

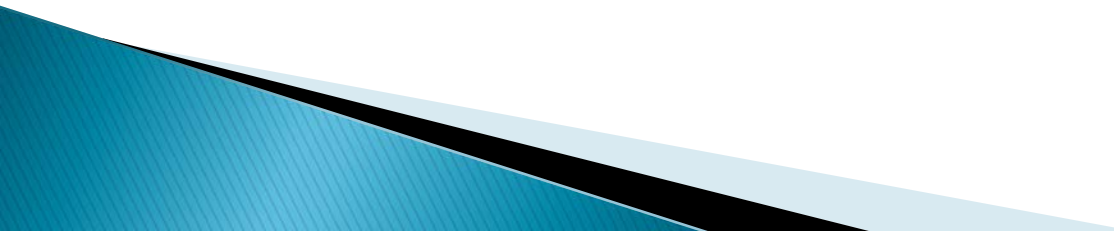
Rail trails – the journey's beginning and the destination



Mike Halliburton Associates

Trail Consultants

Some Facts About Rail Trails

- ▶ Rail trails are not something new
 - ▶ USA – 2,000 rail trails over 32,000 kilometres since the early 1960s
 - ▶ United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand, Spain, France, Germany, numerous other European countries and other countries around the world
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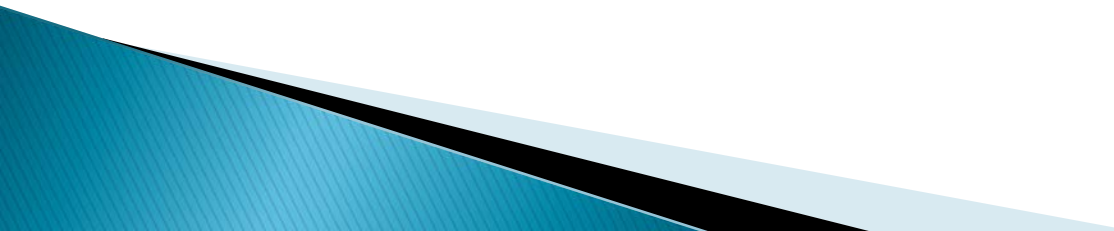




Some Facts About Rail Trails

- ▶ 100 rail trails in Australia
 - 30 in Victoria
 - 20 in WA
 - 20 in Tasmania
 - 15 in Queensland
 - 8 in SA
 - 5 in NSW
 - 2 in NT

Some Facts About Rail Trails

- ▶ First rail trail in Australia? Railway Reserves Heritage Trail in Mundaring, Western Australia. developed over 25 years ago
 - ▶ Many in regional and rural Australia (Fernleigh Track is somewhat of an exception)
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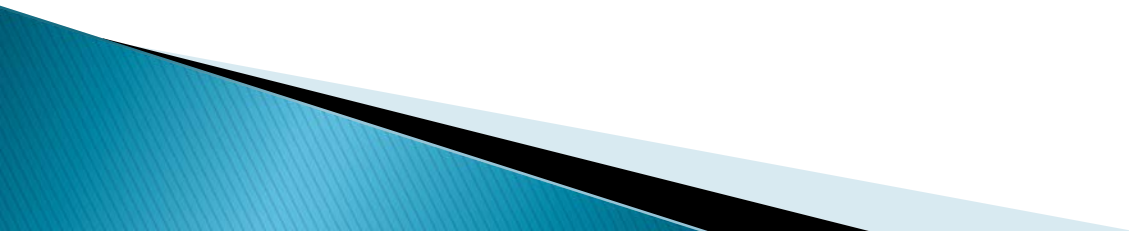
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Some Facts About Rail Trails

- ▶ Generally built along **publicly** owned disused railway corridors
- ▶ For “non-motorised” users – cyclists, walkers, runners, parents pushing prams, horse riders (sometimes), people in wheelchairs, fun runs and triathlons
- ▶ Safe, flat routes away from dangerous roads
- ▶ Provide access into the countryside for people of all abilities
- ▶ Traverse a variety of urban and rural landscapes including:
 - farms and paddocks
 - vineyards
 - forests and wetlands

The NSW rail trails situation







Who has been the champion?

→ No best way or right way

Someone who has gone to Victoria or NZ and seen what good things these are



Council initiates the project Port Fairy Warrnambool Rail Trail – Moyne Shire Council



Business individual/group

Riesling Trail SA – winemakers



Community initiates the project
Witchcliffe Progress Association
Busselton Flinders Bay Rail Trail



Brisbane Valley Rail Trail – Trail planner initiated



Who has been the champion?

- ▶ Individual initiates the project
- ▶ Bicycle User Group

→ No best way or right way

What has been achieved

Significant visitor numbers





Blue sign with white text, likely a directional or informational sign.

067

WINDMILL





767 ft ASL
783 ft
Claude Leo Reserve
Colac-Beech Forest - Crowes Railway

767 ft ASL
783 ft
Claude Leo Reserve
Colac-Beech Forest - Crowes Railway



What has been achieved

Significant local numbers





What has been achieved

Significant new and existing growth business opportunities

Based on

Overnight expenditure \$165.00/person/night

Day trip expenditure \$97.09/person/visit



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Mawson TRAIL COLLEGE ROAD

 Saint Aloysius Church .3km
 Wineries .3km 
 Father Rogalski Loop 9.7km 

 Sevenhill .7km
 Wineries 3.3km
 Conservation Park 6km
 John Horrocks Loop 8.8 km 

THE RIESLING TRAIL

WELCOME
 to the
 SEVENHILL
 WINE & TOURISM CENTRE
 PLEASE VISIT

WELCOME
 to the
 SEVENHILL
 WINE & TOURISM CENTRE
 PLEASE VISIT

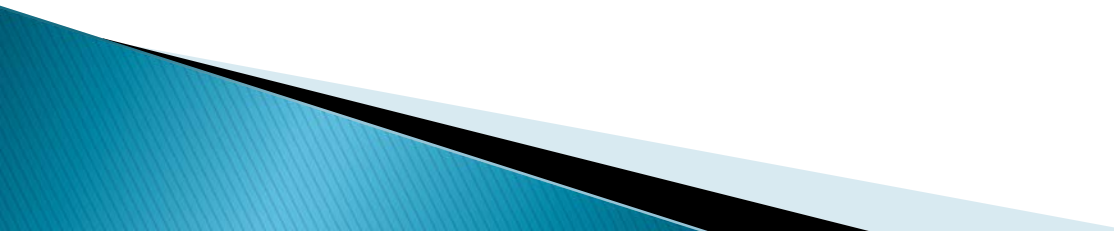




WINERY & CAFE



A word on active transport

- ▶ Limited “urban” rail trails in Australia (some in Melbourne, Fernleigh Track)
 - ▶ Most have some urban component with some active transport opportunities
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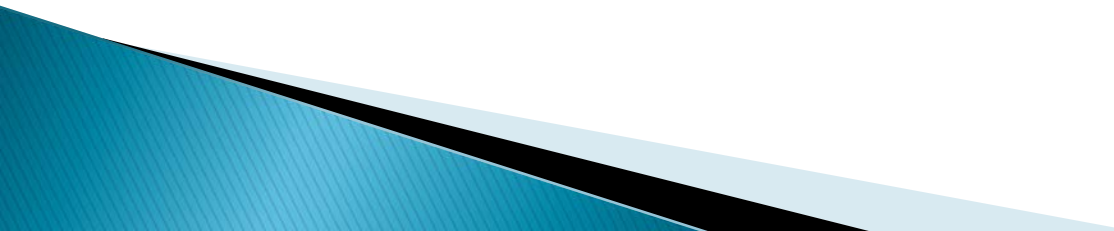
Richmond Vale RT

- Potential safe commuting route for residents of Minmi
- Connects to the greater Newcastle bike network – cyclists could travel from the Rail Trail via the existing urban network to the Fernleigh Track and to Newcastle’s beaches.
- A number of schools in close proximity:
 - Pelaw Main Public School
 - Weston Infants and Primary School
 - Kurri Infants and Primary and High School
 - Stanford Merthyr Infants School.
 - Minmi Public School
 - Newcastle University

The school opportunity

- ▶ The opportunity for local schoolchildren to ride bikes on a safe off-road facility – wise use of community resources.
- ▶ Caboolture Wamuran Rail Trail Feasibility Study
 - some 4,400 students have easy access to the rail corridor.
- ▶ Bethania Beaudesert Rail Trail Feasibility Study
 - Some 5,000 students have easy access to the rail corridor.
- ▶ Rail trails also provide a safe off-road facility within easy access of schools for use by the schools for activities.

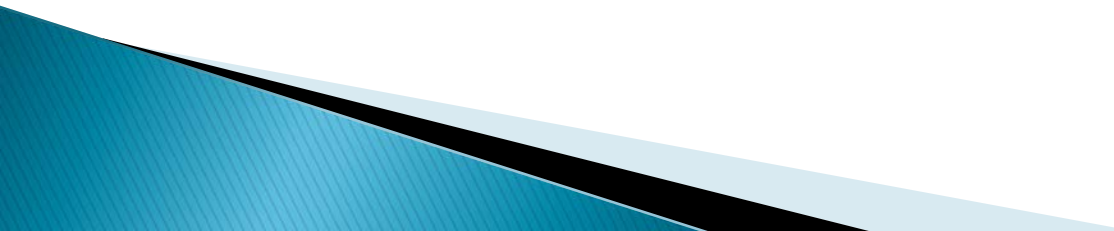
Future opportunities

- ▶ Some 16 rail trail proposals current in NSW
 - ▶ Spread across NSW
 - ▶ Ideas in various stages
 - ▶ Awaiting legislation and funding
 - ▶ Tumbarumba Rosewood RT – sod turning stage
 - ▶ Northern Rivers RT – funding for a range of activities
- 

Tools needed to convince your community and NSW Government

- ▶ Published research on dollars spent by rail trail users.
- ▶ Articulation of the benefits – health, economic, commute, school, environmental.
- ▶ Range of solutions available to every landowner concern.
- ▶ High level of community support i.e. not just the initiator.
- ▶ A “coalition of the willing” – broad alliance of supporters.
- ▶ Examples of successful rail trails elsewhere.
- ▶ Proof that rail trail will be a community recreation asset.
- ▶ Feasibility Study and Trail Development Plan.

What/who may derail your project?

- ▶ **Non-supportive Council.**
 - ▶ **Lack of community support.**
 - ▶ **Boring, unattractive corridor (eye of the beholder).**
 - ▶ **Distance from user markets.**
 - ▶ **No (or limited) local users.**
 - ▶ **Lack of other tourism infrastructure.**
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Potential and perceived winners

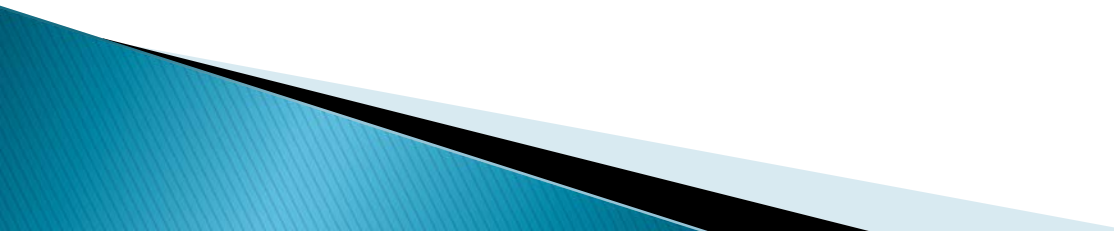
- ▶ ‘the community ‘ – not just the local community (i.e. people living and working alongside the railway corridor), but also all of those people living in the wider region
- ▶ visitors to the region

Potential and perceived losers

- ▶ those living alongside the corridor – a direct and often very personal interest in the corridor and perceive that they may be losers out of any conversion to a rail trail due to a perception of negative impacts on lifestyles, and loss of currently used land.



Landowner opposition

- ▶ NIMBYs
 - ▶ OMDB-ers
 - ▶ NAE-sayers
 - ▶ AEBH-sayers
- 



Potential and perceived winner and losers

- ▶ ‘winners’ – often a much more diverse and geographically spread group – local users, visitors, and local businesses.
 - ▶ ‘Losers’ – those living alongside the corridor
 - ▶ a typical pattern for the impacts of most public infrastructure projects.
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