

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.

These trails will be printed in *Warrandyte Diary* and eventually turned into a book of local biking trails.

Our first trail is a loop taking in the river, Warrandyte Common, and Four Hill.

Orange Route 13.5km

Total distance: 13.5km
Elevation gain: 302m
Maximum elevation gain: 129m
Surfaces: Sealed, unsealed, fire roads, postie tracks.
Rating: Intermediate — some wicked uphill and downhill.

Facilities: Cafes, restaurants, pub, bakeries, toilets, BBQs & playgrounds.

This loop around Warrandyte connects all those pockets of the Warrandyte State Park together.

Just remember you can only ride on the fire roads — and none of the walking-only tracks.

And, as you all know, no dogs in the State Parks (on or off lead).

We have pinned the start of the rides at the Whipstick Gully Gospel Chapel carpark — great location; car parking, public toilets, a couple of bike racks, a great big board for a map, and a 906 bus stop.

And of course, when you end at this trailhead, it's just a few bunny hops to the Grand Hotel, the day spa, bakery, art galleries, cafes and restaurants.

What more could you want?

0km: Map Point 1 Gospel Chapel Carpark

Head northeast through the carpark down the concrete path that runs behind the Gospel Chapel building (Stonehouse Gallery) to the river side path.

Now here you take it slow as you dodge dogs on and off lead, kids, walkers, horses, snakes and the odd goat.

You just might spot a platypus in the river out of the corner of your eye.

0.6 m: Map Point 2 Warrandyte Bridge

You survived the hordes of river walk lovers — here again more cafes, a public toilet (at the Bridge and at the Bakery), playgrounds, BBQs, and in case you think you need more exercise than this ride — some exercise equipment under the bridge.

Pop up the driveway — minding the gate — and head left (east) through the carpark, where at the end of the driveway, you need to hop back on the path left to join the river walk again.

At the end of the path, you will pop out onto Ringwood-Warrandyte Road, next to the Stonehouse Café (no, it's too early for coffee).

1.4km: Map Point 3 Tills Drive

Turn left down Tills Drive — a sealed road with lots to see for horse lovers.

You are looking for Warrandyte State Park Black Flat on your right (about 600m up the road).

2.1km: Map Point 4 Black Flat

Take the fire access road (the gate and fence line on your left) climb up and turn right at the sign "Circuit Walk".

If you go straight ahead you will end up at the river's edge — great spot for a picnic, but it is too early for that and then you will have to climb back to the Circuit Walk Track.

Riding along the Circuit Walk Track, you pass the remnants of gold diggings on your left (there is a sign).

Zoom on down, then up to another fire road gate.

3.0km: Map Point 5 Nelson Road

Once you have wiggled your bike through the narrow gate opening and get started again, it is all the way down Nelson Road — unsealed — to Jumping Creek Road (sealed).

When you are at this point, take the gravel footpath to the right and then cross the road at the driveway of No. 292 — very carefully.

Head up right (from house No. 287) along what looks like a gravel driveway, but this leads to, you guessed it, a gate and Warrandyte State Park (this pocket is called The Commons).



3.9km: Map Point 6 The Common

Keep left here and take the fire road straight up the hill past the sign that says Central Track (with a horse icon).

Generally speaking, where horses are allowed, so are MTBs.

Then turn right where you see the sign "Bridle Trail", keep on this track until you get to... a gate.

4.7km: Map Point 7 Haslam's Track

You have just ridden through The Common to a gravel road — Haslam's Track.

Take the bridle trail inside the fence line to a CFA water tank.

(At this point you could go left down Haslam's Track and loop back onto Central Track again and back to this point.

It is extremely steep with a sharp tight left hairpin bend — we will save this for the hill challenge ride.

From the tank, continue along the bridle trail and veer left up to the park gate to pop out onto Haslam's Track.

5.1km: Map Point 8 Johansons Road

Follow the postie track (single track) on the right-hand-side of the road (along the verge) then veer right along Johansons Road — keep following the postie track (did I mention that wet spot?) all the way to Ringwood-Warrandyte Road, veering left onto the road's shoulder.



6.4km: Map Point 9 Ringwood-Warrandyte Road and Harding Road

Carefully cross this road about 60m along (head left — towards Ringwood) — where you will see two driveways on the opposite side.

Ride along the postie track yet again (heading towards Ringwood).

You could head back to Warrandyte from here, but that is cutting it all too short, and the best is yet to come.

Continue along the postie track until you pop out onto a gravel road 400m along — this is Harding Road.

(If you need a petrol station continue along the Warrandyte-Ringwood Road single track).

Follow Harding Road until you get to yet another State Park gate.

7.3km: Map Point 10 Pigtail Track (Gutbuster)

Head through the gate following the fire road along a fenced-in research area to a junction (about 70m along).

At this junction everything is sign posted Bridle Trail.

You could get married here but that would be the Bridal Trail.

Go right on Pigtail Track (north) — but Google Maps might call it Merlins Track.

Either way, go right then you will head down to another junction — Boundary Track and Pigtail Track.

Go hard left onto Boundary Track (south).

This is the start of the infamous Gutbuster Strava segment.

700m of steady climbing at 7 per cent with a few water bars thrown in.

How many Gutbusters can you clock up?

And how fast?

Finish that climb without busting your lungs and cross the gravel section across the top of Webb Street to, you guessed it again, a park gate.

8.8km: Map Point 11 Fiddler's Track and Wild Cat Track

Follow Fiddler's Track which has been recently groomed with enormous water bars — take care rolling down this section — then follow Fiddler Gully Track to Dead End Track and the Wild Cat Link — most of these signs are at the end of these sections — so these details are somewhat unhelpful!

At the end of Wild Cat Link — which you will be zooming down, slow down as the track flattens out and do a "U Bolt" and follow Wild Cat Track (southwest) toward Andersons Creek and Gold Memorial Road.

Zooming down again till you get to the creek — ride through it, it is rideable most of the time.

Now you are at Gold Memorial picnic area where you can actually visit the Gold Memorial cairn.

10.1km: Map Point 12 Gold Memorial Road

Ride west (go right) along Gold Memorial Road to the intersection with Harris Gully Road.

11.3km: Map Point 13 Harris Gully Road

Cross over carefully. Take the footpath left then turn at the first right — over a single lane car bridge, then right again along a walking track which follows the boundary of Andersons Creek Primary School on your left.

Then, on your left the Goldfields Shopping Centre will appear.

11.8km: Map Point 14 Goldfields Shopping Centre and Tarooona Avenue

Here you will find toilets, a baker, chemist, GP, butcher and the IGA (you may also need an accountant and a solicitor by this stage).

Cross Heidelberg-Warrandyte Road at the lights and then you are at the Warrandyte Skate Park (that is SKATE, not STATE, more toilets here and a drink tap) and on footy days the canteen will be open.

Ride through the carpark to Tarooona Avenue.

At the T-intersection with Everard Drive, go straight across the carpark of Tarooona Reserve and over a small brown wooden footbridge. You are now on the western side of the river walk.

Again, watch out for dogs and wayward children.

13.5km: End Warrandyte MTB Trailhead

You will pass Stiggants Reserve with BBQs, water tap and toilets, continue along and keep right to pass the old "restored" dairy to arrive back at the trailhead.

Now it is time for refreshments at any of the local bars, cafes and restaurants.

You made it.

Next month: a 23km loop taking in Mullum Mullum Creek, Park Orchards and 100 acres.

