

WORKING BEE – MAY 1 @ 10 am – meet Nicholson-Sarsfield Rd and trail intersection – clean up and dead wattle removal.

Friends of East Gippsland Rail Trail

Minutes of Meeting held April 11 at Commonwealth Hotel, Orbost

1. Attendance:, Michael Oxe, Eddie Slatter, Vicki Everett, Marlene Robb, Keith Law, Sue Peirce, Janice Preston, Geoff Preston, Jim Douthwat, Geoff Stevenson

Apologies: Alan Jones, Andrew Sharpe, Clive & Jill Gaskill, Glen Herbert,

2. Minutes of previous meeting accepted

3. Business arising:

3.1 Letterhead for Friend's group has been printed – thanks to Bob Yeates for printing

3.2 Alan has made two bollards which will be placed on the Nicholson to prevent unauthorized vehicle access

3.3 Vicki's phone no was printed incorrectly – 5154 2475

3.4 did not put in application for equipment grant as suggested – the guidelines clearly stated that money would not be distributed to organizations which had received funds in 2004 round and the electronic form was difficult to access

4 Treasurer's report – no report

5. EGRT committee of management report

5.1 Have contracted DSE as project manager for trail completion, tenders being prepared and costings due in about 2 weeks. DSE saying the works will be completed by end of 2005.

5.2 Looking at options to employ trail manager – perhaps with contributions from Vic govt.

5.3 Signs at Bairnsdale end have been re done

5.4 Small brochure being designed

5.5 Fold out brochure being re-done map updated and sponsorship sought.

6. Newsletter about ready for distribution – Michael will distribute electronically and provided envelope list for mail recipients – bumper 6 page edition, thanks to Marlene, Keith, Janice and Vicki for production.

7. Activities – very successful ride from Bruthen to Forestech, along rail trail and Discovery trail. Plenty of other riders on the trail – this was the weekend that Bicycle Victoria promoted as riding the Rail Trails. This was a hot day and difficult going for some of the riders. The issue of backup vehicle support was discussed.

It was recommended:

- Information on web site re carrying water and bike repair kit
- As much info as possible re distances and degree of difficulty

- These rides are not supported and responsibility is taken by individuals participating as in any social event
- Consideration given to back up plans

It is not necessary for folk who participate to be members of the Friends group.

Next ride: Orbost ~ 35k total distance about 5k is gravel, April 24th with 10 am start BYO lunch

8. Working bee

May 1st meet at Nicholson-Sarsfield Rd intersection of rail trail at 10am– clearing dead black wattle and stacking into piles for burning later. General clearing up of overgrown vegetation.

BBQ after at Nicholson jetty. BYO

9. Website

Getting lots of hits, feedback being received

10. AGM

Will be able to use BBQ at Mingling Waters. The AGM will start at 1am – see if Andrew can do some sort of presentation. Tea/coffee, cold drinks and nibbles provided.

Sue to check requirements re nominations, format, financial statements

Will be ride from Bruthen at 10am to Nowa Nowa and AGM. Sue to co-ordinate- 5165 8228.

May be group riding from Orbost with 9.30 start. Check with Keith or Vicki.

Need to advertise AGM in local paper.

9. Other items –

9.1 Connection of rail trail to Orbost from Burns Rd – important that the trail link up with town. The link will need to be fixed up and clearly signed. This requires some input by Shire and Vic Roads. Suggested that we send a letter to Shire and copies to Lions, Chamber of Commerce, SNOB's. asking for a meeting to discuss the

9.2 Be useful to do counts of trail users, sense that increase from Nowa Nowa using trail.

Would be useful to have information on ages, gender, walkers, horses, cyclists.

10. Meeting closed at 9.15pm

11. Next meeting AGM at Nowa Nowa on June 5th