



The Trail Mail



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New low level concrete crossing at Hospital Creek. This design does not require hand rails and will allow flood water to flow over the top unimpeded.

Big machines at Hospital Creek





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OPENING DAY !!!!!



A community Opening Day event to launch the East Gippsland Rail Trail extension Nowa Nowa to Orbost will be held on Saturday January 28th 2006 at Nowa Nowa. Mr Peter McGauran MP, Member for Gippsland, will cut the ribbon to declare the new section formally open to the public.

The Management Committee extends a cordial invitation to everyone interested in the development of the rail trail to be present on this occasion. 'It is a very significant addition to tourism infrastructure for East Gippsland.' commented Committee Secretary Michael Oxe. 'Completing the trail is at least five years ahead of our expectations, and already it is generating a growing interest for visitors from outside the region. We have notice of several interstate groups preparing to make extended visits and in particular to take up the challenge of completing the full length of our nationally significant rail trail.' he added.

Visitors to the Opening Day can walk or ride the Rail Trail from any point West or East of Nowa Nowa to arrive for 12.15 pm ribbon cutting, with a BBQ lunch to follow. Opening & BBQ will take place east of the Princes Highway Ironstone Creek road bridge. With the addition of the section from Nowa Nowa to Orbost (via Burns Road at Newmerella) the East Gippsland Rail Trail will be one hundred kilometres long, and include also the townships of Nicholson and Bruthen. This project has been made possible by funding from the Australian Government's Regional Partnerships Program.

For further information contact: Michael Oxe Ph 5156 8228

WANTED - EQUESTRIANS!!!!



Janice is trying to organize horses and riders for the January 28 Opening. If you'd like to be part of the pomp and pageantry, contact Janice for further information.



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RAIL OPENING RIDE

Jan 28th 2006

Let's make the first ride for 2006 the biggest! This is such a special event we want as many people as possible to share this to let the powers that be realise how important the trail is to our local communities.

There will be a bus able to take you and your bicycle to Orbost to ride the trail and take you home – to Orbost, Bruthen or Bairnsdale, after the opening at Nowa Nowa.

The transport will be free to Friends of East Gippsland Rail Trail members and \$10 for non – members. Bus return to Orbost will be free.

The schedule:

Saturday Jan 28th

7.30 load bikes and passengers at Bairnsdale at start of trail (Howitt St)
7.45 depart for Bruthen
8.00 load bikes and passengers in Bruthen Main Street, near the Post office
9.00 arrive at Burn Rd and commence ride to Nowa Nowa (34k)
12.15 official opening by Peter McGauran MP
12.30 light refreshments provided by Committee of Management
1.30 Bus takes riders back to Orbost
2.30 Bus returns to Nowa Nowa to pick up Bruthen and Bairnsdale passengers
3.30 Bus arrives at Bruthen – note – can pick up cyclists who have come from Nowa Nowa to Bruthen (27k)
4.00 Bus arrives in Bairnsdale.

If the weather is suitable there will also be a walk around Nowa Nowa (or swim) after the lunch and before the bus returns to Bairnsdale.

All bus users please register before Monday Jan 23rd

It is important we know who is coming on the bus so sufficient bike transport can be arranged. Please provide contact details –

- Name, address and phone number of passengers , number of bikes
- Where you will pick up bus
- From Bairnsdale Bruthen & return
- From Nowa Nowa to Orbost
- Nowa Nowa to Bruthen
- Nowa Nowa to Bairnsdale
- Where you will join the bus if you need to return to Orbost
- Tickets and travel information will be sent to you.

Register by e-mail

michael@oxer.com.au

Phone 5156 8228 - leave message

Mail PO Box 214,
Nicholson



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LAKE TYERS HOUSE BEACH RIDE

The last ride for 2005 was held in perfect weather and was combined with the last meeting for 2005. The start was from Tostaree, which we noted as a good parking place for a ride – with easy access to the trail and the network of roads on the opposite side of the highway.

We took a quick look at the trail under construction, seemed to be a pleasant shady section and one we would look forward to riding on – and not long to wait now!

With less than the usual comfort of local knowledge and no maps we set off and found Pettman's Beach for morning tea. The morass was alive with the sound of striped marsh frogs and the beach contained only our footprints and those of birds. A large sand cliff had formed following the storms of the previous week and stretched as far as we could see.

When leaving the beach for Lake Tyers a strange creature was ahead on the track – as we approached we realised it was a large monitor – it ambled off into the bush and we ambled on to the shade of the Cypress pines on the edge of Lake Tyers.

Lunch and the meeting completed, clouds appeared to be gathering and we set off for the return journey.

Some discussion on the route revealed several different opinions – then we saw another monitor – this time it scurried up a tree scattering bark dust from its huge claws and proceeded to hiss at us. Got a photo of this one, a magnificent creature. The ride back was along a different road but we managed to emerge from the forest right where we had left the cars!

The males of the group were convinced this was good management. We covered 45k – beautiful country, good company, perfect weather and fantastic lizards!

Sue Pearce



WEBSITE REPORT

In November we migrated the website to a new larger and more reliable server. The website receives substantial use as shown by these statistics that cover the first 19 days of December.

81% of users directly connect to the website from bookmarks/favourites or by typing in the URL. 7% find the site from search engines mainly Google, Yahoo and MSN.

12% link from other websites. In December mainly:

Bicycle Victoria	27
Railtrails Aust	12
Bicycle.net.au	10
Wilderness Bike Ride	5
Travel Vic	2

Day	Number of visits	Pages
01 Dec 2005	13	20
02 Dec 2005	10	27
03 Dec 2005	14	81
04 Dec 2005	10	49
05 Dec 2005	14	135
06 Dec 2005	19	88
07 Dec 2005	20	67
08 Dec 2005	10	45
09 Dec 2005	18	56
10 Dec 2005	3	12
11 Dec 2005	10	20
12 Dec 2005	17	103
13 Dec 2005	17	55
14 Dec 2005	16	48
15 Dec 2005	27	92
16 Dec 2005	23	70
17 Dec 2005	22	89
18 Dec 2005	11	141
19 Dec 2005	20	79



Season's Greetings



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ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2006

MEETINGS

February 13 – BAIRNSDALE

April 10 – ORBOST

July 2 – A.G.M. NOWA NOWA

August 14 – BRUTHEN

October 9 – NICHOLSON

December 11 – ORBOST

Contact Sue or Janice for further details of venue or check out the web site closer to the date.

WORKING BEES

April – Nicholson. Removal of dead black wattle and planting.

June 4 – Bairnsdale trail entry

September 10 – Bruthen

RIDES

Date	Location	Contact
28 January 2006	Rail Trail opening at Nowa Nowa	Sue or Michael 5156 8228
12 March 2006	Orbost to Nowa Nowa with SNOBS Meet at carpark in Burn Road, Orbost at 9:30 to ride to Nowa Nowa along rail trail	Marlene 5154 1232
13/14 May 2006	Weekend trip to Buchan	Keith 5154 1232
11 June 2006	Bairnsdale to Nicholson	Sue 5156 8228
2 July 2006	A.G.M. Ride Nowa Nowa to Nowa Nowa circuit for meeting at Mingling Waters	Janice
24 September 2006	Bairnsdale area	Alan 5153 1454
15 October 2006	Orbost area	Vicki
26 November 2006	Nowa Nowa Nudes	Janice