

Friends of East Gippsland Rail Trail Association Inc.

Minutes of Meeting held on August 8th at Nicholson

1. Attendance:, Michael Oxer, Eddie Slatter, Vicki Everett, Marlene Robb, Keith Law, Andrew Sharpe, Janice Preston, Lyn Walters, Jim Douthat.
Apologies: Sue Peirce Alan Jones, Geoff Preston, Andrew Sharpe, Clive & Jill Gaskill, Glen Herbert.

2. Minutes of previous meeting accepted.

Moved: Vicki Seconded: Jim Carried

3. Business arising:

3.1 Steel bollards. 4 have been made by Alan. one installed to date at Nicholson Bridge.

3.2 Newsletter. Last issue circulated. Using the web site, members can check.

3.3 Orbost end access. Ltr required to Council seeking support. Needs clear signs in Orbost + access track via road bridge, to Burn Rd. RT management will be holding meeting with Council reps to outline details. Vicki and Marlene to prep ltr. and provide notes for Snowy Mail.

3.4 Web site: notes re safety on the trail (Keith)

4. Treasurer's report: no report tabled.

5. Membership:

Strong response to renewal notice. Many are taking up the multi year renewal option and individual category shifting to family category. 73 up to AGM. 27 renewals.

New applications from:

(Individual) Steve Websdale, Alex Hatjkowicz

(Family) Maria Cardoso, Zbigniew Peter Matarszyk

(Business) Lake Whadie Cafe (Bairnsdale), Chestnut Hill Country Estate, Tambo Park Cottages

Moved that these applications be accepted. Vicki Seconded: Vicki. Marlene CARRIED

6. EGRT committee of management report (Andrew Sharpe)

6.1 NN to Orbost extension. 5 tenders received. Contract to be signed.

6.2 Bruthen Walking Trail project. Launch of map on 27/8. RT part of the system.

6.3 Similar project considered for Nowa Nowa.

6.4 Bruthen arts project. Plan to concrete the 'floor' of the tunnel, add lighting etc, so that it can be used on a regular basis for community events. Better access to the main street planned.

6.5 Donation of old rail infrastructure from VicTrack for use on the trail.

6.6 Galvanised culverts at Wiseleigh; considering removal as scrap.

6.7 Lockable metal gates to be installed at Phillips Lane to prevent illegal traffic. Gates being left open and with the road now sealed increased risk to trail users at this crossing.

6.8 Lanes Rd area. BACE working on revegetation.

6.9 power lines installation at Harmans Rd. some tree removal, replanting to be done.

7. 'Trail Mail' Newsletter

Marlene working on next issue. Copy will be posted on the web site and members with email advised that they can download or read on screen.

8. Website

Keith tabled an informative stats report. Since last report, 185 unique visits or 233. He explained some of the growth options for use of the site, including capacity (considerable) and a Forum section for messaging etc. This could be used to gather brief reports from visitors and be an ongoing source of updated info on e.g. trail condition etc.

The feedback option is getting use. Because of the SQL database capacity a member only section could be added, password protected. The Business Friends section will also be expanded. Report noted with thanks to Keith for his continued great work on the web site.

10. Activities

1) launch of Bruthen Walks project on 27 Aug. members encouraged to attend.

2) bike ride on Saturday August 28. Starts at Nowa Nowa and Bairnsdale to Bruthen for lunch. 10 am start at each end.

11. Working bee

NEXT EVENT. SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 10th @ BRUTHEN. (note - NOT Sunday)

Meet on RT behind tennis courts (East of Tambo bridge). Cleaning up section between the highway crossings. Proposed lunch at Bruthen Pub to follow.

12. Meeting closed at 8.26 pm.

NEXT MEETING October Monday 10th. Location to be advised.