

Friends of East Gippsland Rail Trail

Meeting 1/09

Held at Commonwealth Hotel, Orbost Feb 11th 2009

1.Attendance: Marlene Robb, Keith Law, Geoff Preston, Sue Peirce, Michael Oxe

Apologies: Lynne Walters, Janice Preston, Michael McSteven, Andrew Sharpe, Gary Squires, May

2. Minutes of previous meeting, [Nowa Nowa 10.11.08] accepted

Business arising:

2.1 The shelter at Burn Rd car park has been completed. Thanks sent to Gary Watt for his help in getting this done by local builder. The Friends group will undertake to plant out the area in triangle from shelter, Burn rd and rail reserve. \$500 allocated for project. This was done on Dec 3rd after contractor sprayed the area and good rain. 150 plants were put in and have since been watered by Marlene and Keith. Survival rate is excellent. Sue and Michael to spot spray weeds asap.

2.2 Application to EGSC Community small grants for signs and maps and information shelter at Bairnsdale entry for \$1820. Decision will be made by end of April.

3. Treasurer's report –

a/c for payment

Andrew McPherson for fencing at Bumberrah \$ 371.80 [Bush guardians grant]

Jurg Hepp plants and herbicide spray \$500

Balance at bank \$4928.30 + \$48 in pay pal account.

4. Membership – two new business members Bellas of Bruthen [accommodation, and Rick McKlusky Sports Orbost. This makes current membership; 19 businesses, 29 families, and 17 individuals.

5. Committee of Management

Michael reported

5.1 Toilet from Log crossing offered to Orbost end – suggested location Partelli's crossing. Would cost \$1100 to pump out each year. To discuss with Gary Watts.

5.2 Sign pulled out at Burn rd exit is now further up the trail

5.3 km marker posts have been engraved – Gus trying to get Green Corp assistance to install.

5.4 Nowa Nowa bypass – the incline is of concern where trail has been relocated to accommodate the road changes at Nowa Nowa.

5.5 Been speaking with Forest tech with prospect of conservation students being involved with projects on trail.

5.6 \$5000 received from EGSC for a maintenance and development strategy for EG RT. This will involve facilitator, CoM consultation and community consultation.

5.7 EGRT and Gippsland Plains RT to make joint submission for biodiversity study under auspices of Gippsland Plains Conservation Management Network

5.8 Trail section near Bruthen where trail crosses road has been sealed.

6. Activities for 2009

6.1 Improve information – maps, signs on trail

6.2 Use of rock barriers has been very effective in preventing damage to fences and chicanes. Could do similar at Fairweather's Track, Wairewa, and alongside fence at Jonson's Rd. Rocks need to be partially buried to prevent being shoved aside. Suggested ask Charlie Whelan, currently moving rock for road works at Nowa Nowa. Greg Forester at Partelli's crossing has equipment [\$60/hr] could be engaged to put into place.

6.3 Drivers break – is still a mess. Perhaps follow up with Alinta – damage was caused with contractors clearing last year – no response from DSE re our concerns on process.

6.4 Bruthen – trail around Bruthen township is a mess – lots of grassy weeds, needs on -going maintenance.

7. Nicholson bridge project – continued weed control and watering. Approx \$320 left in this grant. Could do more planting in 09. Sue to write report and discuss future funding and planting with East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority.

8. Bush guardians – volunteers prepared fence for repair and this has now been completed. Done 3 spot sprays in area from Dec to Feb. Getting good control of paspalum, Indian grass. Have collected themedia thatch and will spread on bare area where weeds have been killed in April.

9. Newsletter

Marlene has just about finished first edition for 09. Need to complete a photocopy request form to assist Craig Ingram's office.

10. Website

Keith doing a facelift – green thought to be appropriate colour. Trail Notes are now on website.

11. Other items

11.1 Thanks to Vicki and Geoff and Eddie for spraying weeds using tanker.

11.2 **Ride to Buchan is Sat March 7th** from Orbost Forest Park at 9.30, Sat 60k and Sunday 65k. Book own accommodation. Contact is Keith Law.

Other rides;

June 13/14 – Gippsland Plains [Sue Peirce]

Sept 27th Mississippi Trail from Bruthen or Nowa Nowa [Sue]

Meeting dates

May 11th Nowa nowa

Aug 9th AGM at Bruthen

Nov 9th Nicholson – including ride at 5pm and BBQ at 7pm

Meeting closed at 8.30pm