

# The Trail Mail

Winter 2018

## SAVE THE SNOWY BRIDGE



Photo : May Leatch

### Step by Step!

*Many individuals have been beavering away on different fronts to restore the bridge. This is a summary.*

**1. Applying for grants**

The application for a Community Grant from East Gippsland Shire Council towards the cost of an economic study was successful – we are now applying for another grant from Regional Development Victoria to add to our funds and fund – raising efforts from business friends to cobble together the money for the study.

If the study supports the Snowy Floodplain Rail Bridge restoration, then more grant applications!

**2. Local support**

Save the Snowy River Bridge now has its own group based in Orbost following a public meeting in June. The aims are to raise awareness of the deterioration and heritage of the bridge and raise funds for restoration of the bridge to be used as a cycling and walking trail.

Watch out and join local action.

**3. Facebook page and social media presence**

**4. On line Petition to Victorian Government**

Sign this before Sept 3 – go to the Victorian Parliament website – petitions –and it's easy to find and add your name.

*Sue Pierce*

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## Station Ground Walk at Nicholson - planting triumph

*Landcare working bee members shifting mulch to new plants at the river end of the new Station Ground Walk*

A bit more than two years since the seven metre wide strip just a quarter kilometre long was planted in a co-operative effort involving a Green Army team (at the time), Nicholson River Landcare (experts at finding grants money AND now caring for the site), and the rail trail committee and Friends group. It has survived an attack of weeds and then the deepening dry conditions. Many of the smaller plants did not survive but the Eucalypts and Casuarinas have flourished.

Some additional funding from EG Catchment Management made it possible to add the gravel path, which now wends its way past vegetation which in a few years' time will be an amazing treed corridor.

A major effort has been to get mulch spread to reduce weed growth and retain moisture. Recent Landcare working bees have completed infill planting at the river end and shifted many cubic metres of wood mulch. The Walk is gradually being discovered by trail visitors and also provides a more direct route to the bridge for residents of the new housing developments to the north along Sarsfield Road.

**Question:** Why is it called the Station Ground Walk?

**Answer:** All the former railway stations on the Bairnsdale to Orbost line were laid out with quite large areas of land to accommodate loading facilities for goods trains and possible future 'siding' rail lines or stock holding yards. These reserves were known as 'grounds', and today are unique pieces of land. The Nicholson site has three paddocks now used for stock grazing and now in the middle of rapidly expanding housing developments. Bumberrah has the biggest area still under native vegetation and not grazed. The Mossiface, Bruthen and Tostaree sites look more like open farm land while the former Nowa Nowa station ground east of the town is used as an emergency helicopter landing ground. Naming this new walking path after its station ground location seemed a logical decision.

**Michael Oxer**

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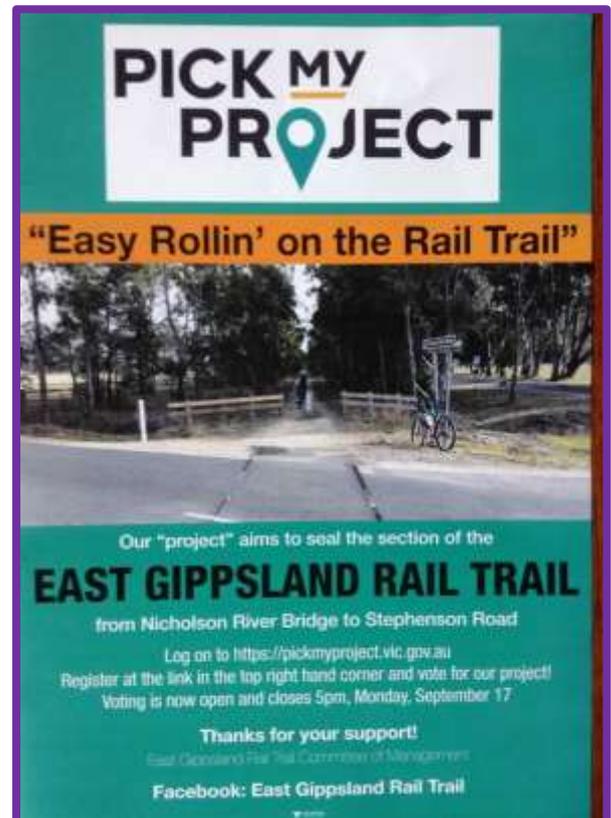
## The Trail's "Pick my Project" Gets Media Help.

Titled "Easy Rollin' on the Rail Trail", this social media based funding effort is aimed at upgrading the path from Nicholson Bridge to Stephenson Road by sealing the surface.

An upgraded path would provide an alternative route for road bike riding users who want to avoid the busy Princes Highway east of Nicholson, and would be a better surface for others on this busy section. Reducing longer term maintenance would be an additional benefit.

A great response to a request for help to promote the project has come from Bob Yeates and the Advertiser, by way of colourful promotional posters and front page notes in the local paper.

There is a lot of competition for the dollars and it all depends on getting the most votes.



Thanks to a generous Shire initiative a number of bicycle repair stands have been installed around the region, with one at the trail Bairnsdale entrance.

These strange looking units feature a suite of various essential tools on long lanyards, a pair of 'arms' to hold a bike at work level and that essential, a pump (foot operated) all solidly mounted on a concrete block.

Thanks to Andrew and DELWP support this one was recently added near the big shelter.

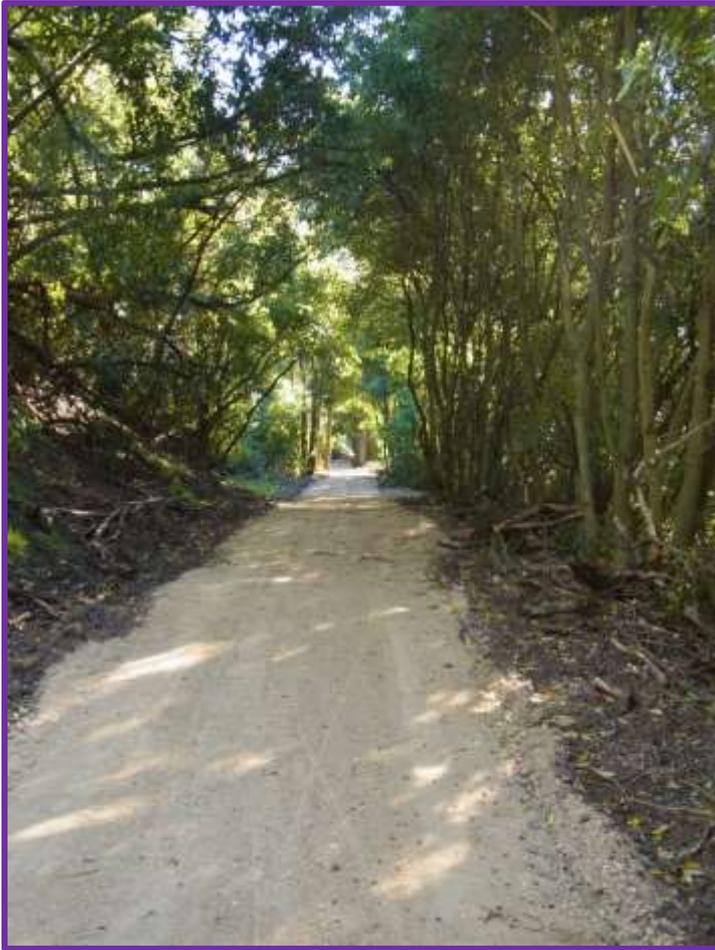
## Emergency Bicycle Repairs

### Tool Kit

*Michael Oxe*

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## New Trail at Newmerella

During the past two years, Snowy West Landcare has restored two historic trails at Newmerella. Both of these trails link in with the Rail Trail track-head and picnic area at Burn Road and provide an enhanced trails system for locals and visitors who walk or cycle.

The Old Coach Trail was opened in 2017 and provides a walk through bushland on Newmerella Hill and to the aptly named Grandview Lookout. As the name implies, this is a historic coaching route from the 1880s.

More recently, the **Railway Viaduct Trail** has been constructed along the route of the railway which was abandoned in 1987. This trail leads to the start of the Snowy Floodplain Railway Bridge (Viaduct), and also provides a new lookout over the Viaduct and floodplain farmland.

Snowy West Landcare has been working in this Burn Road/Rail Trail area for several years now, doing plantings, weeding and trail construction. As part of this process, these old trails have been 'discovered' and now provide an improved recreational amenity.



*View From The Railway Viaduct Trail*

*May Leatch*

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## Training Benefits All

***Federation Training, Conservation and Land Management students install a new gate and undertake a weed survey and control on the East Gippsland Rail Trail at Bumberrah station.***

***This work is improving the trail for users and the environment as well as providing the students with real experience.***

Recently Federation Training students undertaking Certificate III in Conservation and Land Management have been practising their new skills at Bumberrah Station on the rail trail.

Students have installed a new gate off Kettles Lane into the old station area. They have also removed and sprayed a variety of weeds from Kettles Lane to Pages Rd.



***Students after installing the new gate***

***Photo: Sue Potter***



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## *FRIENDS OF EAST GIPPSLAND RAIL TRAIL INC - NOTICE OF A.G.M.*

**When:** Sunday September 23 2018

Lunch at noon

A.G.M. at 1pm

**Where:** Bruthen Hotel

**Agenda:**

Attendance

President's report

Treasurer's report

Election of Office Bearers

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer\* (After many years of excellent service Keith is resigning as treasurer – any offers? This would be much appreciated.)

## Membership fees 2018-2019

2017/18 annual membership now due.

We need your support by renewing your membership of the Friends for the coming year. All money collected is used to maintain or upgrade facilities on the rail trail. There are three levels of membership:

- Basic \$10 per annum.
- Family \$15 per annum.
- Business \$100 per annum.
- All businesses are entitled to a listing on this website.

**Payment Options are detailed on our website.** <http://www.eastgippslandrailtrail.com.au/>