

The Trail Mail

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STOP PRESS : Nowa Nowa to Orbost - Full Steam Ahead

\$600,000 has been allocated by Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of The Nationals (Federal Transport Minister) John Anderson to complete the rail trail, from Nowa Nowa to Orbost, and undertake maintenance on the existing sections.

Speaking to an expectant crowd beside the rail trail at Bruthen on a sunny Tuesday morning September 28th The Nationals Member for Gippsland, Peter McGauran introduced Mr Anderson and handed out the joint media release which broke the amazing good news. Local media, trail supporters and management committee members present enthusiastically responded to the announcement.

Mr McGauran went on to say “Congratulations must go to the East Gippsland Rail Trail management committee, the Friends of the East Gippsland Rail Trail and local communities that have worked tirelessly to raise funds to complete the trail and undertaken working bees to maintain the existing track. This rail trail will provide visitors to the area with a unique experience of East Gippsland’s natural environment and establish East Gippsland as a first choice destination for domestic and international visitor,” Mr McGauran said.

So indeed, wonderful and unexpected news for all who have already pitched in to help get this rail trail to reality.

BRUTHEN WORKING BEE

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An energetic group of 13 Friends of the Rail Trail worked together to tidy the area around the old Bruthen Railway Station and south of the tunnel at Bruthen on Sunday the 3rd of October. Barrow load after barrow load of grass and rubbish was removed to allow clear passage along the trail. Thanks to all those who helped. A special thanks to the contingent from Orbost. An enjoyable lunch at the Bruthen Pub topped off the day.

The working bee highlighted to us all, how difficult a task it is going to be, especially in Spring, to maintain the trail once extended to Orbost. We believe we're up to the challenge.



PARTNERSHIPS

It is great to see so many individuals and groups becoming involved in our trail. The East Gippsland Aboriginal Co-operative has made a commitment to continue to assist with the removal of timber along the Nicholson section of the trail.

More and more local adjoining landholders are assisting with trail maintenance. It would be great to recognize their assistance in our newsletter, so if you know of someone who deserves a mention, please let me know by phone 51557328 or email at janicepreston@bigpond.com



EG TAFE via a cable laying contractor has also approached the Rail Trail Committee of Management re laying an anoptic fibre cable along part of the trail (Bairnsdale to Nicholson) to link Bairnsdale, Forestech and Seamac (L.E.) TAFE campuses. Part of the construction would involve a considerable amount of suitable revegetation. This would be an opportunity to develop a longer term relationship with the TAFE for ongoing involvement in assisting with maintenance of this section of the trail.

FUNDING APPLICATIONS

The Friends were successful in our application for a Small Equipment Grant. We are

looking forward to purchasing our own tools for use on maintaining the trail.

We have also applied to the East Gippsland Shire Council for a Community Grant to assist with development of Nicholson Walk, a 4Km circuit including the rail trail. If successful, the funding will be used for seats, a shelter and replanting after removal of dead wattles.

LOGO

We now have our own Logo. Look out for the logo for news on the website and in the paper about the Friends activities and achievements.



EAST GIPPSLAND RAIL TRAIL COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

The East Gippsland Shire Council have demonstrated their commitment to the Rail Trail by nominating councilor Peter Bommer to the East Gippsland Rail Trail Committee of Management. Peter's

experience both in council and in business will be invaluable in assisting the Committee in the planning and development of the trail.

The Committee of Management is also seeking to appoint additional committee members to assist them with the task of completing the Nowa Nowa to Orbost section of the trail. Anyone interested in joining the committed team is encouraged to contact Michael Oxer on 0419 583 482.

YOUNGS CREEK FALLS RIDE

A group of the Friends rode out to Young Creek Picnic Area and Falls last Sunday. At about ten kilometres north of Orbost, the reserve is a fairly easy ride along the forest roads.

It took just over an hour to reach the picnic area, a shady spot with picnic tables and barbecues, surrounded by the tall Mahogany Gums common to this

region. A foot track winds down Youngs Creek to the base of the falls in a beautiful gully filled with Kanooka, tea-tree, ferns and moss. We were fortunate that the 13 metre falls were running as, so often in summer they are dry. Across the road from the picnic area the remains of a steam engine that powered a sawmill in the 1920's lies rusting in the overgrowth.

After a lunch break we headed back to Forest Park, stopping several times to look at and discuss some of the historic sites of Orbost - two old abattoirs and a huge paddock bequeathed to the local school by an early settler. Eddy has a vast store of historical knowledge of the Orbost district and it's great to learn about the early times from him. The weather stayed fine, the company, as always was friendly and the physical exertion satisfying! Marlene Robb

FRIENDS ACTIVITIES

OCTOBER 18th 7.30pm
– Committee Meeting at Bairnsdale
NOVEMBER 20th –
Nowa Nowa Nudes Ride
–

Meet at Bruthen or Simpsons Creek Road at 9.30 am for a leisurely ride to Nowa Nowa. Enjoy a visit to the Nowa Nowa Nudes Art festival. Ride to the Nowa Nowa recreation reserve and enjoy BYO picnic lunch (A BBQ will be available) by the Lake before riding home. For those who prefer, lunch is available for purchase at Mingling Waters Café.

NOVEMBER 22nd
7.30pm Committee Meeting at Nowa Nowa.

DECEMBER 12th –
Christmas Ride to be confirmed.

