

MTB3113 Warrandyte trail explorer

WARRANDYTE MOUNTAIN Bike Club (MTB3113) members **JOZICA KUTIN, NATALIE PAPEZ** and **KARINA VITIRITTI** have collected feedback from the Warrandyte MTB3113 community and have compiled a series of trail rides in and around the Warrandyte area.

This is the second of the series. These trails will be printed in *Warrandyte Diary* and eventually turned into a book of local biking trails.

This ride takes in Melbourne Hill, all things Mullum Mullum, Park Orchards and of course Warrandyte.

Blue Route 22.8km

Total distance: 22.8km
Elevation gain: 358m
Maximum elevation gain: 153m
Surfaces: Sealed and unsealed bike paths, sealed roads, postie tracks, steps.
Rating: Intermediate — some dangerous road crossings.
Facilities: Cafes, restaurants, pub, bakeries, toilets, BBQs & playgrounds.

This loop takes you from Warrandyte and connects you to the Mullum Mullum, through Park Orchards and 100 Acres, South Warrandyte and back to Warrandyte central.

There are some tricky busy road crossings to navigate.

The start of the ride is at the Whipstick Gully Gospel Chapel carpark (henceforth known as the MTB3113 Trailhead) — great location; car parking, public toilets, bakery, pub and cafes.

Everything a cyclist needs — except, sadly, a bike shop.

0km: Map Point 1 Gospel Chapel Carpark

Head out west, away from the shops to the Yarra River Reserve path and follow this all the way to the end (where Anderson's Creek meets the Yarra River).

Cross the wooden footbridge, ride

through the carpark (noting the plaque behind a rock commemorating Warrandyte Aboriginal Reserve), crossing Everard Drive and head straight up Taroona Avenue to the skate park.

Here at the skate park you'll find a drinking tap, toilets, and the football, cricket and netball club.

Cross Heidelberg-Warrandyte Road (at the pedestrian crossing if you want to be on the safe side) and continue for a steady climb up Melbourne Hill Road.

At the second major bend, you'll see on the left four bollards and a dirt track — head left up this track.

2.4km: Map Point 2 Melbourne Hill Road

Continue along the single track until you pop out onto the gravel service road and at the end of this service road continue straight onto the single track on the bit of verge between two roads (or stay on the paved road if you like but keep left at the fork).

Cross the road at the gravel driveway of Number 6 and follow this gravel path kind of west and around Wildflower Reserve (it would be stunning walking in wildflower season).

Ride down Wildflower Court (sealed) then turn right onto Tindals Road (sealed) and continue along the road just until a bit before the intersection with Heidelberg-Warrandyte Road where there is another single track running alongside Riverside Sand and Soil (although it is not on the river side).

Pop out at Mahoneys Court and cross Heidelberg-Warrandyte Road to the bike path on the other side.

Take the sealed bike path to Warrandyte High School.

5.5km: Map Point 3 Warrandyte High School

Cross at the pedestrian lights (we're all about safety out here) and follow the gravel road along Heidelberg-Warrandyte Road to a single track.

Now you're riding high above that busy main road.

Follow this single track (at a fork follow right — not along the fence) all the way to Crystal Brook Tourist Park but before you actually get there, you'll

come across the Bellbird Steps (there's 39 of them).

Either walk or MTB down the steps — but if you ride, keep going, hang back over your rear wheel, and don't hit those front brakes!

Take a minute to recover.

6.4km: Map Point 4 Crystal Brook Tourist Park

The carpark across the road (don't go there unless you want to play in the playground or buy some plants at Beasley's Nursery — they also have a café — but it's too early for coffee now) is the end of the Main Yarra Trail. From this carpark you could ride all the way into the city on a mix of sealed and unsealed shared trail.

From there you can also access the MTB trails at Candlebark and future trails in Tikalara.

But not today, that fun is for next time.

Remember you haven't crossed the road, but you're going over the little bridge (Mullum Mullum Creek) and turning left onto the Mullum Mullum Creek Trail.

Follow the trail all the way to Reynolds Road, before which there is a steep short climb to the traffic lights on Reynolds Road.

Cross at these lights and veer left to find the path and keep following the Mullum Mullum Creek Trail.

9km: Map Point 5 100 Acres Reserve

At this reserve (at the back of the new Mullum Mullum Stadium) you'll find a pergola with picnic tables, BBQ, water refill station, one of those talking toilets and carparking.

Might be a nice time to have a rest and eat your packed lunch (that's what we did).

Follow the Mullum Mullum Trail to Old Warrandyte Road/Tindals Road.

Veer right and ride along the footpath to cross this road to re-join the Mullum Mullum Trail on the other side — now you'll be heading towards Park Road (Park Orchards).

12.4km: Map Point 6 Park Road

Cross Park Road and re-join the Mullum Mullum Trail — keep riding



along Park Road and don't turn right onto the trail back into the Mullum Mullum Linear Reserve otherwise you'll end up in Ringwood.

And now we say goodbye to all things Mullum Mullum.

Make sure you're not heading to Ringwood, but that you're riding on the bike path along Park Road — it will take you across Park Road again and at the driveway of house number 425 you'll see a single track there heading into the bushes (you could stay on the sealed bike path if you want but hey, we spotted single track).

Follow the single track (still running alongside Park Road) and again you'll pop out back onto the sealed bike path at Allan Morton Reserve.

Allan Morton was a nice guy who did lots of good things in Park Orchards, that's what the sign said.

After a while the bike path turns into an on-road bike lane climbing up to the Park Orchards township.

Turn left at Arundel Road (or go straight if you want coffee in Park Orchards) and on your left you'll see an interpretive sign (sign Number 5 of the Park Orchards Heritage Trail) outlining the history of the old Army Camp Hospital.

Brownely's Cottage circa 1940 is there on your right and Ms Papez had some connection to that cottage that she outlined in great detail, but I was busy thinking about where we were riding next to remember all the details.

Continue along the very smooth, sealed Arundel Road and admire the homes along the way until you get to the T-intersection with Knees Road (hopefully your knees are okay at this point).

Cross Knees Road and turn left onto the gravel footpath that takes you to 100 Acres Reserve.

15.2km: Map Point 7 100 Acres Reserve

There's lots of tracks and trails in 100 Acres, which I presume is 100 acres, but you're only allowed to ride the perimeter trail — that's right — with the horses.

Go left and follow the perimeter trail, which is called at this point the Western Boundary track, then right onto the Northern Boundary Track, right at Berringa Road Track but then turn left at Wirth Road Track to Ringwood-Warrandyte Road (they were so creative with the names of the major roads out of Warrandyte weren't they).

Scoot down left along the service road to get to a better spot to cross Ringwood-Warrandyte Road — otherwise getting to Hall Road from this spot is pretty dangerous — fast cars and blind corners — not a good mix with bikes.

At the end of that little service road you want to turn right onto Ringwood-Warrandyte Road then first left onto Hall Road — serenity again.

16.8km: Map Point 8 Hall Road

Ride along Hall Road which is sealed — at times you'll see the postie track so you can hop onto that if you want.

Eventually you'll get to South Warrandyte Hall — not much here but there is a tap on the outside of the building if you need some water (just behind the Hall sign) — now, I'm no street-nomenclature historian — but we're all a bit literal it seems — and I just realised why it might be called Hall Road.

Next to the hall, on Hall Road, is the Donvale Christian College Year 9

campus and here on Hall Road you can see the old Warrandyte South Primary School No. 3476 — the college has preserved the old classroom.

Continue zooming down Hall Road to Ringwood-Warrandyte Road again and cross this busy crazy road but luckily before the even crazier 'Five Ways' intersection with Croynod Road.

Cross Husseys Lane (if you go down Husseys Lane to connect with Gold Memorial Road you can divert to our Orange Route that we detailed last month) until you find yourself at the servo.

18.6km: Map Point 9 Five Ways (Shell Servo)

Here at the servo you'll find the usual fare, but ride past the servo and follow the postie track that runs along Ringwood-Warrandyte Road.

It's downhill now, on your right, at about Royden Road on your left (19.2km), is the Warrandyte Berry Farm (cross the road to buy some strawberry ice cream if you need sweetening, or olive oil if you need greasing).

A further 400m finds you at Harding Road (see also MTB3113 — Orange Route), ride up the gravel a bit and down the single track on the right to continue to Warrandyte until you get to Masonic Avenue (the Warrandyte Childcare and Preschool Centre).

Cross Ringwood-Warrandyte Road at the childcare centre as there's a gravel footpath on the other side of the road (and no more single track on this side).

After 400m you'll be crossing Tills Drive (which again joins MTB3113 Orange Route to Black Flat), but we're heading to the river path, the entrance to which is past the Stonehouse Café (yes, coffee).

Take the river path to the Warrandyte Bridge (again toilets, cafes, picnic area, BBQs, and some exercise equipment under the bridge if you haven't done enough yet).

22.1km: Map Point 10 Warrandyte Bridge

One thing you'll notice here is the historic stone toilet block-bus shelter which was recently carefully restored and renovated.

Look up the hill and you'll also see the historic stone RSL Memorial Tower and steps.

Then there's the renovated bridge with also some stone features.

Okay after you've admired all the stonework, and the locals and out-of-towners enjoying the Warrandyte Bridge and river's edge, continue carefully along the river side walk (carefully not because of the terrain but because of the other living creatures using the path) and just past the steps that take you to the Warrandyte Grand Hotel you'll see a smooth concrete path (behind the old chapel and historical society) heading back up to the trail head.

22.8km: End Warrandyte MTB Trailhead

Lock up your bike and head off to one of the many establishments offering refreshments.

You've just crossed most of the major roads leading in and out of Warrandyte and uncovered other parks and trails that will take you in all directions.

Even a couple of historic sites to boot. You might be wondering why your kilometre count doesn't match up to mine — it doesn't matter — you didn't get lost and you had a grand old time.

Next instalment: Not for the faint hearted, MTB3113 hill challenge.

