

The Trail Mail

Inside

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3.

THE TRAIL MAIL

The exciting story continues...

Yes its happened!!!!

We now have an EGRT website.

Log on to www.eastgippslandrailtrail.com to find out all the latest news for the East Gippsland Rail Trail and our Friends. Yes, thanks to the hard work of Keith Law and Michael Oxer and also the tireless work of Bob Yeates,, we can now log on to view all the news, meeting minutes, Trail Mail and diary. The site is linked to www.railtrail.com and other useful sites. So those of you who have access to the internet, log on and enjoy.

THANKS ALSO TO MR BILL ROSS AT WWW.LAKES-ENTRANCE.COM FOR LISTING US ON HIS SITE.

Grants success

We're really pleased to say that the Friends are learning from our mistakes. Our first attempt at seeking a grant for equipment to assist with maintenance of the trail was unsuccessful, but Well done Sue for trying again

The first major funding breakthrough for the new Friends Association is news that a Federal Government small equipment grant of \$2,800 has been successful! The grant will be used to purchase tools and safety equipment.

"Our shopping list includes tools which will greatly increase our capacity to have more effective working bees on the rail trail. This grant will also benefit the local economy because all items will be purchased locally."

Working Bee at Bruthen—Bruthen Tunnel Section Gets a Clean Up

On Sunday morning June 20th, a group of seven Friends and Committee of management members, got stuck in to clearing the grass, rubbish and dead wattles along the trail on the Mossiface side of the trail at Bruthen.

A combination of mowing, slashing, pruning, whipper snipping and chain sawing had two trailer loads of green waste and a pile of other debris removed..

Several young trees were fitted with jackets and stakes and work started on clearing the small triangle of land by the footbridge. Over grown fig trees were pruned and some of the rampant weed growth knocked down. Time did not permit dealing with the cutting on the Tambo side, which needs considerable clearing of heavy grass and weeds etc.

Thanks to Janice (who also did some clearing at the station site) and her mother Dawn and Robyn, Andrew, Gus, Sue, and Michael.

After taking the trailers to the transfer station (thanks to John W. for access) the last five retired to the Bruthen Inn for a beer and roast lunch with generous consideration by Robyn and Angela, the hotel proprietors. A great effort by all involved and an excellent start at having the Bruthen section look a pleasant place to walk or cycle.

Bruthen Trail Side Resident Takes the Initiative

Just west of the main road tunnel at Bruthen, Tim Wadsworth and his family have gradually cleaned up the trail embankment. It stands out as an example of how the whole of that section could look to visitors. Their effort is a contrast to the east side of the tunnel.. Tim has planted several trees along the south side of the trail. He also pointed out that a drainage pipe was installed too high to drain water from along the side of the trail. Well done Tim

Orbost Rides

Friend Keith Law has also been busy establishing an Orbost bike rides website. Log on to www.orbostbikerides.net to find a comprehensive and informative tour guide for rides around the Orbost area. Anyone who has a favourite ride you would like to share, contact Keith.

July Friends Ride

Just a small group participated in this ride along the Gippsland Lakes Discovery Trail to Log Crossing Picnic area. Somehow we managed to miss meeting up at the trail head on the Railtrail at Seatons Track - just 11 km from Bruthen. However it must have only been by five or ten minutes as our party had no sooner set up lunch when the other group came riding in..

The Discovery Trail runs through the Colquhoun State Forest linking the railtrail to Lakes Entrance.. Our destination, Log Crossing Picnic Area, is just over 11km from the railtrail and is generally downhill. It mostly follows the Mississippi Creek along a narrow, gravelly path and crosses the creek several times via sturdy timber bridges.

We rode through some fairly dense forest at times and it was quite a contrast , to the railtrail, cycling along this trail with its taller eucalypts casting deep shadows across the leaf litter strewn track. The scattered bark and fallen twigs suggested recent wild weather down in this gully. At one point we had to get off and lift our bikes across a fallen tree. The

air was cool and the ground damp as we pedalled on , absorbing the freshness and peace of this delightful trail

The D..S.E. Notes on the Gippsland Lakes Discovery Trail gives the historical background to the quarry (4kms) and the light tram railway route which forms the basis of the trail. In the early 1900's the tramway was constructed to move granite from this quarry to Lakes Entrance where it was used in the building of a permanent ocean entrance. .As we rode we could imagine the trams making their way through the narrow cuttings and saw old sleepers and granite blocks beside the track.

Lunch stop was the Log Crossing Picnic Area (7.5kms) and it was an ideal spot in a pleasant clearing with picnic tables and toilet. There are usually lots of birds here. Last time we rode there, we were serenaded by a lyrebird singing his little heart out with his full repertoire of bird impressions. I think Geoff frightened him away this time.

We decided to ride back via Uncles Road a more gentle uphill slope. Riding back along the forest roads was really enjoyable - lemony-yellow wattle, bright red heath and deep green bracken fern -a nice easy ride in good company!

Perhaps we could repeat this ride at another time so that more of our members could come along and appreciate the trail as we did.

Friends of East Gippsland Rail Trail Orbost June Bicycle Ride by Marlene Robb

Considering some of the gloomy weather we have experienced recently, we were extremely lucky to have a sunny day for the Orbost bike ride in early June.

Eddie had chosen a flattish, scenic route which would take us along the quiet back roads above the Snowy and then down onto the flats.

Beginning at Forest Park, we rode out toward Newmerella along Burn Road up the hill till we reached the highway near Grandview. We crossed safely to Thomas Road and turned at the C.F.A. Building into Corringale Road. From Back Corringale Road we turned off into Lake Road.

On such a magical, cloudless day we could really appreciate the fresh, green countryside as we pedalled along. There was no traffic to harass us and with a good firm road surface we could chat to whoever cycled alongside. I had a great conversation with young Brent - learned quite a few family secrets!

Norm and Jane lent their property as the lunch stop and so we were able to enjoy a satisfying barbecued lunch in a peaceful setting before completing the ride.

A downhill ride led us to the Snowy at Lochend and we then followed the river back to town.. This is always a pleasant day's jaunt.

Thanks Eddie, Norm and Jane for your organization of both the route and the fantastic weather. We thoroughly enjoyed the outing.

Spreading the Word—Nowa Nowa, Orbost, Bairnsdale Rotary Club

At the recent “Other Awards “ held at Nowa Nowa, the community were asked for their opinion on the future needs and directions for the town. It became very apparent that the townsfolk were of the belief that the railtrail extension from Nowa Nowa to Orbost is a done deal. Janice moved from table to table explaining that community support is essential to support the Rail Trail Committee of Management in their application for funds to extend the trail.. It was great to share the excitement of the challenge with the local community who without exception, indicated their support for our mission..

Eddie Slater and Jim Douthat are also doing an excellent job of spreading the word about the Friends throughout Orbost. Well done guys. We have a large contingent of members from Orbost and this will also be a great asset as we run full steam ahead at supporting the Committee of Management in the challenge of completing the trail..

On Tuesday June 15th, Michael Oxer shared information about the East Gippsland Rail Trail and the wider international trail movement in a short presentation to Bairnsdale Rotary Club members at their evening meeting. A valuable outcome has been a further meeting with a Rotary Club member with a farm at the Nicholson Bridge on the matter of dealing with dead wattle trees. This kind of cooperative approach is greatly valued as we work to get the trail in to better shape and deal with the problems that arise along the trail.

Local Company Quotes on Stage 3 Concept Plan

Bairnsdale company Ethos NRM has submitted a quote to develop a comprehensive concept –plan for the Nowa Nowa Orbost Section of the trail. The plan would in effect be the working guideline covering all aspects of development including ongoing management requirements. The next step is to find the money to get the job done.

Sand and More Sand

Recent heavy rain has shifted a considerable amount of sand on to the trail for about 100 metres south of the Lees Road Bridge.. The trail rises southward on what is an ancient sand dune posing a problem for controlling drainage and retaining a firm trail surface. There has also been some subsidence on the trench line of the EGW “rising main” (sewerline) pipe laid last year. A horse rider has not helped the matter by galloping over this section. Equestrians are asked to be extra careful on the softer trail sections and ride responsibly to prevent damage to the lanes on the trail for cyclists and walkers. The COM are taking steps to deal with the sand.

Future activities

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2004

Aug 8

Ride and working bee.

Ride from Bairnsdale at 10.00 or Bruthen at 10.00 to Bosses Swamp, just near Lanes Road crossing and west of the Nicholson - Sarsfield Road crossing. Also working bee at the Nicholson Bridge if sufficient helpers, to clean up under pylons. Equipment provided to assist in weed removal and clean up. Bring gloves, hat, suitable clothing and footwear. Lunch after at Nicholson River, picnic/BBQ area.

Sept 19

Ride from Orbost to Youngs Creek, a 20k round trip or longer option. Start from Forest Park will be at 10.30 am

Working Bee at Bruthen Station. **