

## **Friends of East Gippsland Rail Trail**

### **Meeting April 21 2008 Nowa Nowa at Mingling Waters**

1. **Attendance:** Janice Preston, Geoff Preston, Marlene Robb, Keith Law, Andrew Sharpe, Michael Oxe, Eddie Slatter, Sue Peirce

#### **2. Business arising:**

- 2.1. Alinta – letter written and sent to Bill Storer – no response, Sue to follow up with Bill.
- 2.2 Letter to EGSC re support for Burn Rd Car park improvements – response from EGSC to say they are considering this Also to indicate will have ‘opening’. *Since confirmed to be Wed April 30<sup>th</sup>*

#### **3. COM report**

Nicholson Bridge redecked – opened on Wed, Michael to send photo to Keith for webpage. This is the end of the DOTAR funding

Study to establish User numbers –intend to ask businesses.

Wellington Shire given \$25k for next 3 years – contact Gippsland Plains RT group to ask how this was achieved.

Michael to give presentation to EGSC – ask councillors how EGS is promoting Rail Trail in tourism for region, and suggest they are falling behind Wellington Shire. Issue invitation to ride the trail.

Grants – ‘Bush guardians’ weed control grants – identified various projects. Sue to contact co-ordinator and put application together.

Risk management some money available – Andrew to see if can obtain funding for Scholnas Ck bridge nr Bairnsdale, Nicholson Bridge side approach and house demolition near Mossiface, Nowa Nowa where the new cycle bridge edges washed away.

Two positions vacant in COM – Chris Shoemaker has resigned

Trail notes – there will be 4 sets and one for side trips. Will be area for FAQ – Keith can set up so list of questions and answers come up.

#### **4. Projects for 08**

Burn Rd – signs needed – waiting for Council to respond to letter for assistance

Kilometre posts – progressing. The zero will be Mckechran St.

Lees Rd – the 07 planting is doing well some losses. Suggestion for working bee to plant other embankments close to this area could be same day as AGM.

Drivers break – no action on this at present

## 5. Treasurers report

Paid for table at Nicholson Bridge, stamps and reimbursement for plants and mulch. Current balance \$3012.

6. **Membership** – about 30 not re-newed, will write letter about the value of membership inviting them to rejoin. Make this a separate letter with invoice.
7. **Newsletter** edition put out in March. Next one with AGM notification – needs to be at least 3 weeks before the AGM. Aim for end of June. Will put business friends list in next edition and some of Elizabeth Bakewell's report of her trail riding experiences as published in Bairnsdale Advertiser.
8. **Website** users remain high – in Feb was over 1000 unique visitors to the website. First payment using paypal. Michael to send photos to Keith for front page. Positive feedback from visitors using the trail on website content and presentation.

## 9. Other items

9.1 need 'steep descent' sign near trestle bridge

9.2 Eddie seen suitable seat and table frame made by Bairnsdale metals, purchase frame and attach wood for seat and table. Would like to see this located near the Burn Rd end of trail. Eddie to locate suitable site, then would need to be checked with Bill Storer before installation.

9.3 lots of trees and branches down on trail removed by Eddie

9.4 Marlene to e-mail EGSC re availability of water at Nowa Nowa

9.5 Janice to take membership forms to Mike at Mingling waters

9.6 Orbost to Marlo – Ethos been selected to do feasibility study – should be press release soon.

## 10. Next meeting AGM – July 27<sup>th</sup> Sue to check out Bruthen pub