

Friends of East Gippsland Rail Trail

Ordinary meeting held at Bairnsdale May 14th 2007

1. Attendance:

Janice Preston	Sue Peirce
Keith Law	Michael Oxe
Marlene Robb	Bill Vallingale [Mitchell R Caravan Park]
Andrew Sharpe	Gus Gerrig
John Websdale	

Apologies :

Lynne Walters	Geoff Preston	Alex Hadjkowicz
Clive Gaskill		

2.Minutes of previous meeting (4/06) held at Bruthen Aug 14, 2006 accepted
Business arising

2.1 Greening Australia

Neil Baker from Greening Australia was invited to the meeting and gave an overview of the organisation. Greening Australia is a not for profit organisation with 4 regions in Victoria, this area is SE region and extends from Warragul to Mallacouta.

Main functions

1. contracts for government work, provides advice for landholders re vegetation maintenance and restoration
2. catchment authority eg Snowy River
3. consultancy work eg clearing and restoration and landscape review eg Gippsland Plains Rail trail 67k development of landscape plan
4. partnership work with corporates interested in sponsoring GA to Greencorp – funded by federal government GA supervises Greencorp projects.

The role of Greening Australia for EGRT could be to develop vegetation plan and prepare submissions for grants to carry out the plan. Funding bodies include Envirofund, EG shire Council, Catchment Management Authority.

Neil to send information with the objective of producing a vegetation strategy which can be used by COM and Friends group to gradually implement.

2.2 Remnant rainforest revegetation project at Nicholson Bridge.

The EG Catchment management authority approved \$2112.50 for works in this area.

To:

- fence the upstream paddock
- rabbit control – needs to be ongoing
- blackberry and other weed control
- replanting with suitable rainforest species
- explanatory sign of project

There have been several site inspections and the fence installed. Blackberries have been cut and painted with herbicide and the extensive patches are much reduced.

Capeweed and pasture grasses sprayed and some planting undertaken. Plants included hopbush, goodenia, limestone pomaderris, sticky daisies, tree violet, mutton wood and a limestone blue wattle.

Railtrails Australia funded and installed a seat at this location in memory of Barry Holt, a RTA president. Following this event a Donation of \$300 was received from Mrs Holt to FEGRT. The meeting decided to use this towards the purchase of a picnic table at this site.

2.3 Burn Rd connection

Work has commenced – not sure of estimated time of completion. This area, the Burn Rd carpark and the new path, would benefit from planting with suitable species.

2.4 New brochure is ready – Marlene to distribute in Orbost area, Michael to take to Bairnsdale, Sale, Traralgon, Federation Sq, Southern Cross Station, Yarragon. 20,000 will be distributed by Bicycle Victoria with magazine. Excellent product and Michael thanked for his work to bring to fruition.

2.5 Restitution works completed between Bruthen and Bruce's track. The crushing of the ballast has produced a very good surface. Bruthen to Nicholson section grading work to clean out gutters and gravel to be put on surface.

2.6 Magnetic signs for cars on trail, Janice and Eddie have one. Michael has 2 spare if anyone needs a magnetic sign for car

2.7 Shelter – no further word on this. Andrew has an information board for when shelter is built.

3. **Treasurer's report** John Websdale reported balance of \$5050

4. **Membership** Currently 32 individuals, 24 businesses and 32 families

5. **Committee of Management**

restoration works main focus

contractor should be working on Driver's break soon.

Bumberrah – to Lees Rd bits are collapsing – discussions with East Gippsland Water

Crown Land Regulations from Victorian Gazette – Crown Lands Reserves [Gippsland Rail trail Reserves] Regulations 1998 tabled. Need report for Newsletter.

6. **Events – NEXT EVENT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

BRUTHEN HOTEL ON SUNDAY JULY 22 [note change of date] at 1pm

Ride from Nicholson leave at 10am Sue 5156 8228 or

Ride from Nowa Nowa leave at 10am

Depart at 2.30 for return

Aug 26 around Nicholson – leave at 10 from Nicholson Jetty

Oct 14 Bruthen to Nowa Nowa

7. **Newsletter** – Marlene is starting – deadline 3 weeks will need to include AGM material

8. **Website** – plenty of hits. 75% by typing address or favorites, and 12% through Google or other search engine. Keith is upgrading website and would like feedback especially regarding design. Can look at www.orbostbikerides.net/test

Plan is to change over in Aug- Sept

9. Other business

Permission to buy 2 rakes and 2 hoes for Friends – approved Michael to go ahead with purchase.

Work started on pedestrian bridge at Nowa Nowa

Gary Yellen doing signs

GVBR is going from Phillip Island to Buchan in 2007 – not sure if using trail

Bitumen sections being invaded with paspalum – contractor will spray.

10. Next Meeting AGM at Bruthen 1pm Sunday July 22

meeting closed at 9.00