

Friends of East Gippsland Rail Trail Inc
Minutes of meeting held Feb 14th at Wy Yung Hotel, Bairnsdale

1. **Attendance:** Janice Preston, Eddie Slatter, Jim Douthwat, Vicki Everett, Alan Jones, John Websdale, Lyn , Sue Peirce, Michael Oxer, Andrew Sharpe
Apologies: Clive and Jill Gaskill, Frank and Sheila Gardiner, Keith Law, Marlene Robb, Geoff Stevenson
2. **Minutes previous meeting** - moved Vicki, 2nd Lyn accepted – Minutes sent e-mail by Michael, and some by post.
3. **Business arising:** Friends info, abbreviated form of RT brochure and letterhead – all need to be done – Sue and Michael to follow up.
4. **Treasurer's report:** John noted \$766.45 in bank – written report avail next time.
5. **COM report** Andrew made the following report:
 - 4 cubic metres of ballast sold from Bumberrah
 - slashing around two houses adjoining old Bruthen station grounds
 - “Stewardships in Action” grant – applied for \$6000 for deviation around Nicholson Bridge to make a circuit track and bridge detour if required to close bridge for repairs.
 - Feature on Rail Trails in Age, Jan 13th with info on East Gippsland.
 - Licence renewal letters sent out
 - Renewed Friends Insurance for 2005-02-15 Wasp nest removed from trail near Bairnsdale
 - Considering employing RT manager
 - Registering for GST as required for ATO for \$600000 funding
 - Preparing estimate of costs and milestones for federal Govt funding
 - First action will be sign – wording to be confirmed- opened by Peter McGauran to be located at Nowa Nowa and Newmerella re the funding for completion of trail
 - Did a 2 day survey and made a working plan
 - Slashing on trail from Bairnsdale to Stevenson's Rd
 - Slashing on trail from Bruthen to Mossiface
 - Spraying of trail grass on surface – Bruthen to Mossiface
 - 1 day volunteer work for Forest tech students (15) somewhere on rail trail
 - Fire Management plan completed with assistance from Shire, CFA and DSE
 - Bicycle Victoria RT Discovery weekend – EG and Discovery trail – Friends will also organise ride for this event.
 - Investigated fence in wrong place at Mossiface – making agreement with owner.
 - Vic Roads community meeting Feb 15th on re-routing of trail at Nowa Nowa. Check that horse catered for in plans. Geoff Preston to attend
 - New brochure –will include advertising of services pertinent to trail users – want 100 businesses, will include details on website for cost of ad. Andrew asked for friends to check the current brochure and notify him of any inaccuracies asap.

6. Meeting schedule for 2005

Meetings will be every 2nd month , on second Monday

Date	Location	Contact
Feb 14	Bairnsdale, Wy Yung pub	Sue
April 11	Orbost top pub near roundabout	Vicki
June 5	AGM, Sunday, Mingling Waters	Janice
Aug 8	Nicholson – at pub to be confirmed	Sue
Oct 10	Bruthen at pub	
Dec 12	Bairnsdale	

Suggested have presentation at AGM on trail, food provided, renew memberships and ride to meeting from Bruthen – also item in local papers

7. Rides – are to suit cyclists of all abilities – catching up breaks and designated last rider, direct any questions to particular ride co-ordinator

Date	Location	Contact
Feb 27 Sunday Nicholson at 10am	Nicholson to Metung ~ 30k and return, or stop off at Johnsonville for shorter ride. Lunch at Metung Meet outside Nicholson pub at 10 am. Easy surface, some on road	Alan Jones 51 53 1454
March 13 Sunday Bruthen at 10am	Discovery trail – to coincide with BV rail trail discovery w/e. Forest tech tour and café open at w/e. Start from Bruthen, near toilet block in median strip at 10 to ride to discovery trail . Aim to be at Forestech for café time and 2pm tour Need mountain bike, Could start from	Sue Peirce/Michael 51 56 8228
April 24 Orbost	Route to be determined	Vicki
May 22 Bairnsdale	Bairnsdale to Paynesville and ferry to Raymond Island	Alan Jones
Jun 5 Bruthen	AGM at Nowa Nowa Ride from Bruthen Details to be worked out with AGM	
July 31 Orbost	Route to be determined	Marlene and Keith

Aug 28 Start from Nowa Nowa and Bairnsdale	Ride from N-N or Bairnsdale and meet in Bruthen main street for lunch at 12.30 Start Bairnsdale at 10am Nicholson 11.am Nowa Nowa 10am	Sue/Michael 51 56 8228
Sept 25 Bairnsdale	Lindenaugh to Middle Weir	Alan Jones 5153 1454
Oct 23 Orbost	Route to be determined	Eddie
Nov 20 Bairnsdale	Bullumwaal Rd	Alan Jones
Dec 4 Orbost	Route to be determined Lake Tyers House	

8. Working Bees

Many places on the trail where work is needed – by small groups and larger groups – the difficulty is organising so all attendees are usefully occupied. This is where a trail manager would be extremely useful.

Jobs are on website and Andrew can be contacted to direct any volunteer effort.

Several individuals are working on projects, Clive and Frank on kilometre markers and Alan on bollard construction to control vehicle access to trail.

The black wattle removal requires ongoing attention and if the success of the Bosses Swamp (near Nicholson) working bee could be repeated this would really impact on the problem in this location.

Set some dates for major efforts and work out details later.

May 1

Sept 11

9. Newsletter

Vicki to help Janice – will e-mail out as many as possible.

Info on rides, meetings and working bees to be included.

10. Website

Keith has been adding links - including to Rail Trails Australia website which means maps can be printed off.

Been getting some feedback on website.

11. other items

- Tambo Rambler – newsletter happy to include info on rail trail and activities
- Equipment grants – advertised and applications close on March 5th. Sue to put in for counters to monitor use of trail.
- Toilet block at Stony creek – put in disabled toilet with steps! Too expensive to build ramp. Andrew gave explanation.
- Trail condition poor near Bruthen – overgrown etc, Andrew said some work had been done recently – feed back welcome.

12. Meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Next meeting April 11 Orbost

At Top pub near roundabout.

Meeting starts 7.30 pm

Meet for meal before at 6.30 pm - let Vicki know if requiring meal