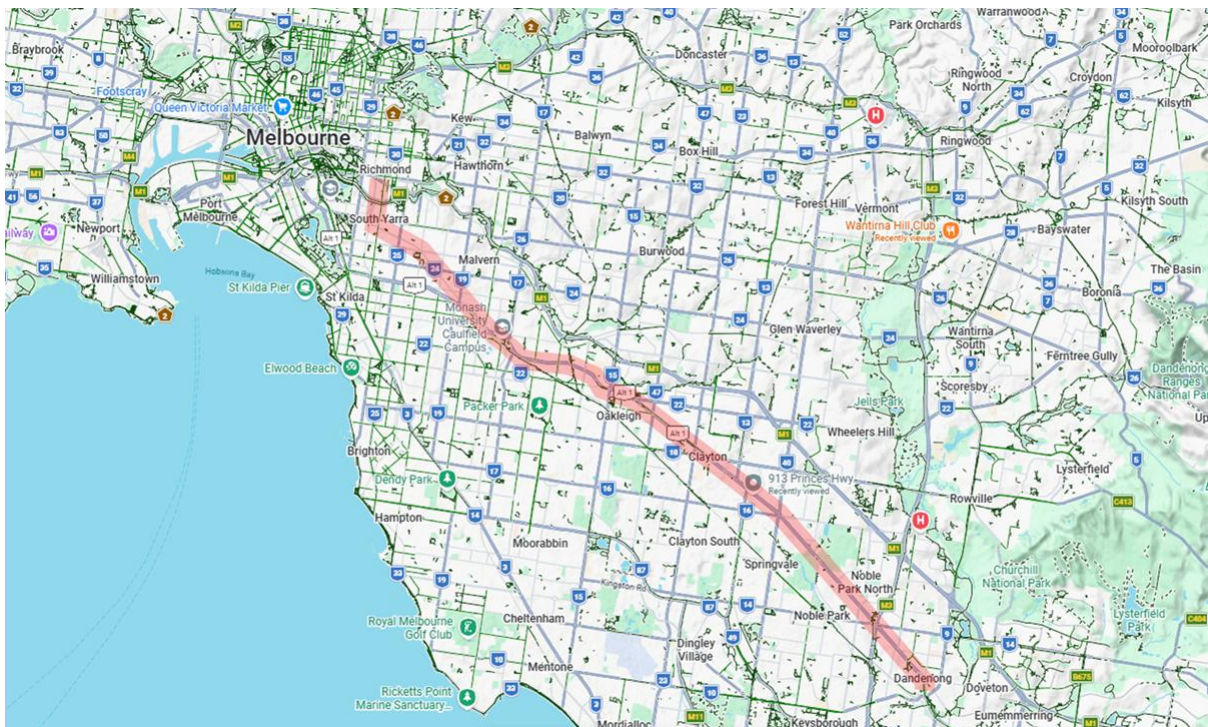


## The Lost Bicycle Highway from Dandenong to South Yarra.



Go back in time about 3 decades, and riding from the Suburbs to the Melbourne CBD was a very different experience. There weren't many off-road paths running around the place. There was however a safe corridor from Dandenong to the Melbourne CBD that has unfortunately slowly been eroded over time. Remnants still remain, much of it is rideable as it was intended and whilst the Gardiners Creek Trail and Djerring Trails are preferred routes, this corridor and many others like it can be quickly and easily converted back into becoming bicycle routes and augment the cities cycling network to provide safer and more direct links for all. Importantly such corridors connect more directly to shops, places of work, education

From the 1960s through to the 1980s when major roads were duplicated/triplicated, service lanes were often built alongside the main carriageway. These were continuous unbroken laneways, that kept running through cross-street intersections:



**Dandenong Rd and Greta St 1972**

Even major road intersections weren't a barrier for the service lanes- they kept going along the main road:



### **Dandenong Rd and Clayton Rd intersection 1972**

During the late 1980s through the 1990s, these service lanes were blocked off to through traffic at many of the intersections to improve driving safety. However, many tiny portions of bitumen were left in place to allow cyclists to ride through along the service lane corridor or a concrete pathway through was provided connectivity for cyclists and thus this cycling route was born.



**Greta St Intersection Today – note the cut-through.**

The Service Lanes from Caulfield to Dandenong on both sides of Dandenong Rd were all linked up (some links are better than others – some are just ride up a driveway onto the footpath – then down the driveway on the other side). In many locations footpaths were widened to become a shared path.



**Dandenong Rd (south side near Atkinson St) – note the shared path signs.**

From Caulfield, you will find a shared path on the North Side of Dandenong Rd between Taronga Rd and Station St, Malvern.

From there, the advised route followed the railway line to South Yarra with a mix of on-road sections, laneways and bits of trail which eventually connect to the Main Yarra Trail near the Cremorne Rail Bridge.





Over the passage of time, we have lost sections of service lane on Dandenong Rd (such as 170m in front of Bunnings Springvale & 300m in front of Ikea). Other connections have been blocked (Renver Rd, Garden Rd). Sections of shared trail have been paved over (such as in front of Chadstone). The Lovers Walk section of Path in South Yarra has banned cycling in 2024. Yet the Service Lane parts of this trail that remain are still more popular to ride along than the main road:



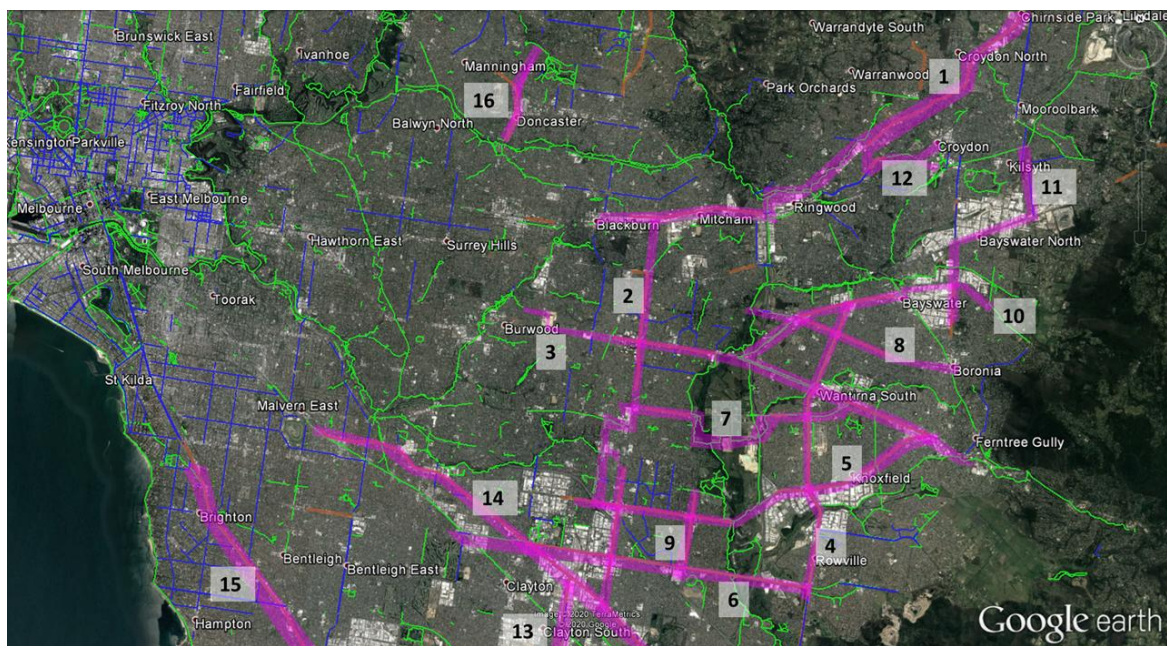
**Strava Heatmap shows usage level – note the high popularity of the service lane**

It is time for these major highways with Service Lanes to be convert these into friendlier Boulevards with Cycling Access made simple and easy, lowered speed limits and safer entry/exit points to allow motorised vehicles access houses, shops, business, etc, but deter utilising them to rat-run.

Around the Suburbs of Melbourne there are hundreds of kilometres of Service Lanes where these treatments could be applied.

Some of the major corridors include:

1. Maroondah Hwy (Blackburn to Lilydale)
2. Springvale Rd (Forest Hill to Edithvale)
3. Burwood Hwy (Ferntree Gully to Burwood)
4. Stud Rd (Wantirna to Dandenong)
5. Ferntree Gully Rd (Ferntree Gully to Notting Hill)
6. Wellington Rd (Huntingdale to Rowville)
7. High St Rd (Knox City to Glen Waverley)
8. Boronia Rd (Boronia to Dandenong Creek)
9. Jells Rd (Jells Park to Wellington Rd)
10. Mountain Hwy (The Basin to Wantirna)
11. Dorset Rd, Canterbury Rd, Liverpool Rd (Bayswater North to Kilsyth)
12. Mount Dandenong Rd (East Ringwood to Croydon)
13. Westall Rd (Ikea to the Dingley Bypass)
14. Dandenong Rd (Malvern to Dandenong)
15. Nepean Hwy (Melbourne to Mordialloc)
16. Tram Rd, Manningham Rd + Williamsons Rd (Box Hill North to Ruffey Creek Trail)



**Map of Service Lane Corridors in Pink and existing trails in green**

## Example of a corridor – Ferntree Gully Rd

Treatments required to form a 12.5km link:

Council	Service Rd	Intersection	Treatment	Length (m)
Monash	Ferntree Gully Rd (South)	Elmstead Rd	Cut-Through	28
Monash	Ferntree Gully Rd (South)	Marykirk Dr (East)	Cut-Through	7
Monash	Ferntree Gully Rd (South)	Marykirk Dr (West)	Widen Footpath	35
Monash	Ferntree Gully Rd (South)	Eaton Pl (West)	Cut-Through	25
Monash	Ferntree Gully Rd (South)	Falcoln Crest (West)	Widen Footpath	120
Monash	Ferntree Gully Rd (South)	Jells to The Deviation	Widen Footpath	300
Monash	Ferntree Gully Rd (South)	The Deviation (West)	Widen Footpath	20
Monash	Ferntree Gully Rd (South)	Rembrandt Dr (East)	Widen Footpath	15
Monash	Ferntree Gully Rd (South)	Rembrandt Dr (West)	Widen Footpath	15
Monash	Ferntree Gully Rd (South)	Lum Rd (East)	Widen Footpath	25
Monash	Ferntree Gully Rd (South)	Lum Rd (East)	Widen Footpath	60
Monash	Ferntree Gully Rd (South)	Ainslie Dr (East)	Widen Footpath	30
Monash	Ferntree Gully Rd (South)	Ainslie Dr (East)	Cut-Through	10
Monash	Ferntree Gully Rd (South)	Cootamundra Dr (East)	Widen Footpath	28
Monash	Ferntree Gully Rd (South)	Cootamundra Dr (West)	Widen Footpath	20
Monash	Ferntree Gully Rd (South)	Strada Cres (East)	Cut-Through	9
Monash	Ferntree Gully Rd (South)	Strada Cres (West)	Cut-Through	9
Monash	Ferntree Gully Rd (South)	Kisdoo Art Studio	Cut-Through	22
Monash	Ferntree Gully Rd (South)	Brandon Park Dr to Springvale Rd	Widen Footpath	170
Monash	Ferntree Gully Rd (South)	Springvale Rd to Westerfield Dr	Widen Footpath	942
Monash	Ferntree Gully Rd (South)	Finch St (East)	Widen Footpath	50
	<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1940</b>
Knox	Ferntree Gully Rd (South)	Burwood Hwy to Mountain Gate SC	Widen Footpath	350
Knox	Ferntree Gully Rd (South)	Ashton Rd (East)	Cut-Through	5
Knox	Ferntree Gully Rd (South)	Ashton Rd (West)	Cut-Through	5
Knox	Ferntree Gully Rd (South)	Windemere Dr (East)	Cut-Through	2
Knox	Ferntree Gully Rd (South)	Windemere Dr (West)	Cut-Through	3
Knox	Ferntree Gully Rd (South)	Presti Nursery	Widen Footpath	25
Knox	Ferntree Gully Rd (South)	Dairy Rd (East)	Cut-Through	5
Knox	Ferntree Gully Rd (South)	Dairy Rd to Bungil Way	Widen Footpath	200
Knox	Ferntree Gully Rd (South)	Bungil Way (West)	Provide Path	100
Knox	Ferntree Gully Rd (South)	Henderson Rd (West)	Widen Footpath	100
	<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>795</b>

So, for the cost of less than 3km worth of work, a 12.5km link can be established connected Ferntree Gully to Notting Hill, providing connection to the Ringwood to Belgrave Trail, Ferny Creek Trail, Scoresby Rd Trail, Stud Rd Trail, Eastlink Trail, Dandenong Creek Trail, Scotchmans Creek Trail, Notting Hill Laneways Trail. Best Bang for Buck projects bar none.

**Photos of the Dandenong Rd Corridor:**

South Side



**Russel St**



**Gove St**



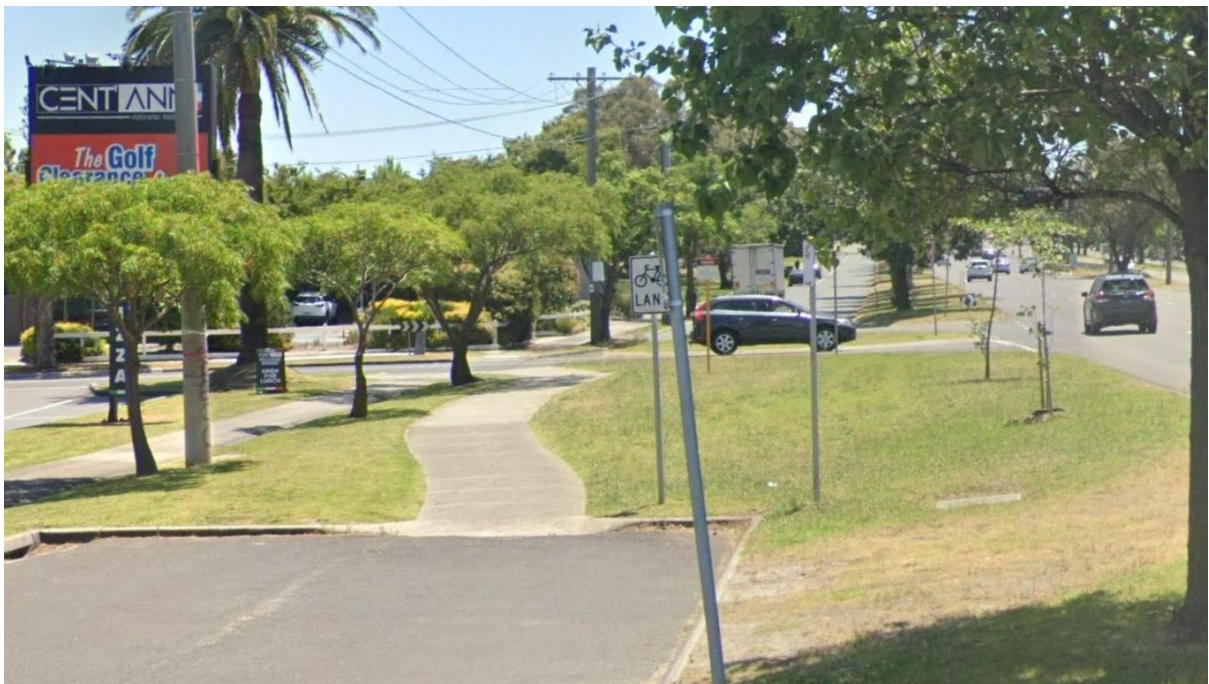
**Webb Ave**



**Browns Rd**



**Clayton Rd**



**Greta St**



**Greta St**



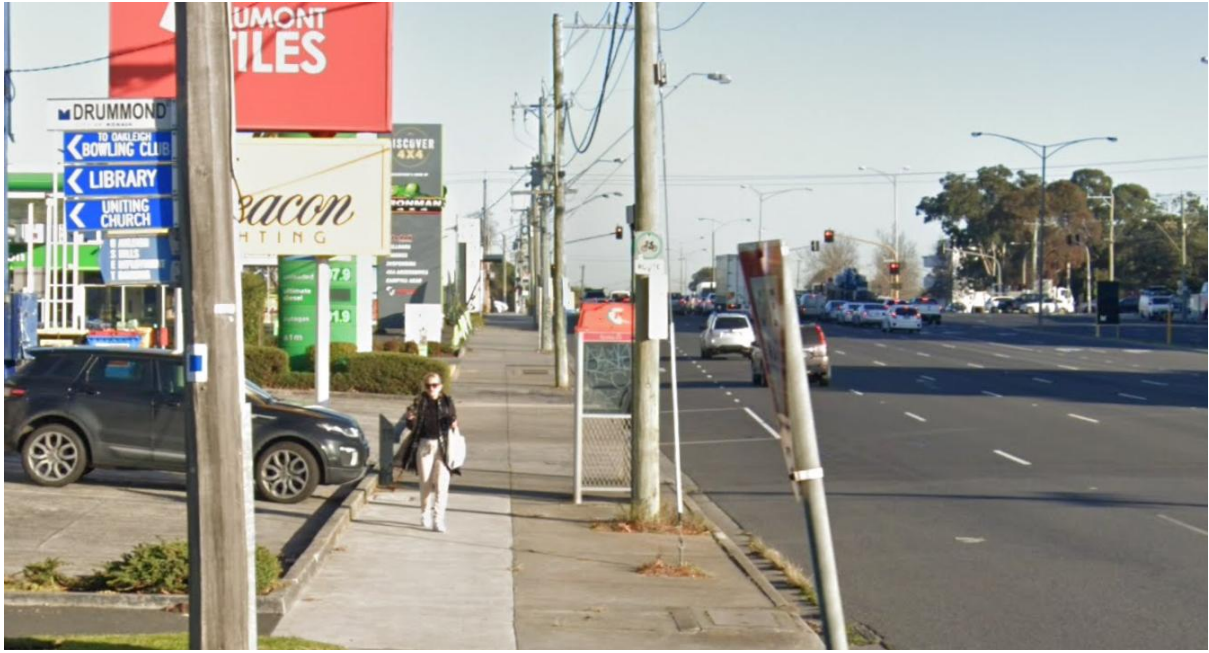
**Franklyn St (Bike End Sign Removed around 2010)**



**Atherton Rd**



**Grant St**



**Drummond St**



**Shared Footway Sign Removed 2014**



**Fellows St Traffic Island**



**Poath Rd – No Entry Cyclists Excepted Sign on left**

**North Side:**



**Malvern**



**Malvern**



**Caulfield**



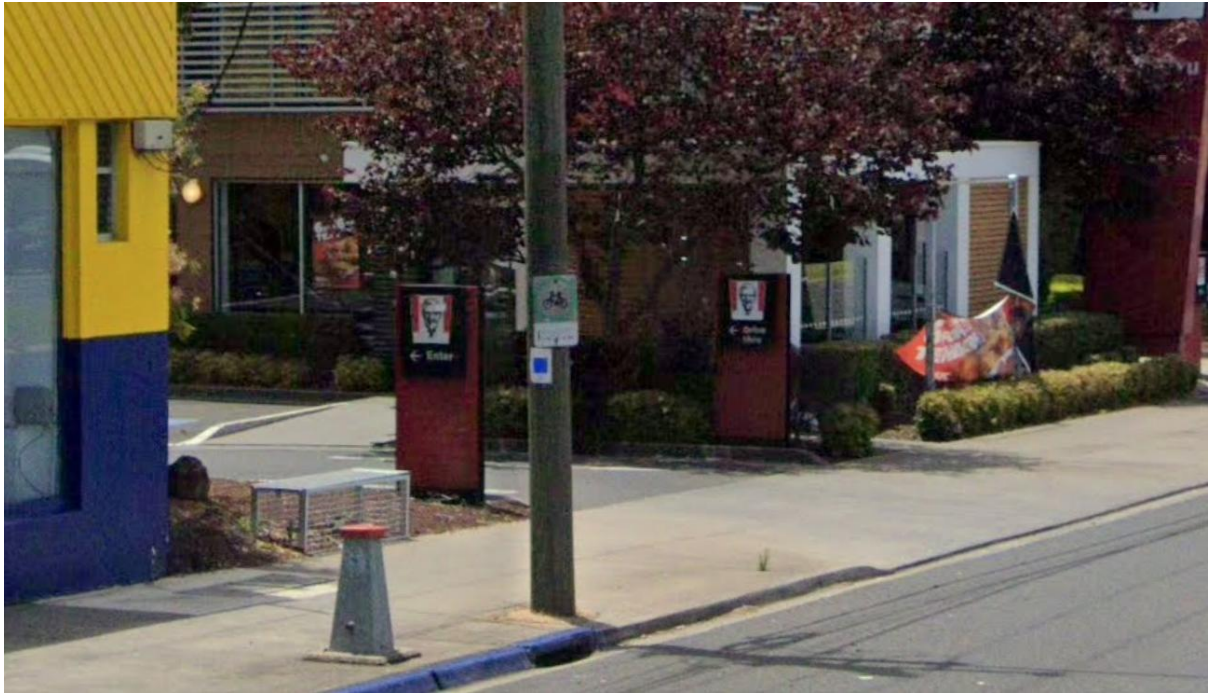
**Caulfield**



**Carnegie – Markings added 2021**



**Warragul Rd – Sign removed ~2020**



**Carnegie**



**Oakleigh**



**Carmichel St**



**Clayton Rd – note the sign on top of the give way sign on the left.**



**Springvale Rd**

**Other Examples around Melbourne**



**Burwood Hwy. Built in 2005 as part of the Vermont South Tram extension project.**



**Burwood Hwy/Terrarra Rd – done due to Lobbying by MeBUG when Lights placed at intersection in 2015.**



**Boronia Rd/Lewis Rd – Lights at intersection 2022.**



**Stud Rd/Dumbarton Dr – Stud Rd duplication 2014.**