

MTB3113 Warrandyte trail explorer

WARRANDYTE MOUNTAIN Bike Club (MTB3113) members **JOZICA KUTIN**, **NATALIE PAPEZ** and **KARINA VITIRITTI** continue to compile the best of Warrandyte MTB3113 cross country trail rides in and around the Warrandyte area.

This is the ninth ride in the series.

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

Westerfolds & Ruffey Lake Adventure Light Purple Route 30.8k

Total distance: 30.8km

Elevation gain: 379m

Maximum elevation: 124m

Strava route: see QR code

Surfaces: Sealed roads, bike paths, single track, steps.

Rating: Easy to intermediate. As you ride through Westerfolds you can opt to take the various single tracks along the river.

Facilities: At the trailhead you'll find cafés, restaurants, pub, bakery, toilets, BBQs and playgrounds. Enroute you'll find toilets, picnic facilities, BBQs, and shops and cafés in Templestowe.

This ride takes you from Warrandyte to the start of the Main Yarra Trail all the way to Odyssey House, the Ruffey Creek Trail, Green Gully Linear Park, Mullum Mullum Linear Park then back again to Warrandyte. You'll be quite surprised by the fact that you'll never need to ride on a busy road.

The start of the ride is at the Whipstick Gully Gospel Chapel car park (the MTB3113 Trailhead on Yarra Street opposite Whipstick Gully Road).

0km: Map Point 1 Whipstick Gully Gospel Chapel Carpark — MTB3113 Trailhead

Head out west, away from the shops, past the old remains of the Warrandyte Dairy, along the river and cross the wooden bridge over Anderson's Creek into Tarooma Reserve.

Ride straight through the carpark up Tarooma Road to the Skatepark.

1.5km: Map Point 2 Warrandyte Skatepark

Here at the skatepark 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, which has become a popular escape route for road cyclists.

When Leber Street is on your left, go right for more climbing up Melbourne Hill Road.

After a bend you'll see on your left four bollards and a dirt track - head up this track left.

You'll exit onto a gravel service road (2.7km) and at the end you'll be at a fork, take the fork left, which keeps you up high and off Heidelberg-Warrandyte Road, until you come to Tindals Road (3.1km), cross and ride straight ahead into the bushes for the single track to Riverside Sand and Soil, cross over Mahoneys Court, ride along behind the bus stop and the bright red Australia Post box (3.3km).

Continue along the single track nicely avoiding Heidelberg-Warrandyte Road all the way to the pedestrian lights at Warrandyte High School (4.3km).

Don't cross at the lights but continue along the service lane (it's technically already Bellbird Place), crossing Orchard Grove, following Bellbird Place, and passing Albatross Pools on your left (great place to visit on a boiling hot day!).

Bellbird Place veers to your right, and on your left you'll see the walking path entrance down to Currawong Bush Park, continue and pass under the high voltage power lines, ride around the gate, following the worn out road to the Bellbird Steps (large stone slabs).

You could ride down these steps or take the track on the right, and you'll then come to the wooden/gravel steps that lead down to Crystal Brook Tourist Park - very rideable in the right position - I lost count after 13 steps (5km).

Ride past the caravan park entrance, little dog playground and crossing the creek over the wooden bridge.

Our Blue route through Park Orchards turns off here at this intersection with the Mullum Mullum Trail (see Blue Route Map point 4).

Head rightish to cross Heidelberg-

Warrandyte Road and use the refuge island.

5.2km: Map Point 3 Deep Creek Reserve — Doncaster Baseball Club

Cross Warrandyte-Heidelberg Road here, and keeping the baseball field of dreams on your left follow the path along the creek crossing the wooden bridge and veer left to head on the Mullum Mullum trail.

Once the path goes to gravel you're officially on the Main Yarra Trail (MYT).

6.2km: Map Point 4 The Parkway

Take a note of your surroundings, you'll be back here at the end of the ride.

Cross the road, The Parkway, and continue along the MYT - you've been here several times before.

At 7.5km there's a water tap just before a wooden footbridge, then at 8.2km you've got Petty's Orchard for coffee, toilets, pastries and organic fruit and vegetables.

At 9.4km you'll pass the entrance to Hans Loop (Candlebark Climb) where you can turn off for our Rainbow Route (Candlebark: Hans Loop & The Dentist - Map point 5).

At about 9.9km you could go right at the Diamond Creek footbridge to join onto our Red Route - Warrandyte Eltham (Map point 6).

10.9km: Map Point 5 Canoe Club — Westerfolds Park

Here you'll find a tap, toilets, and the canoe club, continue following the Main Yarra Trail (sealed) towards the city.

You could also explore the single tracks between the river and the MYT.

At 12.8km you'll come to an intersection with signage for the 'Westerfold Loop' go right - follow the path until you get to the end of the recycled plastic path/bridge you'll be at Odyssey House with and an old yellow-railed suspension footbridge on your left.

14.1km: Map Point 6 Odyssey House — Yellow footbridge

Hop off your bike and walk across the footbridge - if you're here at the right time you might spot the platypus in the Yarra River below.

Don't ride into the carpark but take the path left to the Ruffey Creek Trail. (If you take the path right you'll end

up at Wombat Bend Playspace - picnic tables, BBQ, water and toilets.)

Continue along until you get to a main road - Swilk Street and Parker Street.

15.0km: Map Point 7 Swilk Street, Parker Street, Templestowe

The Ruffey Creek Trail will take you to Swilk Street and Parker Street (Melissa's café is on your right, Templestowe shops are on your left) and cross the road here at the refuge veering left to continue along Parker Street (behind the swim centre), turn right at McLachlan Street which takes you to Foote Street.

Cross Foote Street using the pedestrian refuge, ahead of you is the Ruffey Creek Trail again.

The trail pops out onto Eumeralla Avenue, ride the bitumen and pop back onto the trail at the end of this street.

The path then takes you around little Montpellier Reserve then at about 16.7km you'll go through a tunnel under Williamsons Road and then another tunnel under King Street - I know right - you were wondering what was going to happen with those busy roads.

Amazingly you will now be at Ruffey Lake Park.

17.5km: Map Point 8 Ruffey Lake Park

After coming out of the tunnel under King Street, entering Ruffey Lake Park, you see the lake below on your left, continue straight on the sealed path, at the end go right then left across the lake over the wooden bridge (17.9km) then turn left again to keep hugging the lake.

Keep following the path, keep right (don't cross the lake again) continue straight then at about 18.4km you'll cross a wooden bridge over Ruffey Creek.

Follow the path along veering left riding below a picnic area with pergola and BBQs (you're actually on the Ruffey Creek Circuit Trail).

At 19.2km turn right up the path to that picnic area and toilets on Old Cart Track (some interpretive information boards in this area).

19.3km: Map Point 9 Ruffey Lake Park Victoria (aka Bismarck) Street Playground

Leaving Ruffey Lake Park (you can also read about the history of German settlers to the area and post-war changes here).

Cross Victoria Street to the shared footway, go left riding all the way to King Street.

At the traffic lights (19.8km) cross here and again go right on the new wide shared footway - staying off the busy road, until you get to Wyena Way.

20.9km: Map Point 10 Wyena Way, Templestowe

Turn left onto Wyena Way - its all downhill and quiet - take the first right onto Taparoo Road, then left onto Moonbria Way, right again onto Browning Drive and follow this all the way to a little roundabout on Serpells Road.

Ahead of you is Bronte Playspace in Green Gully Park (water tap but no toilet) and in here is the Green Gully Trail (with even a sign telling you that Reynolds Road is 500m away, and Heidelberg-Warrandyte Road is 1.9km).

The trail takes you to Bronte Rise, join the trail again at Jenkins Park (complete with playground and exercise machines), again take the Green Gully Trail through this park (with a sign indicating you're heading to the Mullum Mullum Trail) and at this sign veer left to go through the underpass under Reynolds Road (another busy road avoided).

Continue along through the Green Gully Linear Park, the path then veers right crossing little Templemore Drive and up, popping you out opposite Aumanns Building and Garden Supplies on Heidelberg-Warrandyte Road (now at 23.9km).

Cross Templestowe Drive and follow the shared footway.

24.3km: Map Point 11 Blackburn Road roundabout

Here the shared footway ends, cross Heidelberg-Warrandyte Road (left) and ride down The Parkway all the way to the Mullum Mullum Trail (but you'd know it as the Main Yarra Trail).

24.8km: Map Point 4 (return) The Parkway

Back here again, take the path right, or follow the road and just after the bridge that crosses the Mullum Mullum creek join the shared path again making your way back to the baseball field - remembering at the network of footbridges to turn the first footbridge right.

25.7km: Map Point 3 (return) Deep Creek Reserve — Doncaster Baseball Club

Cross Heidelberg-Warrandyte Road at the refuge and go left, and left again onto the gravel bridge (that is, don't go up the sealed Mullum Mullum Trail), passing the caravan park entrance and to those steps - walk up the steps with your bike.

Then at 26km at the top of these steps, go right up the Bellbird stone steps.

You'll be under the high voltage power lines again, follow the road (Bellbird Place) all the way down back past the pool shop and veering right to the Warrandyte High School pedestrian crossing, but we're not crossing, we're continuing up the single track, avoiding the busy road again.

At 27.8km you'll be crossing Tindals Road and hopping onto Melbourne Hill Road (bitumen) - retrace your path through the service lane and unmade path, back onto Melbourne Hill Rd - then whizz your way all the way down to Warrandyte-Heidelberg Road - it's well worth it.

29.4km: Map Point 2 (return) Warrandyte Skate park

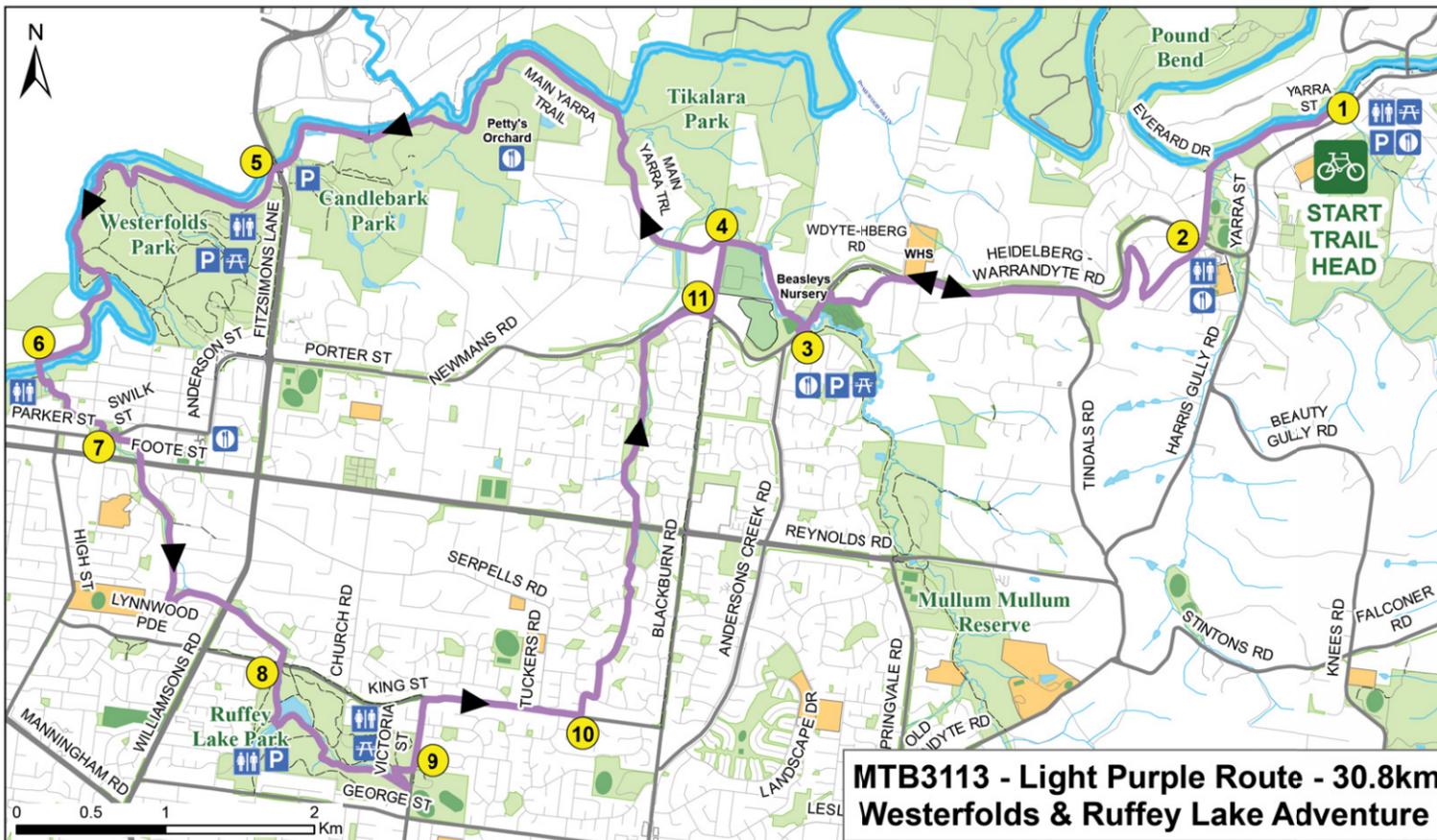
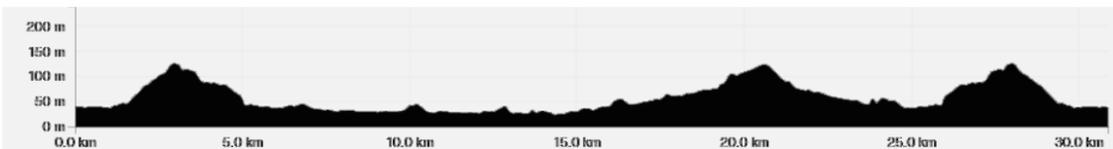
Head down Tarooma Road to the Tarooma Reserve carpark and back onto the Warrandyte river reserve trail.

Head up the path (don't go down) at the fork to pass the restored white dairy on your right back to the trailhead.

30.8km: Map Point 1 (return) Whipstick Gully Gospel Chapel Carpark — MTB3113 Trailhead

Here you are back in Warrandyte ready for refreshments and wondering why you ever thought adventures weren't to be had in Templestowe.

Strava route QR code: 



**MTB3113 - Light Purple Route - 30.8km
Westerfolds & Ruffey Lake Adventure**