



SCARSDALE TO BALLARAT RAIL TRAIL RUN

ATTENDEES : Neil (650), Ted and John (1700's), Charles (3800) and Don (4600).

Government directives on the date of this run regarding Coronavirus were essentially limiting large groups of people congregating in close proximity. It was decided to go ahead with this run and let our group members assess their own risk/attendance. The Ballarat to Skipton rail trail is a fairly quiet trail and the café we attended had outdoor seating.

We all assembled at the Scarsdale community park at the designated time and after some sociable chat we decided to start the journey. The weather was cool and overcast. Good weather for a Solex ride

The former railway line from Ballarat to Scarsdale was opened in 1883. The line was continued to Linton in 1890 and then Skipton in 1916. Passengers and general freight were carried until 1976, then seasonal freight (grain and kaolin mined from weathered granite) until 1986.

The trail is not sealed but has a very good surface of compacted granitic sand. Because the trail goes through some historical gold mining towns there are some interesting buildings and sites to be seen.

Ted was running in a freshly built motor sporting a 40mm barrel and piston and decided to do the run at a fairly sedate pace. This pace was matched by Don simply because he had to. His motor's get up and go seemed to have got up and went. Undeterred, Don simply kept on going.

We passed through Smythesdale and then went on to Haddon. There were plenty of nice long straights and the scenery was changing from fields and undulating hills to bushland.

Finally we were hitting the built up areas of outer Ballarat around Cardigan. From here it was a bit of a challenge to find the actual route because the rail trail ends and one must then navigate footpaths and side roads. Ted seemed to have a good knowledge of the area and we soon found the Arch View Café which was our destination. The café was quiet and we chose a table outside. The weather now started to warm up and the sun came out to make it nice and cheery. The food at the café was very good and we enjoyed plenty of talking.

Soon it was time for our return journey. The return journey always seems to take less time but it was still just as nice. We had passed only a handful of people the entire journey which to me is fine as I like a nice quiet track. We were back at our cars before too long and after some more talking we "rubbed elbows" and parted company

I'm not sure when our next run will be because since this run every day Coronavirus has become a lot more serious with many risks and restrictions.



Ted's new motor..... Very nice.



Don always has appropriate riding apparel.



He did it !