome and after much consulting of the weather radar the decision was made to head off down the track. Wet weather protection was the order of the day. Only 64km to go! The track meandered through the forest to Meeniyán, where we stopped for lunch. The sun came out as we continued down the track but we encountered more showers with some small hail thrown in for good measure—luckily we were near a shelter at the time.



Wet weather gear



Meeniyán stop



Sheltering from the rain

This was the last of the rain and by the time we got to the high point of the track the sun was out and view across to Wilsons Promontory was superb. The wind was blowing and a pair of gloves had to be rescued from the other side of an electric fence.

Watch that fence!



Hoddle Ranges Lookout



We continued on to Toora for our next stop—but were too late for a coffee so after a bit of a look around the Old Wares shops we were off again for the final leg to Port Welshpool. This part of the track is through flat farming land and through gates that stop the cows from getting onto the track. At Port Welshpool it was blowing a gale and we were all glad we weren't out on the water.



Across the flat part of the track



Through the forest



Across one of the bridges

At Port Welshpool



The bikes were liberally coated in mud



Then it was back to Welshpool for the night and dinner at the pub where John was presented with the Solex Award. The following morning



saw us heading back up the track in fine but cool weather. Breakfast was at the café in Toora and then up to Fish Creek for a short stop at their community garden before the final run into Koonwarra. It was a great weekend of velosolexing.

Fish Creek Garden



OUR NEXT RUN

INNER CIRCLE RUN

SATURDAY MARCH 23rd.

We will assemble at Royal Park at 9.15am in the car park off Poplar Rd behind the Melbourne Zoo Melway Map 29 E 11

This trail follows the Melbourne's historic but short lived Inner Circle Railway that closed in 1943. The old line takes us through the inner Northern Suburbs including Princess Hill, Fitzroy North, Rushall, Fairfield, Collingwood and on to Abbotsford to the old Convent for a brunch at the Convent Bakery. This scenic route also follows the Merri Creek to the intersection of the Yarra River through beautiful bushland. Contact Geoff for any further details on 0403 359876

Alternately, I can be contacted on 0404970075.



A stop at the old North Carlton Railway Station during the last inner Circle Railway Run



Teds very nicely restored 1700