

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

### **Meeting held Nov 10<sup>th</sup> Nowa Nowa, 2008**

1. Attendance: Janice & Geoff Preston, Eddie Slatter, Marlene Robb, Keith Law, Michael Oxer, Sue Peirce

Apologies: Mike Ryan, Andrew Sharpe, Lynne Walters

2. Business Arising:

2.1 Trail counters – average weekly count at Bairnsdale of 180, others need data collection

2.2 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ride on Nov 29<sup>th</sup> to commence at Bairnsdale entry at 9.30. First COM President, Bruce Bowden, will unveil the plaque, now fixed in position on the signal arm. This was the original plaque made for the opening. There will be walk/ride to Nicholson.

3. Treasurer's report current balance is \$5,734

A/c's paid postage \$55, plants \$233.28[Nicholson bridge], reimburse MO mulch \$50 [Nicholson bridge], & \$260 Bush guardians for spray packs and herbicide.

4. Report on 2008 projects

4.1 Nicholson Bridge – some weed spraying Oct 5, watering done on two occasions, Oct 6<sup>th</sup> and Nov 2, total 10.5 hours.

4.2 Bush guardians at Bumberrah waiting for suitable conditions for spot spraying. Cut and painted box thorn near Bosses swamp.

4.3 Km marker posts are ready for routing. They will not be painted. To be installed next year.

4.4 Lees Rd re-vegetation project. Many plants have not survived dry winter/spring. Want contractor to do maintenance, MO to follow up conditions of contract.

4.5 Burn rd project – shelter to be installed. Planting out to be done next year. Allocate \$500 from FEGRT budget in 2009 for this planting.

5. COM report -new committee

Chairman: Michael Oxer

Secretary : Jacquie Martin

Treasurer: Andrew Sharpe

Committee: Michael McSteven, Brian Gustus, John Nelson, Bob Yeates.

Decision to remove bridge over Mitchell river, MO to meet with Bill Storer and Vic Roads to see if any chance to keep part for future pathway or obtain \$'s for scrap.

The section of trail from highway to Bruce's Track will be re-sheeted – just waiting for rain.

The section near Bruthen where trail crosses highway will be sealed.

Brochure needs reprinting – anyone who knows a business which may be interested contact MO – suggestions made – Nowa Nowa caravan park.

6. Newsletter – Marlene will produce another edition before Christmas. The new edition will be print quality – items to Marlene asap. Next edition to go out before first meeting for 2009.
7. Website – continues to have many hits. Keith needs documentation for Paypal account. Front page to be updated.

8. Meetings for 2009 – suggested be reduced to quarterly as much communication done by email /phone.

Feb 9 <sup>th</sup>	Orbost 7pm at Commercial
May 11 <sup>th</sup>	Nowa Nowa 7pm at Nowa Nowa pub
Aug 9 <sup>th</sup>	AGM & ordinary meeting at Bruthen 1pm at Bruthen Inn
Nov 9 <sup>th</sup>	Nicholson – short ride 5pm, then BBQ and meeting at 7pm

9. Rides

March 7 <sup>th</sup>	Orbost to Buchan with SNOBS – [Keith]
June 13/14 <sup>th</sup>	Gippsland Plains [Sue]
Sept 27 <sup>th</sup>	Ride Mississippi trail from Bruthen or Nowa Nowa or start of Mississippi trail[Sue]

10. Other items;

- 10.1 Bairnsdale to Orbost ride raised \$465 for COM
- 10.2 Check Jurg Hep for plants for Burn Rd
- 10.3 Feature a business friend in Trail Notes – suggested Apple Spice Cottage or Mingling Waters for starters.
- 10.4 Include a 'how to join friends' in the Newsletter
- 10.5 Send copies of our Newsletter to libraries – at Lakes, Orbost, Bairnsdale and also historical societies
- 10.6 Key for gates – need to write to COM – apparently Jim Barnett could use key.

11. Meeting closed at 10.30 – thanks to Janice and Geoff for hosting BBQ and pre meeting ride through Nowa Nowa rail trail and walking tracks