



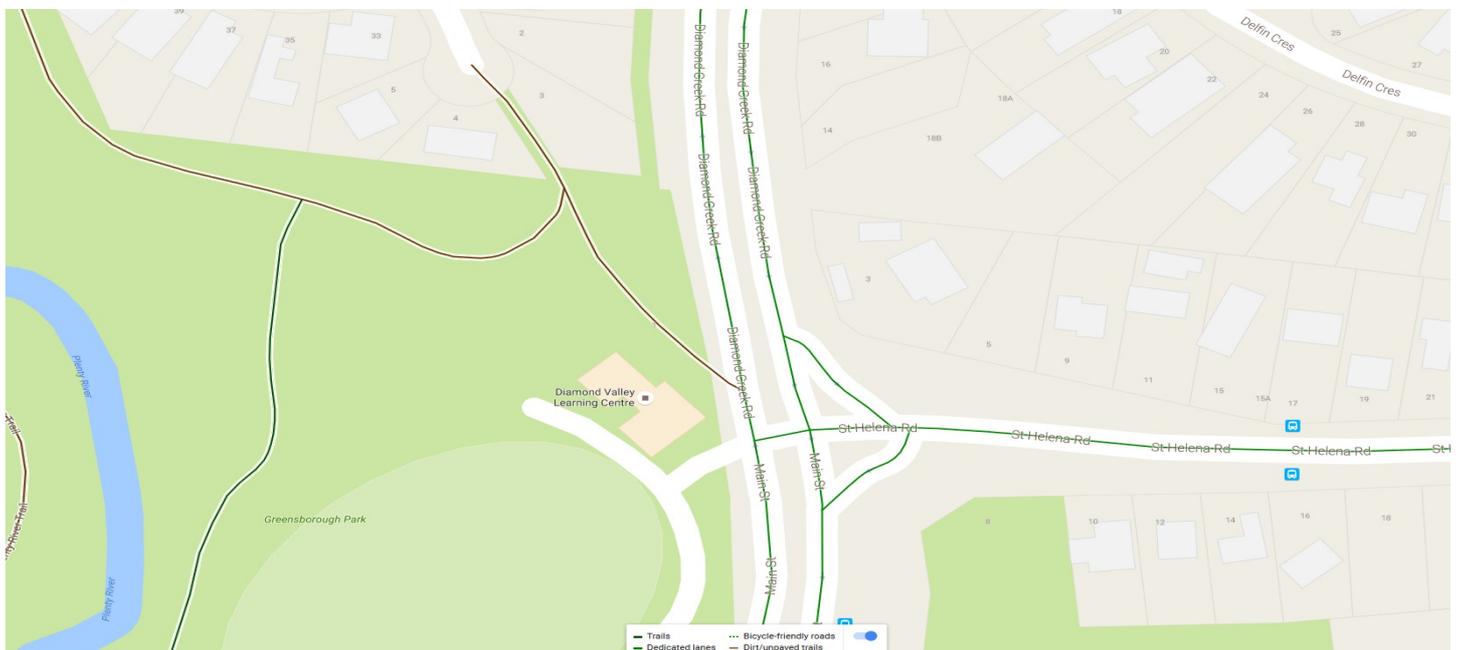
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Merry  
Christmas to all.  
May all your  
trails be safe.



As cyclists we all know how difficult, challenging and simply dangerous cycling on the roads can be. However, it seems, at times, obstacles are placed in our path to make our cycling-life even more dangerous. Look at Les' photograph of Diamond Creek Rd looking north from St Helena Rd. Note also the cycling lane sign. We can't see the actual lane as it is buried beneath a phalanx of cars. Now look at the image below copied from Google Maps. The solid line indicates a dedicated bike lane. Isn't cycling-life wonderful.



## Ride Report

A group of Banyule BUG cyclists recently made the trip from Warringal Park to Southern Cross via Brimbank Park. This ride took us along the Darebin, Ringroad for lunch at Brimbank Park then home along the Maribyrnong River/Footscray Rd to Southern Cross. A ride of around 75km.

This was a long ride and we were leg weary by the time we had finished, but it was satisfying. The trip up the Darebin is well known to us all, but navigating the Ringroad around Airport West/Caterpillar factory was a little tricky for the unfamiliar. Brimbank park itself was a delight with beautiful views along the valley to the North over Keilor. The constant noise of aircraft was, however, a distraction. Lunch was at the visitors center and this



was greatly enjoyed by all of us. It is a great place for a break.

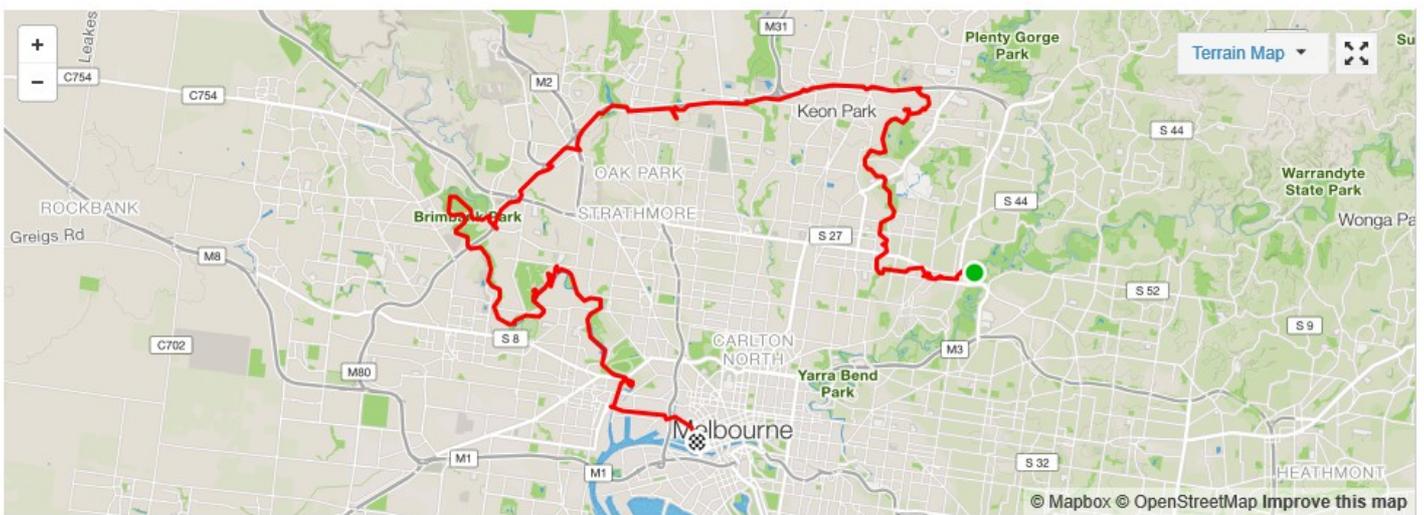
Lunch finished we were soon underway cycling down the valley. The trail was in rideable condition, but the recent floods had made sections quite rough. There is no doubt that this ride alongside the river is one of the most picturesque of urban rides. The river is in view most of the way and there is always something to attract the eye. The Ted Whitten bridge over the valley is a massive and, in its own way, attractive structure when viewed from underneath.

The challenge of climbing Lily St hill is rewarded by some of the best views available to cyclists/walkers.



To the south is the panorama of Melbourne and the bay laid out in a broad sweep while looking north brings to bear the vista of where we had ridden. The ride is worth it just for this spectacle.

From here we dropped back down to the river and slowly made our way to Southern Cross to catch our train home to Heidelberg. A concern was that we would arrive at the station at peak period, but being the Cup weekend, all of Melbourne had taken Friday off and there was ample room on the train for us and our bikes. An excellent day in the saddle.



This is something we have all experienced at some time. Reprinted here with permission of the author.

#### *CYCLIST FRIENDLY METRO Letter to the Age*

*Last Saturday, buses replaced scheduled train services between Essendon and Craigieburn, because of vandalism (AGE, 29 /10). Although there were no warnings when I arrived at Southern Cross, or on METRO's website, I was denied entry to the replacement bus at Essendon, because I had a bicycle. "Safety considerations", I was told. I was left stranded in an unfamiliar area, with no idea how I was to get to my destination.*

*Not expecting to have to ride far, I was not wearing bright clothing or a visibility vest, but my navigation problems meant that my only option was to mix it with the traffic on busy main roads. METRO's safety concerns apparently do not extend to cyclists. If you use a bicycle for transport, you have no idea when you leave home to use a scheduled train service, if you'll be able to return safely. It's not a train service, it's a lottery! At least be honest Metro - don't call them "replacement bus services", because they aren't.*

*Carol Skinner*

#### Interesting Links

[Cyclists taking advantage of driverless cars is a worry, says transport consultant](#)

#### Memorable Ride

For a cyclist, many things can make a ride memorable. It might be completing a climb in record time, or even completing it at all. It could be a sunny day when everything comes together to make for a perfect cycling day. For a group that cycled to Anglers Tavern recently, it really had little to do with the actual cycling. It was discovering a pair of swans showing off their cygnets. It was a thrill to see "mum & dad" proudly displaying their offspring and at the same time being cautiously protective. Only cyclists and walkers see such delights as this. Another good reason to be on a bike.



**This is not good news.**

From "Diamond Valley Leader. Wednesday, November 30, 2016. pp News 03.

Work on trail at a standstill

Brittany Shanahan

CONSTRUCTION of the Diamond Creek Trail extension has come to a halt after community concerns.

In February [2016](#), Nillumbik Council voted in favour of building part of the extension around the old Hurstbridge High School site which would connect existing paths.

Following council's decision to abandon the sale of the old Hurstbridge High School site lot [144](#) Graysharps Rd (see above)it will draft a plan for the Graysharps Rd development. But according to an officer's report tabled at last week's council ' meeting, some people feared the construction of the extension would occur without considering the precinct planning process.

Officers recommended council defer construction until the alignment (path) is assessed with the draft precinct plan development. All councillors voted in support of the move.



Merry Christmas everyone. Safe riding over the break and I will see you all on a trail somewhere in 2017.

Final word. Make your New-Year's resolution be to contribute at least one article to your BUG Newsletter.



See you all in 2017. (Ed.)