

Bike Ride Nov 2019

Notes about a 4-day cycling adventure starting at Ararat, through Moyston, Dunkeld, Mortlake, Terang to Warrnambool. Train to Ararat from Southern Cross and from Warrnambool to Southern Cross.

The Participants

Rick (the writer), Noel, Kevin and Mike.

Total Distance Travelled

Approximately 270 km.

Stuff Up

When I arrived at Southern Cross to catch train to Ararat, I noticed a sign stating train to Ararat replaced with coaches. Asked guy at customer service if can take bikes on coach and he said It was OK.

Noel, Mike & Kevin loaded their bikes on a bus, but a lady told me to put my bike and me on a different bus. Both buses going to Ballarat. I got to Ballarat first at about 10.00 & discovered that there was a train to Ararat so put my bike on. Train due to leave before other bus arrived so I mentioned this to conductor. He said they will wait. Others arrived about 10 minutes later. Train left about 10.10 and arrived Ararat 11.00. See [this photo](#) of us at Ararat.

Friendly Locals

On day 1 we stopped outside Willaura about 2.30. A lady pulled up beside us in a vehicle wanting a harry chat. She advised us to go to the bakery which we did. By the time we got there the girl in the Bakery already knew we were coming. A few people wanted to have a Harry chat and it was very friendly. See [this photo](#). The baker came out and chatted and even filled up our drink bottles which has NEVER happened before. He gave us all a bag promoting the bakery. At other places people wanted to chat.

Best Scenery

Not much.

Not well

On Day 1 Noel was not well late in afternoon. He needed to be towed for about 25 km. See [this photo](#) to see what towed him.

Accommodation

Day 1 – Dunkeld. Large apartment. WiFi not working. See [this photo](#) with Noel's bike inside and [this photo](#) outside.

Day 2 – Mortlake. Stables converted into motel units. Roomy. WiFi not available because won't work through bluestone walls.

Day 3 – Terang. Standard motel units. WiFi working – hurrah!

How we Navigated

I had an iPad running Maps.Me in a waterproof holder in view on my handlebar bag. Maps.Me has useful features such as off-line mapping and automatic rerouting. It sometimes suggests unnecessary deviations off main roads which may result in hills,

unmade tracks or goat paths. We have learnt to be wary of these suggestions and work around them when needed. On day 3 near Terang, Maps.Me directed us down a gravel track. We did not go that way and found out later that it was flooded. Noel used the Strava App to record each day's trip. Strava records the route, elevation, speed and many other useless parameters and does not need an internet connection. He uploaded the information to Strava to share the trip details with others at the end of each day.

Lost

Noel took a wrong turn on the second day and ended up riding 7 km more than the others.

Most Boring Town

None of the towns we passed through were that exciting.

Food Issues

Took breakfasts with us.

Day 1. Lunch in Moyston. Arvo coffee in Willaura. Dinner in Dunkeld cafe.

Day 2. Not passing through any towns so purchased some lunch food at Dunkeld in the morning. See [this photo](#). Arvo coffee & snacks in Mortlake (Mike had hamburger. See [this photo](#)). Dinner in Mortlake hotel.

Day 3. Late lunch in Terang cafe. Dinner in Terang hotel.

Day 4. Late coffee & snacks at Wangoom. See [this photo](#). Lunch on train from Warrnambool.

Best Riding

Day 1 we had a strong tail wind for about 30 km. Day 3 we had a strong tail wind for about 20 km. All other times we had a head wind or side wind. It was shit.

Weather

Day 1. Warm with strong winds.

Day 2. Cold with rainstorms and strong winds. I had to put on my thermals. See [this photo](#).

Day 3. Some drizzle and strong winds. Day 4. No rain but strong winds.

Things of Interest

See [this photo](#) and [this photo](#).

Bike Issues

No flats. Only problem was my eBike once gave an error message after I turned it on. Took battery out, back in and error went.

Trip Rating

6 out of 10.