

South Australian Recreational Cycling Club

Central Victorian and Goldfields Bicycle Tour

Sunday 17th October to Sunday 31 Oct 2021

The Rides Programme

Sunday 17th Oct Arrive in Castlemaine

Monday 18th Oct Ride 1 Newstead/Maldon Castlemaine loop.

Cycle through Newstead where we have morning coffee, two coffee shops available "Dig at Newstead" or "The Blackbird".

Ride around Mt Tarrangower to Maldon and return partly on the Maldon Rail Trail. 65% bitumen but does include about 15kms on a B class road.

61 kms Elevation gain 618m



Tuesday 19th Oct Ride 2 Harcourt/Muckleford Road loop

Castlemaine to Chewton and up to Harcourt for coffee at Harcourt Produce and General Store. Out to the Mt Alexander trail head for lunch. (option for a much longer ride going around Mt Alexander.) Ride back via Fogarty Gap Road and Mucklefield Walmer Road. 51.2 kms Elevation gain 589m

Wednesday 20th Oct Ride 3 Castlemaine Maldon Rail Trail

Out and back on the Maldon rail trail. Could be extended by climbing Mt Tarrangower. Could also return on some bitumen.

We can also come back on the steam train with bikes which leaves Maldon at 2.45pm. This must be pre-booked and only runs on a Wednesday. See notes below. 76% dirt road. 37.4 kms Elevation gain 395m (18.7km one way)



Thursday 21st Oct Ride 4 Castlemaine to Fryerstown and Vaughan Springs

Ride to historic Fryerstown for BYO morning tea snack, lunch at Vaughan Springs and return by Vaughan Campbell Creek Rd. No facilities until we get back to Castlemaine 65% bitumen. 38 kms Elevation gain 482m

Friday 22nd Oct Depart Castlemaine and drive to Bendigo BIG4 Park Lane Caravan Park

Friday 22nd Oct Ride 5 Bendigo Cycle Club Road Ride

Short ride for the afternoon. Starts at 1.30pm from the caravan park. An all bitumen ride as per the Bendigo Cycle Club. Great views from One Tree Hill Lookout Tower, return via Tannery Lane. 27 kms Elevation gain 310m



Saturday 23rd Oct Ride 6 Bendigo to Axedale and return on the O'Keefe Trail

Cycle the Rail Trail out and back to Axedale. Coffee available at the servo. There is a lovely reserve alongside the Campaspe River for our morning tea & maybe we will see a platypus. Lunch back at the caravan park. 34 kms Elevation gain 168m

Sunday 24th Oct Ride 7 Bendigo Creek Trail

Ride from the Bendigo Caravan Park along the trail to the Bendigo Botanic Gardens at White Hill and back to Lake Weeroona for morning tea. Cycle along the Bendigo Creek trail to Crusoe Reservoir and then back to Kangaroo Flat Bushland Park for lunch. Return to the caravan park. 47.6 kms Elevation gain 200m





Monday 25th Oct Ride 8 Axedale to Heathcote and return

Drive to where the ride begins at the Axedale Playspace, Raglan Place East and park our cars. We ride out and back to Heathcote, a lovely little town where there are several places to buy food and coffee.

We do a small loop and return the same way passing Lake Eppalock
56.7 kms Elevation gain 333m

Tuesday 26th Oct Depart Bendigo and drive to the Colac & Otway Ranges Caravan Pk

Wednesday 27th Oct Ride 9 Lake Colac and Lake Beeac

We start from the caravan park and ride clockwise around Lake Colac and Lake Beeac. Lunch stop in a park at Beeac, toilets and coffee available. An option to make it shorter by not going as far as Beeac.

54 kms Elevation gain 249m. A shorter ride is about 34kms, no facilities.



Thursday 28th Oct Ride 10 Beech Forest to Barongarook Hall

We will do a car shuffle to begin the ride at Beech Forest, riding on the Old Beechy Rail Trail mainly downhill back to the cars at the Barongarook Hall and tennis courts at 280 Barongarook Rd. Mainly on the old railway but some on the old Beech Forest Rd
36 kms Elevation gain 377m

Friday 29th Oct Ride 11 Lake Purrumbete and the Timboon Rail Trail

We drive to the beginning of the ride at the Lake Edge Café on Lake Purrumbete. This ride will include part of the old Timboon Rail Trail north from Cobden. 42 kms Elevation gain 261m



Saturday 30th Oct Ride 12 Cobden to Timboon on the Rail Trail

We will drive to Cobden and park in the carpark adjacent to Cobden Lake Reserve at the corner of Shenfield St and Adams St. We will ride to the rail trail and see the trestle bridge on the banks of the Curdies River before cycling into Timboon for lunch. The return ride is back along the trail.

47.3kms Elevation gain 295m

Sunday 31st Oct Drive back home to Adelaide after an exciting biking holiday with lots of lovely memories of the Central Victorian and Goldfields Bicycle Tour.



Victorian Goldfields Railway Timetable & Fares



We run trains every Wednesday and Sunday, with additional days during school holidays and some public holidays. On most Saturdays throughout the year we run special event trains. More details of these specials can be found on our website.

Please Note: The railway does not operate trains on days of Total Fire Ban (North Central Victoria) and we may cancel services, or substitute a diesel locomotive, on other high fire danger days. No trains run on Wednesdays during February.

Bookings: All tickets may be booked online. Train times and fares may be amended without notice. Please check the VGR website for the most up-to-date information.

Return* Fares

	Excursion Class	First Class
Adult	\$50.00	\$70.00
Concession	\$45.00	\$65.00
Child (4-16)	\$20.00	\$65.00
Family	\$110.00	N/A
Ride with the Driver	\$45.00 <small>price bookings are essential - in addition to normal fare</small>	

*One way and special cyclist fares are also available.

Timetable: Sundays and Wednesdays

to Castlemaine			
Maldon	Depart	10:30am	2:45pm
Castlemaine	Arrive	11:15am	3:30pm
to Maldon			
Castlemaine	Depart	12:00pm	4:00pm*
Maldon	Arrive	12:45pm	4:45pm

*4:00pm train does not return to Castlemaine

www.VGR.com.au



NOTES:

Wednesday 20th Oct Ride 3 Castlemaine Maldon Rail Trail

If anyone would like to cycle to Maldon on the rail trail and then return one way from Maldon to Castlemaine on the Victorian Goldfields Railway (VGR) here is the procedure to follow.

To book one way fares, VGR requests that you do not book online but ring them on 03 54706658. Inform them that you are travelling one way from Maldon and that you also have a bike to transport. Bookings can not be made on the day.

VGR will then know how many passengers to expect at Maldon and also they may couple on an extra guard's van for bike storage depending on the numbers.

If the train does not run, perhaps due to Covid 19 or other difficulties, the VGR has stated that money will be refunded.