

Friends of East Gippsland Rail Trail

Ordinary meeting, 04/07, held at Nowa Nowa Pub, Sept 10th, 2007

1. Attendance:

Janice Preston	Sue Peirce
Keith Law	Geoff Preston
Marlene Robb	Eddie Slatter
Vicki Everret	Michael Oxe

Apologies :

Andrew Sharpe	Norman Broad
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2.Minutes of previous meeting (3/07) held at Bruthen July 22nd 2007 accepted

Business arising

2.1 Greening Australia

Neil Baker from Greening Australia has not sent information as suggested at meeting, followed up with 2 calls. Marlene also reminded Neil to send the information.

2.2 Remnant rainforest revegetation project at Nicholson Bridge. Some more weed control and planting done in July. A picnic table has arrived for this site, yet to be installed. Sign is up providing information on project. Progress report sent to EGCSA.

2.3 Picnic table has been installed near Partelli's crossing. Thanks to Keith, Marlene, John and Michael.

2.4 Burn Rd connection this is finished and looks very good. Signs are excellent and FEGRT to write to Council expressing thanks. There is a problem where cattle cross the path, this will be resolved once the tunnel is built for them.

2.5 Marlo off road trail site inspection had very good representation including Vicroads [Lachlan McArthur], Al Campbell from EGSC, Liz Clay DSE, Sue Rainer and Chris Filmer [Santos]. Two route options were considered and the preferred option is on the Marlo side of the river linking up with rail trail and Curlipp, as this does not need big bridge. The project is part of 'Go for your life' Victorian Govt in partnership with DSE using public land for recreation. The appointment of a consultant to conduct a feasibility study is the next stage.

2.6 Bairnsdale to Eagle Point connection. Reply to letter from Al Campbell – saying that the work done by VicRoads on the B-P Rd was disappointing in terms of a safe cycling route. This is an important connection to encourage cycling/walking options using rail trail. Meeting resolved to write to EGSC and Peter McGauran and Craig Ingram to seek support for this connection. The rail trail with safe routes to Marlo, Lakes and Paynesville makes an attractive package for locals and tourists.

2.7 Annual Return for Incorporated Group to Consumer Affairs lodged

3. **Treasurer's report** In the process of handing over to Geoff, will be report for next meeting

4. Committee of Management

Andrew sent report

'General condition of trail is okay after the flood but due to erosion repair work is still rough in the Harman's Rd, Bumberrah to Bruthen section. . Re-surfacing of gravel is to begin again this week. In the Harman's road and Bumberrah area.

The trail can remain open, 'work ahead' signs should be used and plant operators are usually good at letting pedestrians/cyclists pass safely. Some creek crossings (Dirty Hollow, Ironstone, Wairewa, Hospital) still to be repaired.

Difficulty in the job has been meeting suitable moisture content of the trail and gravel.

2. DOTAR funding getting nearer to end date (March 2008). Main jobs to complete with the funding include: Making safe Hwy crossings at Bruthen area, Nicholson bridge work to address rotten timbers etc.,

any minor surfacing requirements after fire and flood damage, installation of chicanes/gates at a few more intersections Bairnsdale to Bruthen section.

3. Great Victorian Bike Ride coming this way in November 24th to December 2nd. An option for some to use the Rail Trail is going to be available on Day 8, Saturday 1st December. Last time the RT gave

about 500 people the opportunity to experience it. Some marshalling help may be required on the day.

4. A reminder that prior to any works such as sign installations etc. being done on the trail, they must be first be authorised by the Land Manager, (Coasts & Crown Land Management, DSE).

5. Trail from Burns Rd into Orbost is mostly complete, some signs are up. This is a Shire path which joins the trail into Orbost. A stock underpass is due to be installed later this year to address the concern of stock crossing the trail.

6. Thanks to Marlene and Keith, for their donation towards the new bench seat at Partellis Xing. Also to Keith for \$200 donation to the Trail from sale of web skills.'

Michael reported another seat had been installed, donated by the Garden family. Need seat at Nowa Nowa.

5. Newsletter

Items to Marlene asap – Janice has guidelines for horses to include.

6. Website – still good use 30-40 hits per day. Glen Herbert's website is now on as business friend.

7. Membership 42 reminders sent out and 16 replies. Current financial membership is now 69. If business friends do not renew they will be removed from website.

8. Events – Sue reported perfect weather for Aug 26th ride, the soft surface near Bruthen is much better, seems to have hardened up. Had wonderful views of the Tambo valley and Bruthen and finished back at Nicholson after an

enjoyable 50k. Trail damage is severe – some dangerous areas reported to CoM.

NOTE CHANGE OF RIDES

Nowa Nowa planning an 'Now Long Weekend' to replace the Nowa Nowa nudes. We will change our ride dates to enable Friends to ride to Nowa Nowa to participate.

Sunday Nov 25th

Orbost to Nowa Nowa **meet at Burn Rd at 9.00** Vicki 5154 2959

Bruthen to N-N **meet near Bakery in Main St at 10am** Sue 51568228

This cancels the Oct 14th ride and the Nov 11th ride

Vicki to plan a Jan ride.

Working bee

Sun Sept 16th near Lees Rd to plant areas repaired after flood 10am

9. Other items

Rail trail guide for Victoria and SA new edition is available – see RT Australia website to order -

10.Next meeting

Nicholson Monday Nov 12th at 7pm

Meeting closed at 2.45pm.