



The Richmond Vale Rail Trail

The Active Transport
Gateway
to the Upper Hunter

A potted history

In the beginning

- John Eales and John Christian developed a coal mine at Minmi.
- On 7th November 1854 John Eales gains rights to rail per the Minmi & Hexham Railway Act
- J & A Brown develop a mine at Minmi and they use Eales railway for transport to the staithes at Hexham



The 2005 extension

- After the deaths of James and Alexander Brown John (Baron) Brown added the line from the old Eales line to his mines in the coalfields.
- This was the beginning of the Richmond Vale Railway.



RVRail history

- Construction completed in 1905 by John “Baron” Brown
- Used to haul coal from Richmond Vale, Pelaw Main, Stanford & Stockrington Collieries.
- Last steam train 1987. (Last in Aust)
- Mid 60’s taken over by Rio Tinto, (Coal and Allied)

RVRT Map



RVRT Features

- Trailheads at Kurri Kurri, Tarro and Shortland Wetlands
- 28 km in length
 - Includes swamp, dense forest, dry sclerophyll forests, and open farm land



RVRT Features

- 2 high timber trestle bridges
- Low gradients 1:48 to 1:60 allows for easy access.

Burgess Bridge
Surveyos Creek



Avery's Bridge Wallis Creek



RVT Features

- 3 brick portal tunnels
 - 2 near Mt Sugarloaf (>200 m each)
 - 1 under George Booth Drive





Tunnel under M1



Track across Pambalong Swamp



RVRT History

- April 1999 Inquiry into Infrastructure – Cycle & Cycling Tourism Opportunities in the Hunter
- Monday 23 September 2002 Cycle Tourism in the Hunter seminar held in Cessnock
- 2005 ARUP report on Cycle Tourism in the Hunter Valley



History cont

- RVRT inaugural committee meeting held at TFI 18 Oct 2012
- CoN manages the project
- Feasibility Study completed Sept 14 – feasibility established?
- March 2016 GHD study approved and contracted by CoN funds from Donaldson Trust and councils – results not yet known



RVRT Inc

History

Started as an informal group of cyclists in late 1990's and registered as a not for profit Association in August 2015

Aims

1. Raise awareness & get support
2. Seek funding
3. Develop the trail
4. Input into design and use planning

Benefits

- Tourism
 - Domestic and International. Value enhanced if it links to other routes
 - Links
 - Pokolbin, Singleton and beyond
 - Convict Trail
 - South Maitland Rail
 - North coastal cycle route
 - Newcastle cycle ways
 - Minmi rail corridor
 - Benefits to transport, accommodation, retail outlets especially food, beverage & cycle

Benefits...

- Community services
 - Safe facility for
 - Walkers, joggers, cyclists
 - For youth groups
 - For nature lovers
 - Disabled
 - Elderly
 - Commuting opportunities especially at Beresfield/Tarro and the Kurri Kurri ends



Benefits...

- Environmental Benefits
 - Green belt preserved
 - Wildlife corridor
 - Provision of information on environment
- Educational benefits
 - Provision of educational materials
 - Allows access for students
 - History retained
- Health Benefits
 - Active transport
 - Personal Health & Fitness **& FUN**
 - Reduced Burden of Health



Questions

- Contact us at:
- Email: rvrt.inc@gmail.com
- Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/richmondrailtrail/>
- Phone: 0408 636 437

Thank you