

Hume Region Significant Tracks and Trails Strategy 2014-2023 Audit of Existing Significant Tracks and Trails



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Images

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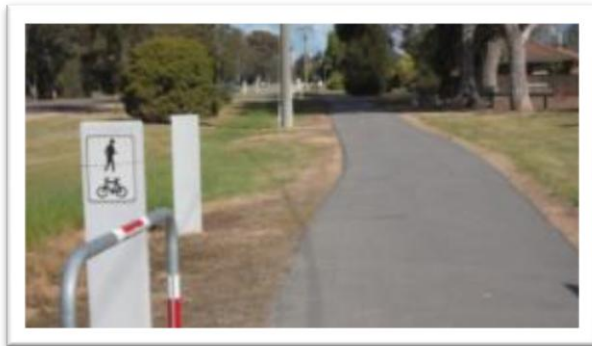
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1.0 Murray to Mountains Rail Trail



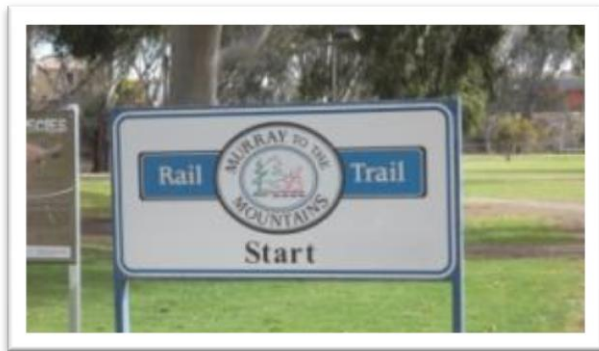
Municipalities

- Wangaratta, Indigo and Alpine Local Government areas



Key Features / Attractions

- Long continuous trail along a rail easement
- Travels through a wide range of land types, farmland, orchard areas forests, wine areas and small towns and villages
- A large number of businesses close to the trail (serving it) at the upper end
- Sealed for its entire length
- Good facilities along the trail and integral to it



Start Point and End Point

- In Wangaratta and in Bright (with several loops and branches – see below).



Details of Loops or Branches

- Rutherglen/Wahgunyah (67km) along a country road with the final 9km on a dedicated rail trail.
- Wangaratta to Oxley along a dedicated trail (13km).
- Everton to Beechworth (16km with other small local extensions from Beechworth).
- Bright to Wandiligong (6km).
- Bright to a number of mountain tops for serious road riders e.g. Mt Buffalo, Mt Hotham and Mt Beauty.



Distance

- Wangaratta to Bright: 82.9km
- Everton to Beechworth: 16.2km
- Wangaratta to Milawa: 15.4km
- On road links: 81.6km



Surface

- Sealed for its entire length.
- Suitable for hybrids, mountain bikes and road bikes.



Trail Users

- Walkers and Cyclists.



Signage – trail head, distance markers

- All excellent.



Trail Width – at several locations

- Consistent minimum of 2.5 metres, except in some locations such as the heavily trafficked Bright to Porepunkah section.



Toilets

- Facilities well spaced and marked along the trail and integral to the trail.



Seats / Shelters / Picnic Tables / BBQs

- Well provided along the trail.



Bike Parking

- Yes.



Equestrian Facilities – troughs, yards

- None available.



Car Parking

- Well marked and maintained parking along the trail and well marked from the main road.

Link to Public Transport



- Train to Wangaratta
Melbourne¹: Three trains daily from Melbourne (via Seymour, and Benalla) to Wangaratta at 7.10am, 12pm, and 6.01pm.
Sydney²: Two trains daily from Sydney to Wangaratta at 7.42am and 8.40pm. Two trains daily from Wangaratta to Sydney at 11:01am and 10:26pm.
- Part train/part coach to Bright(although bikes unable to be carried on buses generally):
Melbourne³: One part train / part coach on weekdays from Melbourne (via Seymour and Wangaratta) to Bright 12:00pm. One additional part train / part coach on Mon, Wed, and Fri from Melbourne (via Seymour and Wangaratta) to Bright at 7:10am. One part train / part coach on weekends from Melbourne (via Seymour and Wangaratta) to Bright at 7:10am.



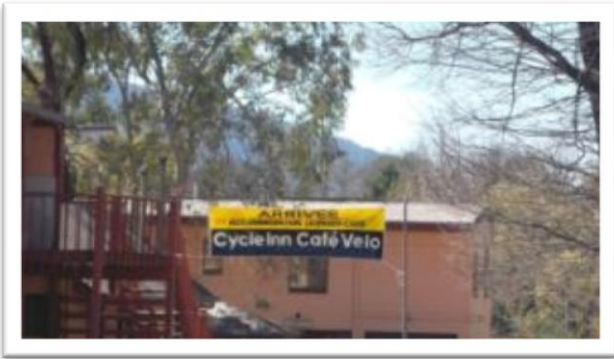
Nearby Accommodation

- Good accommodation of varying types at a number of locations - Wangaratta, Rutherglen, Oxley/Milawa, Beechworth, Myrtleford, Porepunkah and Bright.

¹ Vine Website: <http://www.vline.com.au/pdf/timetables/albury.pdf/albury> (current on 14/03/13)

² CountryLink Website: http://www.countrylink.info/timetables/southern/sydney_to_melbourne (current on 14/03/13)

³ Vine Website: <http://www.vline.com.au/pdf/timetables/bright.pdf/bright> (current on 14/03/13)



Attractions en route

- Many and varied including native flora and fauna in three National Parks.
- Ovens and King Rivers.
- Murray River.
- Access to Alpine areas (ski fields).
- Mt Buffalo.
- Wineries and other produce farms.
- Historic towns.
- Various breweries.



Access to Drinking Water

- Well supplied and marked.



Disability Access

- Yes.



Condition of Trail

- Mostly Excellent.
- Ongoing maintenance of asphalt surface required, particularly where damage has been caused by tree roots.



Land Ownership

- Alpine, Indigo and Wangaratta municipalities.



Management Arrangements

- The three LGAs (Alpine, Indigo and Wangaratta) have each signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and an Instrument of Delegation outlining their roles and responsibilities.



Marketing and Maps

- Google search under “Murray to Mountains Rail Trail” gives top response to comprehensive information on the trail.



Businesses Operating en route

There are a variety of businesses operating en route including:

- Beechworth Mini Buses
- Bus-a-Bike
- Bushranger Bikes
- High Country Bike Adventures
- Rail Trail Cycling Tours
- Riding High Cycling Tours
- World Expeditions.



Comments – successes, challenges, etc

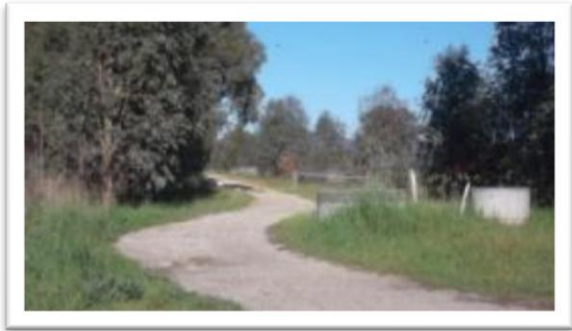
Murray to Mountains Rail Trail is considered to be the leading rail trail in Australia. Its sealed surface has made it accessible to people of all ages and abilities. Additional attractions include various farm gate businesses and wineries, as well as spectacular mountain scenery. Trail managers have worked closely with businesses to ensure that they are 'cycle friendly'. There are some sections of the trail that are very heavily used, e.g. Bright to Porepunkah. This section was recently resealed, but its width is less than the current standard, i.e. 1.5m wide instead of 2.5m.



Possible Improvements

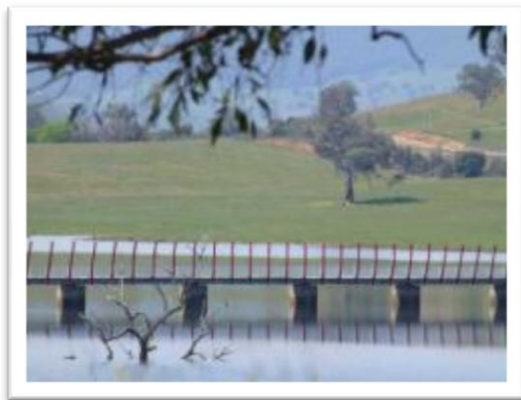
- Extend width of trail between Bright and Porepunkah.
- A number of extensions to the M2M trail are proposed, including a link to Harrietville from Bright, a link to Yackandandah from Beechworth, extension of the Wahgunyah section to Lake Moodemere and a link from Oxley to Whitfield.
- There is potential to link the M2M to the High Country Rail Trail by developing a link from Beechworth to Huon via Yackandandah. There is also the possibility of developing a link to the Great Victorian Rail Trail using public transport to connect the two trails between Whitfield (when developed) and Mansfield.

2.0 High Country Rail Trail



Municipalities

- Wodonga, Indigo and Towong Local Government areas.



Key Features / Attractions

- Long continuous trail along a rail easement.
- Travels past Army facilities, through farm land and then for extensive periods along Lake Hume.
- Has numerous stopping points with good facilities and places for picnics.
- Good accommodation options in Wodonga and Tallangatta.
- Many dedicated bridges and water crossings.



Start Point and End Point

- Commences on the outskirts of Wodonga and ends at Old Tallangatta township.



Details of Loops or Branches

- A diversion of 9 Km to toward Yackandandah ending at Jamison Road.
- A small extension to Killara of 500 metres.
- A number of loops and rides from Wodonga, Bonegilla, Tallangatta and Koetong.



Distance

- 43km between Wodonga and Old Tallangatta.



Surface

- Fine gravel for most sections, but reports of punctures are commonplace.
- Section at Wodonga end of trail needs improvement.
- Some sealed sections (e.g. Tallangatta to Old Tallangatta).
- Suitable for hybrids and mountain bikes.



Trail Users

- Walkers, cyclists and horse riders (for middle section from Ebden Reserve to Omeo Highway on a separate equestrian trail).



Signage – trail head, distance markers

- Excellent signage along trail.



Trail Width – at several locations

- Consistent minimum of 2.5 metres.



Toilets

- Facilities well spaced and marked along the trail – Wodonga, Bonegilla, Ebdon Reserve, Ludlows Reserve, Huon Reserve and Tallangatta.



Seats / Shelters / Picnic Tables / BBQs

- Well provided along the trail – Wodonga, Bonegilla, Ebden Reserve, Ludlows Reserve, Huon Reserve, Murray's Wayside Stop, Tallangatta and Tatonga.



Bike Parking

- Available at key locations along the trail and within towns.



Equestrian Facilities – troughs, yards

- Hitching rails located at Ebden Reserve, Murray’s Way, Tallangatta and Omeo Highway.



Car Parking

- Well marked and maintained parking along the trail and well marked from the main road. Parking available in towns, at Bonegilla Migrant Centre and at Ebden, Ludlows and Huon Reserves.



Link to Public Transport

- Train to Albury / Wodonga⁴:
Melbourne: Five trains daily from Melbourne (via Seymour, Benalla and Wangaratta) to Albury / Wodonga at 7.10am, 8.30am, 12pm, 2.32pm, 6.01pm and 7.55pm. One additional part train / part coach service weekdays at 2.32pm (i.e. train to Seymour and coach to Albury / Wodonga).
Sydney: Two trains daily from Sydney to Albury / Wodonga at 7.42am and 8.40pm. Two trains daily from Albury / Wodonga to Sydney at 11.47am and 11.15pm.
- Bus to Albury / Wodonga via Greyhound Buses⁵:
Melbourne: daily Greyhound Bus service from Melbourne to Albury departing at 8pm and returning from Albury / Wodonga at 4.20am and 7.20pm.
Sydney: daily Greyhound Bus services from Sydney to Albury departing at 9am and 8pm and returning at 11.05am and 11.30pm.
- Bus to Albury / Wodonga via Firefly Express⁶:
Melbourne: two services daily from Melbourne at 7.15am and 7pm, returning from Albury / Wodonga at 3.25am and 7.20pm
Sydney: two services daily from Melbourne at 9am and 7pm, returning from Albury / Wodonga at 11.05am and 10.35pm
- Aeroplane to Albury on a combination of Virgin Australia and Skywest aircraft⁷:
Sydney: Two daily flights from Sydney to Albury at 8.05am and 2.50pm (except on Saturday when the 2.50pm service is replaced by a 1pm service). Two return flights from Albury to Sydney at 10.10am and 4.45pm (except on Saturday when the 4.45pm service is replaced by a 2.50pm service).
- Aeroplane to Albury on REX airlines⁸:
Melbourne: Three flights daily from Monday to Friday departing Melbourne at 8.25, 2pm and 7.20pm. One flight on Saturday at 10.45am and one flight on Sunday at 7.20pm. Three flights daily from Monday to Friday departing from Albury at 6.55am, 12.30pm and 5.50pm. One flight departing on Saturday at 8.15am and one flight departing on Sunday at 5.50pm.



⁴ VLine Website: <http://www.vline.com.au/pdf/timetables/albury.pdf/albury> (current on 29/11/12)

⁵ Greyhound Bus website: <http://www.greyhound.com.au> (current on 29/11/12)

⁶ Firefly Express website: <http://fireflyexpress.rtk.com.au> (current on 29/11/12)

⁷ Virgin Australia website: <http://www.virginaustralia.com> (current on 29/11/12)

⁸ REX website: www.rex.com.au (current on 29/11/12)



Sydney: Four flights daily from Monday to Friday departing Sydney at 7.50am, 11.25am, 4.35pm and 6.20pm. Three flights on Saturday at 7.50am, 11.25am and 6.20pm and three flights on Sunday at 11.25am, 4.35pm and 6.20pm. Four flights daily from Monday to Friday departing Albury at 6.30am, 10.30am, 3.30pm and 6.20pm. Three flights on Saturday at 6.30am, 10.30am and 3.30pm and three flights on Sunday at 8.30am, 3.30pm and 6.20pm.

- Aeroplane to Albury on Qantas Link⁹:

Sydney: Four flights daily (Sunday to Friday) from Sydney to Albury at 8.15am, 12pm, 3.15pm and 6.45pm; three flights on Saturdays at 8.15am, 12pm and 3.15pm. Four return flights daily (Monday to Saturday) from Albury to Sydney at 6.30am, 9.55am, 1.40pm and 4.50pm; and three flights on Sundays at 9.55am, 1.40pm and 4.50pm.

- Bus to Tallangatta¹⁰:

Cavanagh's Bus Service departs Tallangatta at 9.30am on Fridays and arrives in Wodonga at 10am. The bus departs Wodonga at 2pm on Fridays, arriving at Tallangatta at 2.35pm.

The C&BD McCulloch Bus Service departs Wodonga each weekday at 7.30am and passes through Huon at 8am, Tallangatta at 8.15am, Koetong at 9am and Shelley at 9.09am. It then departs Shelley at 2.05pm, Koetong at 2.15pm, Tallangatta at 3.05pm, Huon at 3.20am and arrives in Wodonga at 3.50pm each weekday (except public holidays).

R&S Wilkinson Bus Services departs Tallangatta at 9.00am on Saturdays and arrives in Wodonga at 9.30am. It leaves Wodonga on Saturdays at 1pm) and arrives in Tallangatta at 1.40pm The service does not operate on public holidays.

⁹ Qantas website: www.qantas.com.au (current on 29/11/12)

¹⁰ Public Transport Victoria website: <http://ptv.vic.gov.au/maps-stations-stops/regional-buses/regionalbus/2083> (current on 29/11/12)



Nearby Accommodation

- Wodonga – extensive accommodation options and a booking service.
- Tallangatta – one motel, two hotels, a caravan park and a B&B.
- Bandiana – motel and self contained cabins.
- Lake Hume – motel and self-contained cottages.
- Koetong – self contained cottage.
- Tangambalanga – hotel.
- Shelley – camp site with bunkhouse accommodation for 62.
- Koetong – hotel.
- Ebden – caravan park.



Attractions en route

- Gateway Village in Wodonga.
- Bandiana Military Museum.
- Bonegilla Migrant Hostel.
- Lake Hume.
- Ebden Reserve.
- Ludlows Reserve.
- Huon Reserve.
- Art / craft shops in Tallangatta.
- Scenic views - farmland, mountain ranges, crossing of large mountain rivers such as the Mitta Mitta, long dedicated bridges crossing the lake



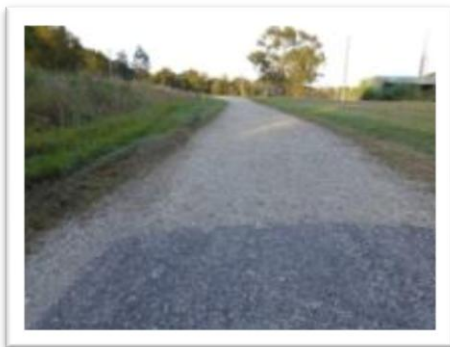
Access to Drinking Water

- Water is available for purchase in towns and at Bonegilla Migrant Camp. Water taps also available at Ebden, Ludlows and Huon Reserves.



Disability Access

- Sections of the trail are suitable for people with disabilities. Would be useful to identify which sections on promotional material.



Condition of Trail

- New trail, but work still required to improve the surface.



Land Ownership

- Crown Land



Management Arrangements

- Parklands Albury Wodonga has been appointed as Committee of Management of the trail and is supported by Bonegilla Rail Trail Advisory Group, Tallangatta Rail Trail Advisory Group and Koetong Shelley Development Association.



Marketing and Maps

- Brochure. Needs to be updated.
- Dedicated website: [www. http://highcountryrailtrail.org.au](http://highcountryrailtrail.org.au). Needs to be updated. Not all linkages work.
- No apps or QR codes.



Businesses Operating en route

- Bonegilla Migrant Centre.
- Bicycle Hire from Wodonga Visitor Information Centre (day use only).



Comments – successes, challenges, etc

- Over 1,000 volunteers have been involved in the development of the trail.
- Flood damage has caused closures to sections of the trail in the past.
- Sandy Creek Bridge (opened in October 2012) is an iconic structure and sculptural feature.
- Some sections are quite rough and not suitable for inexperienced riders or children.
- Horse riding trail has been developed alongside the shared cycling / walking trail.



Possible Improvements

- Additional business development en route and to support trail users.
- Improved surface, particularly at the Wodonga end of the trail.
- Improved connections from the centre of Wodonga to the beginning of the trail.
- Linkage from Huon to Yackandandah and on to Beechworth will enable a connection to be made between the High Country Rail Trail and the Murray to Mountains Trail.
- Create linkages to Albury City Council trails networks, both through Wodonga and also around the western side of Lake Hume.

3.0 Great Victorian Rail Trail



Municipalities

- Mitchell, Murrundindi and Mansfield Shire Councils



Key Features / Attractions

- Long continuous trail with good surface for entire length.
- Good toilet facilities as integral part of the trail.
- Many small and larger towns on the trail all with good food, drink and accommodation options.
- Runs through very attractive river, forest and farm land.



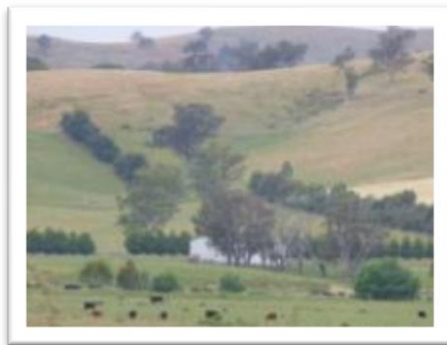
Start Point and End Point

- At western end Tallarook (close to Hume Freeway and approximately 103 Km from Melbourne)
- At Eastern end Mansfield (off Maroondah Highway and approximately 170Km from Melbourne)
- Access point from Alexandra (off Maroondah Highway and approximately 130Km from Melbourne) then 14km along the trail to Junction at Cathkin.



Details of Loops or Branches

- Branch from Cathkin to Alexandra or Mansfield when heading west to east.



Distance

- Total trail length 147 Km.



Surface

- Good quality gravel surface. Suitable for mountain and hybrids bikes. Could be used by road bikes with wider tyres and tread.



Trail Users

- Walkers, cyclists and horse riders.



Signage – trail head, distance markers

- Trail signage is reasonably good in some places, but lacks in others.
- Access and services signage varies within local government areas.



Trail Width – at several locations

- Consistent minimum of 2.5 metres.
- A few sections where the trail (separated at all times) shares main road bridges and easements the width drops to single bike lane for short sections.



Toilets

- Good facilities (bush toilets) at regular distances along the trail.
- Clean and well maintained.
- Signage in towns reasonable at most locations.



Seats / Shelters / Picnic Tables / BBQs

- Reasonable facilities along the trail.



Bike Parking

- Not evident at all points along the trail.
- Businesses do not seem to have provided much parking for bicycles.



Equestrian Facilities – troughs, yards

- Bridle path beside trail in certain locations.



Car Parking

- Many dedicated car parks along the trail where access from the main roads is possible and close.
- Well signed in some local government areas but not in others.

Link to Public Transport

- Not easy to access public transport.
- Bus service available from Melbourne to trail heads (pre-booked).
 - Mansfield¹¹: Two buses daily (Mon – Sat) at 8:30am and 6:01pm. Sunday has one bus running at 1:00pm. Conventional bikes cannot be carried on trams, buses or V/Line coaches.¹²
 - Alexandra: One bus a day operated by McKenzie’s Tourist Services.¹³
- Train service to Seymour (to access Tallarook), with some services stopping in Tallarook¹⁴: Mon-Fri 13 trains starting at 6:10am continuing until 11:45pm; Saturday - 10 trains starting at 7:12am and continuing until 11:55pm. Sunday – 9 trains starting 9:30am and continuing until 9:55pm.
- A number of local businesses provide transport services for either the length of the trail or sections.



¹¹ <http://www.vline.com.au/pdf/timetables/mansfield.pdf/mansfield>

¹² <http://ptv.vic.gov.au/using-public-transport/luggage-bikes-and-animals/bikes-and-public-transport/>

¹³ <http://www.mckenzie.com.au/routeA.shtml?MenuItemID=19355>

¹⁴ <http://www.vline.com.au/pdf/timetables/seymour.pdf>



Nearby Accommodation

- Most towns and villages have accommodation options and other options such as B and B's well scattered along the trail.
- Accommodation booking service at Mansfield but limited to Mansfield Shire.



Attractions en route

- Many and varied, including museums, Lake Eildon, forests, farmland, large railway bridges, Goulburn River, small villages and larger regional towns.



Access to Drinking Water

- All toilet facilities have tanks attached. However signage says not for drinking. Users who were questioned all said they used the water.



Disability Access

- Trail gradient is suitable for people with mobility issues.



Condition of Trail

- Generally fairly well maintained, although there are some sections of the trail surface that need work.



Land Ownership

- Mitchell, Murrundindi and Mansfield Shire Councils.



Management Arrangements

- MoU between Mitchell, Murrundindi and Mansfield Shire Councils.



Marketing and Maps

- Tourist offices have reasonable information and maps.
- Google search under "Goulburn River High Country Rail Trail" gives top response to comprehensive information on the trail.
Consistent branding and trail name need to be worked on.



Businesses Operating en route

- Many and varied.



Comments – successes, challenges, etc

- Some of the crossings over arterial roads seem narrow and steep.
- Star pickets are not ideal.
- Fence line appears to be quite close to the trail.



Possible Improvements

- Connection from Tallarook to Seymour.
- Extension of trail from Alexandra to Eildon.
- Extension from Alexandra to Rubicon via Thornton to incorporate tourist tramway.
- Possible extension from Mansfield to Whitfield to connect up with a potential link to the Murray to Mountains Trail.
- Improved trail surface.
- Improved options for horse riders.

4.0 Mt Buller - Mt Stirling Mountain Bike Trails



Municipalities

- Mt Buller and Mt Stirling Alpine Resorts.



Key Features / Attractions

- High quality network of mountain bike trails in a very aesthetic environment.
- Variety of trails including cross-country, flow down and downhill trails of different grades.
- Chairlift for downhill trails.
- Accommodation and services available.
- Major events.
- Skills development equipment.



Start Point and End Point

- Numerous trails with different start and end points.
- Start at the top and finish at the bottom!



Details of Loops or Branches

- A variety of cross country, downhill, 'flow down' and Epic trails.
- Maps available online and hardcopy.



Distance

- 42.43 km of cross country trails.
- 18.85 km of downhill trails.
- 3 km 'flow down' trail.
- Mt Buller - Mt Stirling IMBA Epic trail 40.39 km.



Surface

- Natural earth with rock armouring where required.



Trail Users

- Mountain bike riders only.



Signage – trail head, distance markers

- Excellent signage through trail network.



Trail Width – at several locations

- Trail width varies from 'fire trail width' to 'single track width'.



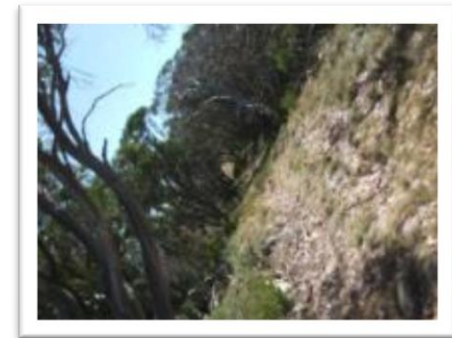
Toilets

- Toilets available at the village.



Seats / Shelters / Picnic Tables / BBQs

- Picnic / BBQ facilities not provided along trails.



Bike Parking

- Bike parking not provided along trails. Mountain bikes can be leant against a tree or placed on the ground.



Equestrian Facilities – troughs, yards

- Trail network is for mountain bikes only.



Car Parking

- Car parking areas available at the village.



Link to Public Transport

- The mountain bike shuttle operates from Mirimbah (at the base of the mountain) to Mt Buller each weekend from 24 November until the end of Easter. Run by the Mirimbah Store, the shuttle makes four runs to Mt Buller a day (9am, 11:30am, 2.00pm and 4:30pm), and costs \$13 for one run or \$30 for all four. Special times can be arranged for group bookings.



Nearby Accommodation

- A comprehensive accommodation listing may be found on the Mt Buller website.
<http://www.mtbuller.com.au/Listings/Summer/Accommodation2/Accommodation-Guide2/Filter-87-1>



Attractions en route

- Numerous wineries and vineyards in the area.
- Breweries at Jamieson, Beechworth and Bright.
- Galleries, museums.
- Mansfield Zoo.
- Paragliding at Bright.
- Lake Eildon.



Access to Drinking Water

- Drinking water is available at the village but riders should be self sufficient and carry water on the trails.



Disability Access

- Trails network is not suitable for disabled persons



Condition of Trail

- The trails experience heavy use, but Resort Management maintains them in good condition with regular maintenance, realignments and resurfacing when required.



Land Ownership

- Crown Land



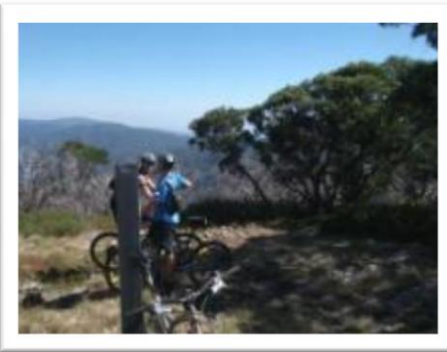
Management Arrangements

The Alpine Resort Management Board was established in 2004 by an amendment to the Alpine Resorts (Management) Act 1997 (The Act), succeeding the separate Mount Buller Resort Management Board and the Mount Stirling Alpine Resort Management Board. The RMB is charged under the Act with managing the Mount Buller and Mount Stirling Alpine Resorts.



Marketing and Maps

- The Mt Buller website (<http://www.mtbuller.com.au/Summer/>) is very comprehensive and includes a wealth of information detailed maps.



Businesses Operating at the resorts

- Bars and Restaurants including Apres Bar and Cafe, Arlberg - Nooky's Restaurant, Avalanche Alpine Retreat, Black Cockatoo Restaurant, Burger Haus, Mirimbah Store, Spurs Restaurant.
- A variety of accommodation is available in the village.
- Shuttle services including Buller - Mirimbah Trails and Shuttle, Summer Adventure Bus and Downhill Mountain Bike Shuttle



Comments – successes, challenges, etc

- Resort management has been very successful in attracting funding to develop a first class mountain biking destination.
- Funding secured to complete Australia's first IMBA EPIC mountain bike trail.
- Major events provide significant economic benefit to the region
- As visitation increases the challenge will be to provide adequate services including ski-lift shuttles, food and accommodation, bike servicing businesses.
- Trail maintenance in steep terrain with high rainfall can be challenging



Possible Improvements

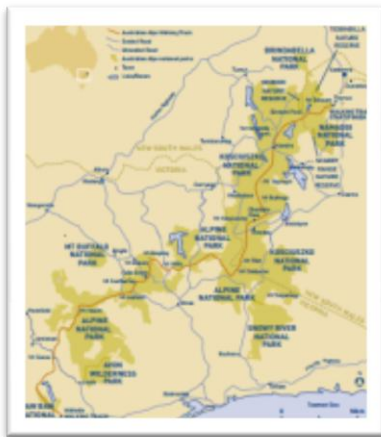
- Development of the Mt Buller - Mt Stirling Mountain Bike Trails network will be an evolutionary process. Continual improvement by way of new trails and realignments will be ongoing.

5.0 Australian Alps Walking Track



Municipalities

- Hume region: Mansfield Shire, Wangaratta Rural City, Alpine Shire, Towong Shire, Mt Hotham Alpine Resort.
- Neighbouring Victorian municipalities: Baw Baw Shire, Wellington Shire, East Gippsland Shire.



Key Features / Attractions

- Long (655km) continuous walking trail through stunning alpine environments.
- Travels through Australia's finest alpine National Parks.
- Climbs Victoria's highest mountains and high plains.
- A variety of vegetation communities including tall mountain forests, grasslands and snow gum woodlands.
- Authentic wilderness experience with over 27,000m of climbing and descending.
- Historic sites.



Start Point and End Point

- Walhalla in Victoria to Tharwa, ACT (35km south of Canberra City Centre).

Details of Loops or Branches

- The Australian Alps Walking Track is a continuous linear track but crosses numerous other trails allowing for side trips or loop journeys.



Distance

- Approximately 655 km.



Surface

- Very variable surface including well maintained walking tracks, indistinct footpads, fire access trails and 4WD tracks.

Trail Users

- Walkers / hikers.
- Horse riders may use sections (some sections shared with Bicentennial National Trail).
- Mountain bikers may use some sections.



Signage – trail head, distance markers

- The track is clearly marked at all track and road intersections however the presence of markers along the track is variable. Markers are now distinctive yellow triangles meeting Australian Standards.
- Some sections are without markers as management dictates no formal marked tracks

* Photo taken from Wikipedia, author Maelgwn. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australian_Alps_Walking_Track

Trail Width – at several locations

- Varies from zero (no formal marked trail) to around 4 metres (4WD track).



Toilets

- No toilets provided

Seats / Shelters / Picnic Tables / BBQs

- No facilities provided



Bike Parking

- No bike parking provided.

Equestrian Facilities – troughs, yards

- No equestrian facilities such as troughs or yards are available.

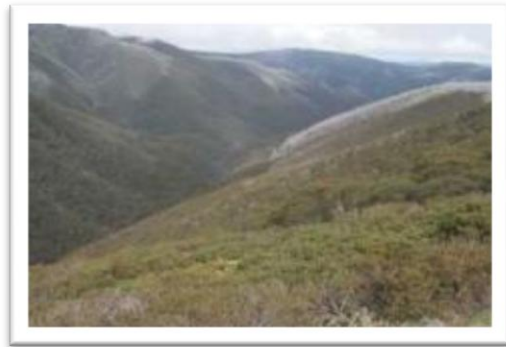


Car Parking

- Parking is available at end points and some crossing / access points.

Link to Public Transport

- There is no public transport to the start or end points though a combination of bus and taxi may be used.
- No public transport along the many roads that cross the track.



Nearby Accommodation

- Little in the way of accommodation is available however users of this track will be highly self sufficient and prepared to camp along the way.
- Some stockmen's huts may be available.

Attractions en route

- Alpine National Park.
- Mt Hotham Resort.
- Mountain cattleman huts.
- Spectacular alpine scenery.
- Historic sites.



Access to Drinking Water

- Water may be accessed at many fresh mountain streams, though these may be low or dry in the hotter months.
- Sterilisation tablets may be advisable depending on the water source.

Disability Access

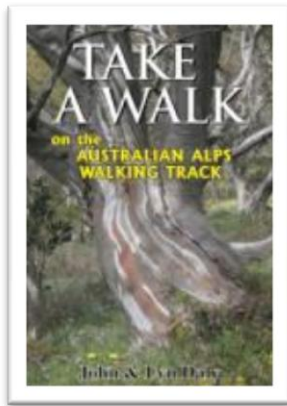
- No disabled access.

Condition of Trail

- Highly variable condition of trail.

Land Ownership

- Crown Land managed by Parks Victoria or Department of Environment and Primary Industries



Management Arrangements

- A Memorandum of Understanding in conjunction with a Management Strategy defines the co-operative responsibilities of the agencies involved in management of the Australian Alps national parks.

Marketing and Maps

- There are many references and blogs available online however in order to walk the trail it is essential to obtain good quality maps. Map guides available at <http://www.australialps.environment.gov.au/walktrack/map-guide.html> may be downloaded and then transferred onto detailed walking maps such as Vicmap 1:50,000 series
- A guidebook 'Take a Walk on the Australian Alps Walking Track' is also available.
- The official brochure: <http://www.australialps.environment.gov.au/walktrack/pubs/walking-track.pdf>.

Businesses Operating en route

- Users of the AAWT are extremely self-reliant and as such there is little demand for service businesses en route.



Comments – successes, challenges, etc

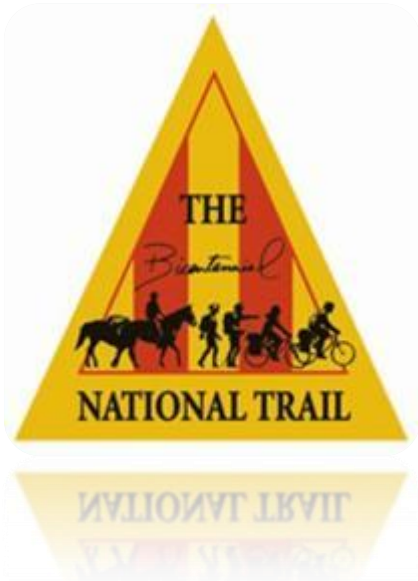
- The Australian Alps Walking Track, while not the longest in Australia, is widely regarded as the toughest but most rewarding track in the country.
- A co-operative management structure across states and management agencies provides for a consistent standard of management.
- Management of such a long track across different agencies presents challenges to provide adequate maintenance and may put a strain on the limited resources available.



Possible Improvements

- Way finding marker posts could be improved (raised from ground level where they are obscured by shrubs or snow) or augmented where there are too few, depending on management objectives.
- A detailed trail specific map set could be developed.
- Develop links with Aboriginal communities to provide better interpretive opportunities.
- Repair fire damage to track.
- Improve marketing of track.

6.0 Bicentennial National Trail



Municipalities

- Hume region: Murrindindi Shire, Mansfield Shire, Towong Shire.
- Neighbouring Victorian municipalities: Yarra Ranges Shire Wellington Shire, East Gippsland Shire.

Key Features / Attractions

- Australia's premier long distance multi-use recreational trail stretching from Cooktown in Queensland to Healesville in Victoria.
- Trail users must be highly self reliant as few services are available.
- Traverses some of the most stunning alpine country in Victoria.
- Follows historic aboriginal trails and stock routes.
- visits sites of old gold towns and pioneer settlements.
- Originally conceived as a trail for horse riders but is also used by mountain bikers, walkers and long distance runners.

*Image by Belinda Ritchie via Bicentennial National Trail committee



Start Point and End Point

- Healesville in Victoria to Cooktown in Queensland.

Details of Loops or Branches

- The Bicentennial National Trail is a continuous linear track but crosses numerous other trails allowing for side trips or loop journeys.



Distance

- 5,330km.
- Healesville to NSW border: 550km.
- Length of BNT within Hume Region: 203km.

*image by Belinda Ritchie via Bicentennial National Trail committee



Surface

- Variable surface that follows old coach roads, stock routes, brumby tracks, rivers and fire trails.

*image by Belinda Ritchie via Bicentennial National Trail committee

Trail Users

- Horse riders, mountain bikers, walkers and runners.



Signage – trail head, distance markers

- Triangular trail markers have been placed at strategic locations along the trail however it is not possible to navigate the trail using markers alone.



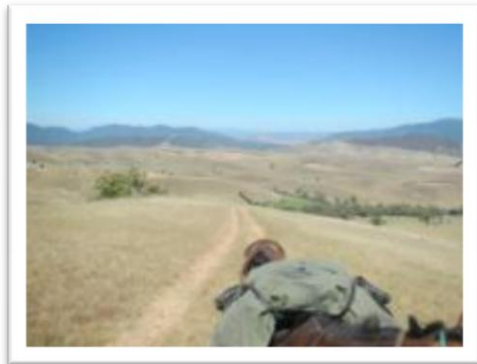
Trail Width – at several locations

- Trail width varies depending on the nature and status of each section i.e. old brumby trail to fire access road.

*image by Belinda Ritchie via Bicentennial National Trail committee

Toilets

- No toilets provided.



Seats / Shelters / Picnic Tables / BBQs

- No picnic / BBQ facilities provided.

*image by Belinda Ritchie via Bicentennial National Trail committee

Bike Parking

- No bike parking.

*image by Belinda Ritchie via Bicentennial National Trail committee



Equestrian Facilities – troughs, yards

- Equestrian yards available at a limited number of locations; tethers or hobbles will need to be used elsewhere.
- Water available at streams and dams along the route.

Car Parking

- No formal car parking provided but space to park will be available at some crossing / access points.



Link to Public Transport

- Given the remote nature of the trail, public transport is not available.

*image by Belinda Ritchie via Bicentennial National Trail committee

Nearby Accommodation

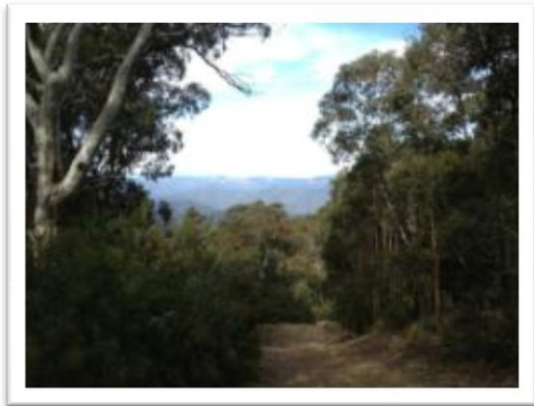
- Little in the way of accommodation is available however users of this track will be highly self sufficient and prepared to camp along the way.
- Some stockmen's huts may be available.



Attractions en route

- Spectacular scenery and vistas.
- Mountain cattleman huts.
- Historic sites.

*image by Belinda Ritchie via Bicentennial National Trail committee



Access to Drinking Water

- Water may be accessed at many fresh mountain streams though these may be low or dry in the hotter months.
- Sterilisation tablets may be advisable depending on the water source.

*image by Belinda Ritchie via Bicentennial National Trail committee

Disability Access

- No disabled access.



Condition of Trail

- Highly variable trail condition.

Photo courtesy of www.bicentennialnationaltrail.com.au

Land Ownership

- Crown land managed by Parks Victoria or Department of Environment and Primary Industries.
- Some private land; access negotiated with land owners.



Management Arrangements

- Management and maintenance of the trail varies depending on the land tenure but there are numerous 'section coordinators' (often clubs belonging to the Australian Trail Horse Riders Association) that devote many volunteer hours to maintaining the trail.
- Ongoing development of the BNT is coordinated by a voluntary non-profit community organisation funded through memberships, donations and publication sales.

Marketing and Maps

- 12 detailed guidebooks are available for purchase to help navigate the BNT and updates may be downloaded from <http://www.bicentennialnationaltrail.com.au/>.
- The website offers a lot of information including planning guides, FAQ's, current news and other general information.
- A facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/nationaltrail> offers up to date information as well as posts and photos from trail users.

*image by Belinda Ritchie via Bicentennial National Trail committee

Businesses Operating en route

Users of the BNT are extremely self-reliant and as such there is little demand for service businesses en route.



Comments – successes, challenges, etc

- A concept germinated by the Australian Trail Horse Riders Association to link up historic mustering, brumby tracks, pack horse trails, historic coach roads and stock routes has resulted in one of the longest multi-use trails in the world.
- Given the extremely long distance and the number of different land owners and managers, maintenance and management of the trail will always be challenging. There is a heavy reliance on volunteers to maintain the trail.

Possible Improvements

- Parts of the Victorian section are very steep and rough, challenging all but the most determined mountain bikers. Some re-routes or alternative loops could make it more accessible to all users.
- Guidebooks for Victoria and Queensland sections only include 'mud maps' which are not sufficient for navigation. Upgrade to higher quality navigational maps would be beneficial.

*image by Belinda Ritchie via Bicentennial National Trail committee

7.0 Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing



Municipalities

- Hume Region: Alpine Shire, Falls Creek Alpine Resort, Mount Hotham Alpine Resort.
- Neighbouring municipalities: East Gippsland Shire.

Key Features / Attractions

- Alpine National Park.
- Mt Hotham and Falls Creek Alpine Resorts.
- Stunning alpine scenery.
- Wilderness experience.



Start Point and End Point

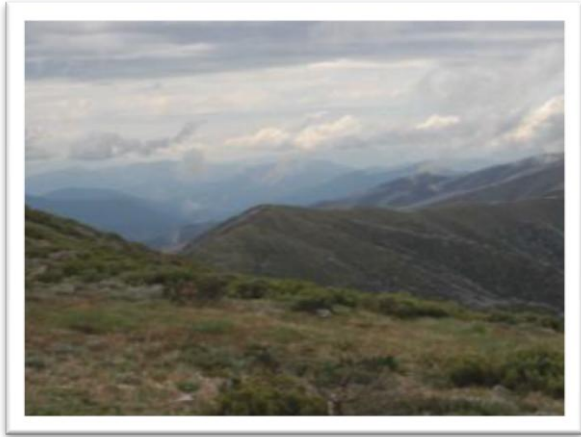
- Falls Creek Resort to Mount Hotham Resort.

Details of Loops or Branches

- The Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing is a continuous linear track but crosses numerous other trails allowing for side trips or loop journeys.

Distance

- 38.1km.



Surface

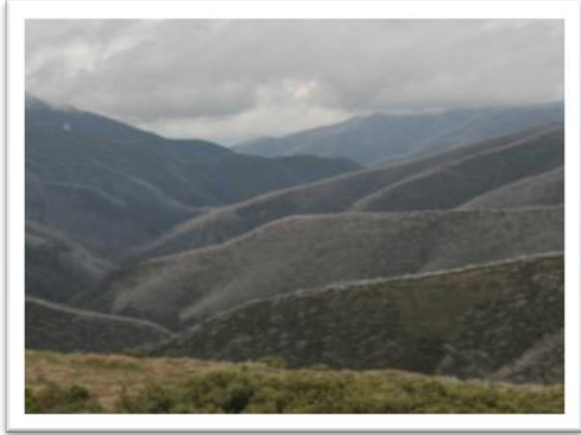
- Natural earth.

Trail Users

- Walkers / hikers.

Signage – trail head, distance markers

- The FHAC is signposted at each end and snow poles are located along the trail.



Trail Width – at several locations

- Trail width is generally less than 1m.

Toilets

- Toilets are located at Cope and Dibbins hut camping areas and also available at both resorts

Seats / Shelters / Picnic Tables / BBQs

- No facilities provided.

Bike Parking

- Trail is for walkers only, hence there are no bike parks

Equestrian Facilities – troughs, yards

- Trail is for walkers only, hence there are no equestrian facilities.

Car Parking

- Parking is available at Falls Creek and Mount Hotham Resorts.



Link to Public Transport

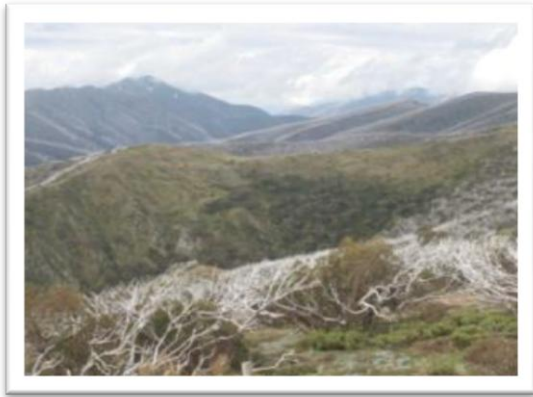
- The Falls Creek Coach Service only offers limited services between Melbourne, Albury, Mt Beauty and Falls Creek in summer.

Nearby Accommodation

- Many accommodation options are available at Falls Creek and Mount Hotham resorts, although not all are open in summer.

Attractions en route

- Alpine National Park.
- Mt Hotham Resort.
- Mountain cattleman huts.
- Spectacular alpine scenery.
- Historic sites.



Access to Drinking Water

- No drinking water. Walkers must carry their own.

Disability Access

- No

Condition of Trail

- Mostly formed track with some obstacles.

Land Ownership

- Crown land managed by Parks Victoria, Mt Hotham Alpine Resort and Falls Creek Alpine Resort.



Management Arrangements

- Managed by Parks Victoria.

Marketing and Maps

- This is a relatively new trail utilising sections of existing trails. Park Notes and maps will be developed specifically for this trail.

Businesses Operating en route

- No businesses operating en route as yet.



Comments – successes, challenges, etc

- This trail has successfully linked two premier Alpine Resorts through some of the most stunning alpine landscapes in Australia.
- Phase Two will see the development of camping platforms and potentially an 'eco-lodge'.

Possible Improvements

- Notes and maps are to be developed for this trail.
- Camping platforms and eco-lodge accommodation planned for Phase Two.

8.0 The Razorback Walk



Municipalities

- Alpine Shire.

Key Features / Attractions

- Alpine National Park.
- Stunning alpine scenery.
- Wilderness experience.
- Summit Victoria's second highest mountain, Mt Feathertop.

Start Point and End Point

- Trail commences at Dimantina Hut, 2.5km west of Mt Hotham, ascends Mt Feathertop and then returns to Dimantina Hut.



Details of Loops or Branches

- The Razorback Walk is a linear return trail but intersects several other trails allowing for trip variations.

Distance

- 11km one way / 22km return.

Surface

- Natural earth.

Trail Users

- Walkers / hikers.



Signage – trail head, distance markers

- Trail head sign provides good maps and information.



Trail Width – at several locations

- Trail width is generally less than 1m.

Toilets

- Toilets available at Federation Hut.

Seats / Shelters / Picnic Tables / BBQs

- No picnic / BBQ facilities provided on the walk.



Bike Parking

- Trail is for walkers only, hence no bike parking.

Equestrian Facilities – troughs, yards

- Trail is for walkers only, hence no equestrian facilities.

Car Parking

- Parking is available at Falls Creek and Mount Hotham Resorts.
- There is a small area for parking where the trail meets the Great Alpine Rd.



Link to Public Transport

- In winter Trekset has daily buses from Melbourne to Mt Hotham via Wangaratta, Myrtleford, Bright and Harrietville
- Mt Hotham Airport services Mt Hotham and Dinner Plain. QantasLink flies here throughout the week in the ski season from Sydney
- HothamBus, operated by North East Coachlines, runs to the Mount Hotham, Falls Creek and Dinner Plain ski resorts during the snow season from Melbourne
- There are no public transport services available outside the winter snow season

Nearby Accommodation

- Accommodation options are available at Mount Hotham resort.

Attractions en route

- Alpine National Park.
- Mt Hotham Resort.
- Spectacular alpine scenery.
- Federation Hut.

Access to Drinking Water

- No drinking water. Walkers must carry their own.



Disability Access

- No disabled access.

Condition of Trail

- Mostly formed track with some obstacles.

Land Ownership

- Crown Land managed by Parks Victoria.



Management Arrangements

- Managed by Parks Victoria.

Marketing and Maps

- Information and basic maps provided in Parks Victoria 'Park Notes'.
- Good quality topographic maps such as Vicmap 1:50,000 are recommended.

Businesses Operating en route

- No businesses operating en route.

Comments – successes, challenges, etc

- This is one of the best known and spectacular walks in Victoria and certainly the most popular alpine walk.
- The walk is along a very exposed ridge and weather conditions are very unpredictable presenting hazards to trail users.



Possible Improvements

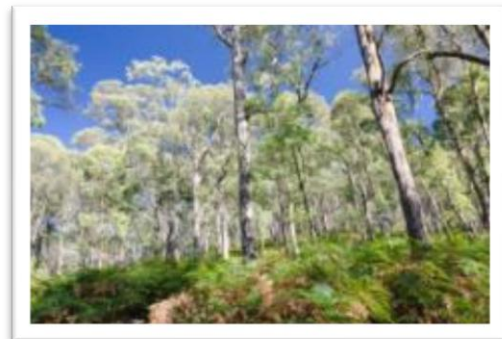
- None suggested.

9.0 Mt Buffalo Big Walk



Municipalities

- Alpine Shire.



Key Features / Attractions

- Mt Buffalo National Park.
- Spectacular views of the Australian Alps and The Gorge from lookouts.
- Change in vegetation communities.

* Image courtesy of Greg Johns, <http://www.hikingfiasco.com/2012/01/big-walk-mt-buffalo-victoria-january.html>



Start Point and End Point

- Eurobin Creek Picnic Area to the Gorge Day Visitor Area.



Details of Loops or Branches

- There are several short loops and branches to lookouts and points of interest along the way.
- At the end of the walk there are numerous options to continue on other trails.

* Image courtesy of Greg Johns, <http://www.hikingfiasco.com/2012/01/big-walk-mt-buffalo-victoria-january.html>



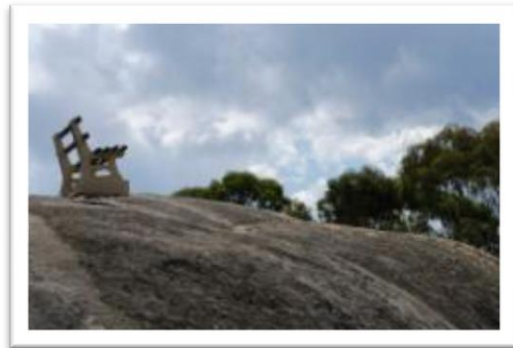
Distance

- 11.3km or 16km with a side trip to Rollason's Falls.



Surface

- Mostly formed natural earth track with some obstacles.



Trail Users

- Walkers / hikers.

* Image courtesy of Greg Johns, <http://www.hikingfiasco.com/2012/01/big-walk-mt-buffalo-victoria-january.html>



Signage – trail head, distance markers

- Trail head sign provides good maps and information.
- Directional markers located at strategic points along the walk.



Trail Width – at several locations

- Trail width is generally less than 1m.

* Image courtesy of Greg Johns, <http://www.hikingfiasco.com/2012/01/big-walk-mt-buffalo-victoria-january.html>



Toilets

- Toilets available at Eurobin Picnic Area and the Gorge Day Visitor Area.



Seats / Shelters / Picnic Tables / BBQs

- BBQ's, picnic tables and shelter available at Eurobin Picnic Area.

* Image courtesy of Greg Johns, <http://www.hikingfiasco.com/2012/01/big-walk-mt-buffalo-victoria-january.html>



Bike Parking

- Trail is for walkers only, hence no bike parking.



Equestrian Facilities – troughs, yards

- Trail is for walkers only, hence no equestrian facilities.

* Image courtesy of Greg Johns, <http://www.hikingfiasco.com/2012/01/big-walk-mt-buffalo-victoria-january.html>



Car Parking

- Parking is available Eurobin Picnic Area and the Gorge Day Visitor Area.



Link to Public Transport

- There is no public transport to the plateau on Mt Buffalo.
- A daily V/Line train to Wangaratta and bus to Bright can drop off at Porepunkah.
- Coach services operate from Melbourne to Bright with taxi and bus connections to Mt Buffalo.



Nearby Accommodation

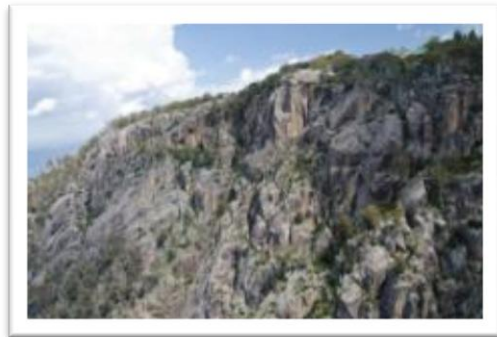
- There are many accommodation options in Bright, Porepunkah and Myrtleford.
- No accommodation is available in the National Park.

* Image courtesy of Greg Johns, <http://www.hikingfiasco.com/2012/01/big-walk-mt-buffalo-victoria-january.html>



Attractions en route

- Wineries, breweries and farm based businesses operate around Bright, Porepunkah and Myrtleford.
- Many cafes and restaurants are available nearby the national park.
- Activities such as canoeing, paragliding, swimming are available nearby.



Access to Drinking Water

- Drinking water may or may not be available from streams along the walk. Walkers are advised to carry plenty of drinking water.

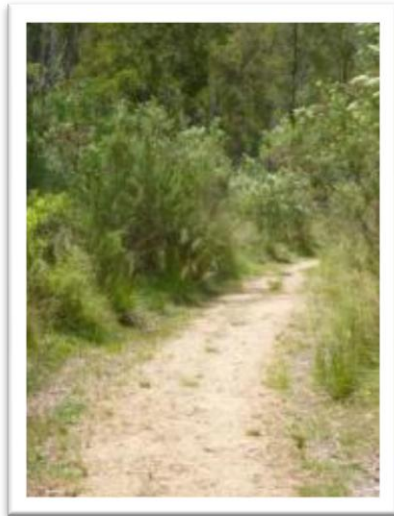
* Image courtesy of Greg Johns, <http://www.hikingfiasco.com/2012/01/big-walk-mt-buffalo-victoria-january.html>



Disability Access

- No disabled access.

* Image courtesy of Greg Johns, <http://www.hikingfiasco.com/2012/01/big-walk-mt-buffalo-victoria-january.html>



Condition of Trail

- Mostly formed track with some obstacles.



Land Ownership

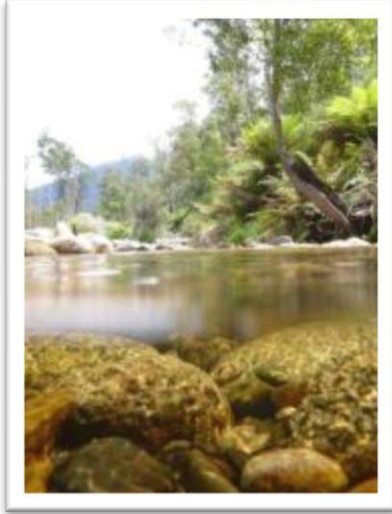
- Crown Land managed by Parks Victoria.



Management Arrangements

- Managed by Parks Victoria.

* Image courtesy of Greg Johns, <http://www.hikingfiasco.com/2012/01/big-walk-mt-buffalo-victoria-january.html>



Marketing and Maps

- Information and basic maps provided in Parks Victoria 'Park Notes'.
- Good quality topographic maps such as Vicmap 1:25,000 are available.



Businesses Operating en route

- No businesses operating along the walk but many services are available nearby.

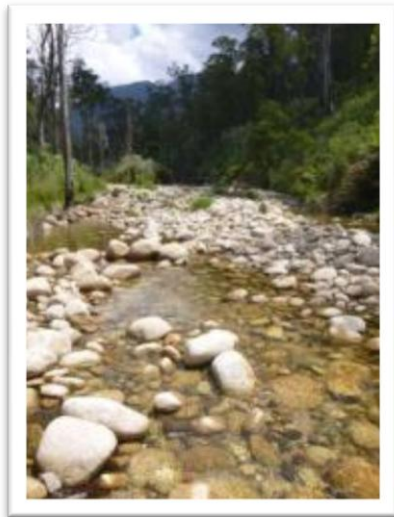
* Image courtesy of Greg Johns, <http://www.hikingfiasco.com/2012/01/big-walk-mt-buffalo-victoria-january.html>



Comments – successes, challenges, etc

- An excellent, challenging but accessible walk with spectacular views and points of interest along the way.
- Frequent fires have forced the closure the Mt Buffalo Chalet, resulting in no accommodation or food being available on the mountain.

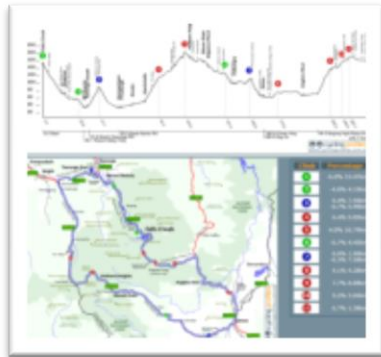
* Image courtesy of Greg Johns, <http://www.hikingfiasco.com/2012/01/big-walk-mt-buffalo-victoria-january.html>



Possible Improvements

- Some online blogs suggest that signage could be improved at some points, particularly road crossings.

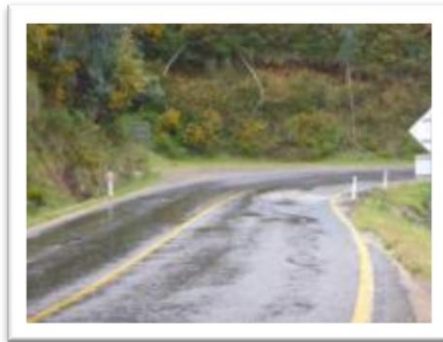
10.0 Alpine Loop Road Ride (a.k.a. Queen Victoria Loop)



Municipalities

- Alpine Shire, East Gippsland Shire, Mount Hotham Alpine Resort, Falls Creek Alpine Resort.

* Image taken from http://www.cyclingprofiles.com.au/HTM/VicAlps/REC_FCQVLoop.htm



Key Features / Attractions

- Very challenging long distance road ride with 8,850m total elevation gain.
- Spectacular alpine scenery.
- Alpine National Park, Mt Hotham Alpine Resort, Falls Creek Alpine Resort.
- Quaint country towns such as Harrietville and Omeo.
- Route of '3 Peaks Challenge' event.



Start Point and End Point

- Bright - Mt Hotham - Omeo - Falls Creek - Mt Beauty - Tawonga Gap – Bright.



Details of Loops or Branches

- This road cycling routes is a large loop.



Distance

- 245.7km.



Surface

- Sealed roads of variable quality and surface conditions.



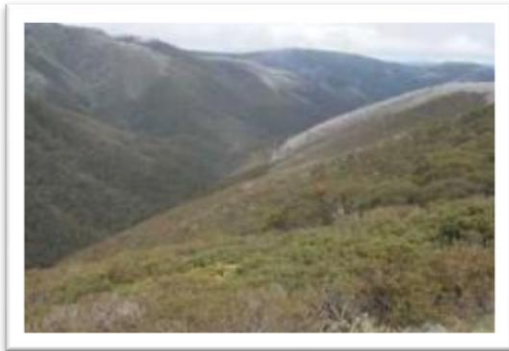
Trail Users

- Cyclists.



Signage – trail head, distance markers

- Signage is not provided.



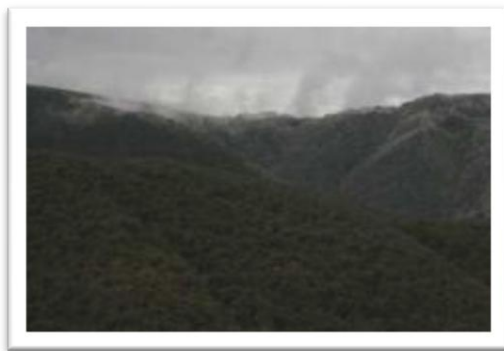
Trail Width – at several locations

- This is an on-road ride; no separate trail provided.



Toilets

- Toilets available at towns and Alpine Resorts en-route.



Seats / Shelters / Picnic Tables / BBQs

- Public picnic areas will be available in towns along the way.



Bike Parking

- May be bike parking in towns along the way.



Equestrian Facilities – troughs, yards

- Not an equestrian route.



Car Parking

- Parking available at Bright and other towns along the route.



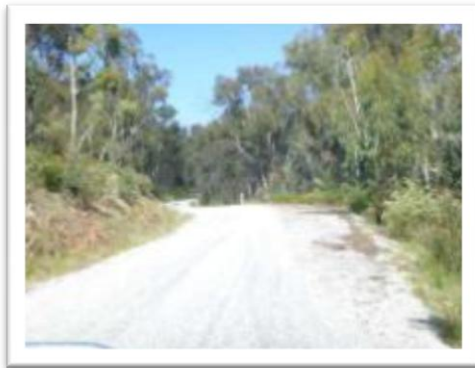
Link to Public Transport

- Trains available to Wangaratta from Melbourne and Sydney then bus to Bright.
- Buses available between Bright and Omeo, Dinner Plain, Mt Hotham, Harrietville, Myrtleford, Porepunkah, Beechworth and Benalla.
- The closest commercial airport is at Albury (105km).



Nearby Accommodation

- Many accommodation options in Bright, Myrtleford, Harrietville, Omeo, Mt Hotham, Falls Creek and Mt Beauty.



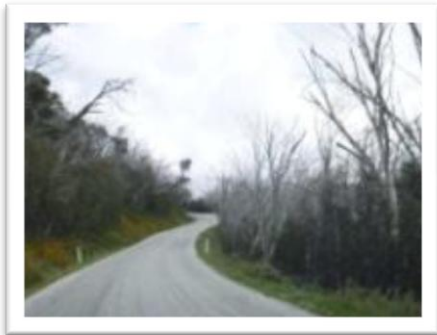
Attractions en route

- National Parks.
- Wineries
- Breweries.
- Historic towns.



Access to Drinking Water

- Water may be accessed at towns along the route but cyclists are advised to carry plenty of water with them.



Disability Access

- No disabled access.



Condition of Trail

- Sealed roads of variable quality.



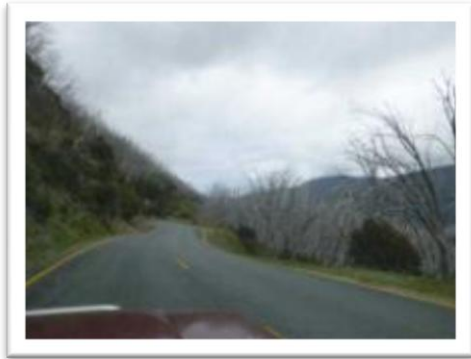
Land Ownership

- VicRoads.



Management Arrangements

- Route is not formally managed.



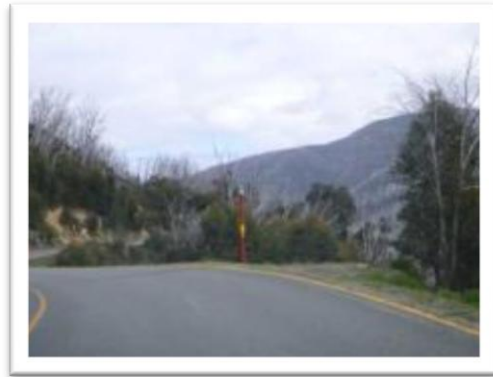
Marketing and Maps

- A poster of this ride: http://www.bookeasy.com.au/website/images/alpine/shut_up_legs.pdf.
- Awareness of the route is enhanced through the '3 Peaks Challenge' event held in March each year.



Businesses Operating en route

- Accommodation, food and beverage businesses operate in towns along the route.



Comments – successes, challenges, etc

- The '3 Peaks Challenge' event held in March each year on the Alpine Loop route is regarded as one of the toughest and most challenging road cycling events in Australia.
- The challenge of this route attracts many cyclists to the region.
- Many sections of road along the route have little or no shoulder and often steep drop-offs, increasing the risk to riders of the loop.



Possible Improvements

- High risk sections would benefit from widening and provision of road shoulders to ride on.
- As the route attracts more riders local businesses should be encouraged to cater to this market e.g. cyclist friendly accommodation at Omeo as a convenient half way stopover.
- Resurface some wooden bridges to reduce risk of jamming wheels in wooden decking.