

Recreation Trails Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday 22 August 2019
Time 6.00pm – 8.30pm
Venue: Manna Gum 1 & 2, Civic Centre – Greensborough
Chair: Cr John Dumaresq
Minute taker: Nathan Roberts

Acronyms:

AT – Aqueduct Trail
DCT – Diamond Creek Trail
GWT – Green Wedge Trail
HSAT – Heidelberg School Artists Trail
MW – Melbourne Water
NRT – Northern Regional Trails
PGMTB - Plenty Gorge Mountain Bike Club
PHBRS - Panton Hill Bushland Reserve System
PMP – Pick My Project
PV – Parks Victoria
RTAC – Recreation Trails Advisory Committee
VCAT – Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal

Order of business

1. Welcome

Attendance – Cr John Dumaresq (chair), Cr Jane Ashton, Stephen Hadley, Rex Niven, Bob Muxlow, Cath Giles, Finn Westerman, Vince Bagusauskas, Heath Gillett, Nadine Wooldridge and Nathan Roberts

Apologies – Cr Bruce Ranken, Louise Barry, Jamie Sharp, Andrew Bakos Kay Cruse and Jan Davies.

2. Conflict of interest and Assembly of Councillor form

Completed following meeting by Nathan Roberts

3. Minutes of previous meeting

These minutes were presented at the July Council meeting for ratification. All Committee meeting minutes need to be ratified at Ordinary Council meeting before they are circulated to the Committee.

Moved: Rex Niven

Seconded: Bob Muxlow

4. Introduction – Heath Gillett, Manger Recreation and Leisure

Committee members introduced each other to the group. New Manager for Recreation and Leisure gave introduction and background to the Committee. Heath joins Nillumbik Shire Council from Mornington Peninsular. Heath acknowledge the amazing work completed by the Committee over the past years, recognising those who have been involved since the Committees inception in 1992. Heath advised he is keen to understand Council can best utilise the knowledge and skill base of members of the Committee in the planning and delivery of priority trails including the Diamond Creek, Aqueduct trail and missing links.

5. Update on Trails Strategy Addendum

Heath gave update on the Trails Strategy Addendum advising that it had been discussed with Executive Management Team. The next steps are for Heath to take the priorities of the Trails Strategy Addendum including the Aqueduct trail and missing links to Council to seek funding for design works. This will be taken up to Council amongst other Recreation and Leisure priority projects for the next 12 months. Presentation currently earmarked for prior to next RTAC meeting in November.

The Committee raised the following to note in prioritising around trails:

- Risk of losing rural trails around sealing roads
- Highlight that Aqueduct connects Melbourne to Cairns (national level infrastructure)
- Key lessons learned from Diamond Creek Trail should be applied to Aqueduct planning where possible.
- Melbourne Water developed detailed plans in 2012 of the possible alignment of a trail following the historic Aqueduct and that these included details around gradients, widths, surface types etc.
- Keep progressing and advocating for road reserve widening to accommodate trail along Ridge Road in relation to Melbourne water disposing of Christmas hills land. Fae new Council contact in this project. Replaced Anthony.
- Highlight environmental strength of trails over buildings as are carbon omissions neutral.
- Cath Giles advised Council should not forget the prioritisation of the Green Wedge regional trail as a significant link, with rural aspect with unique user experience provided.

6. Northern Regions Trails update

Northern Regions Trails Meeting was hosted by Banyule Council on Thursday 15th August. The first meeting since November 2018.

Nadine explained the background of Northern regional trails group in coming together of 7 local government to advocate for trail investment from Government in trail infrastructure. The Northern Regions Trails Strategy was adopted in 2016.

One million dollars was allocated in 2017-18 and was successfully redelivered by the Councils who received the funds. The government recognised the success this investment and representatives from DELWP, Damien Taylor Program Manager, Local Parks, Port Phillip Region and Stephanie J Gaut announced at the meeting a further \$10.6 million to be invested in the Northern Region over the next 3 years.

DELWP are yet to confirm details such as how funding will be distributed, if it requires matching funding etc. Northern Region Trails working group to agree on how \$10million will be split up. Some basic criteria apply such as that the trail be regionally significant and shovel ready project which could be delivered in next 3 years. Trails identified in the strategy can only be included for consideration.

This announcement highlights the need for Aqueduct planning to be invested in order to be ready to respond to future funding announcements.

7. Diamond Creek Trail update

Land acquisition - Council is now in ownership of the land, and a proportion of the land has been paid. The legal process continues as counter claims are heard in relation to value of the land, meanwhile trails construction can commence including fencing.

Funding – Vic Roads has committed \$4 million to project, final funding agreement waiting to be received.

Tender – currently being finalised to go out in September for section of extension from Diamond Creek to Wattle Glen. Construction due to commence in early 2020 and take 9-12 months. Trail will be separate contracts for fencing, bridges, trail etc.

Fencing – is four strand post and wire fencing – Melbourne water approved.

Cultural Heritage assessment - High density artefacts found. Report from Aboriginal Victoria due in October and will detail information regarding varying construction requirements. Opportunity to work and develop interpretive signage at site where items were found.

Permits – due to planning scheme amendment there is no separate planning permit required however same requirements such as fire management plan, ecological assessment, Melbourne water approval etc required. Bulk of work being done by Planning team at the moment.

Signage

Signage of trails was discussed. Nadine advise signage of Diamond Creek trail will ideally be rolled out across the whole trail (old and new sections) and that this would set the standards for signage of trails across the Shire and also be consistent with the styling of the Northern regions trails signs. To date signage rollout has been on hold until the Council branding refresh which has recently been finalised.

8. Other business

Issue of interaction between drivers and horse riders

Cath Giles raised concerns in relation to the requirement for a recreational road user / driver awareness campaign to help educate drivers on how to drive past/near horse riders (or bike riders for that matter). Cath reported drivers are driving aggressively and that an educational program (including static signage, reminders in Nillumbik news) should be implemented by the Shire.

Action: Recreation team to discuss with Transport/ traffic team.

Cath Giles requested for Green Wedge Trail to be instated as regular agenda item.

Action: Agenda for November meeting to be updated to include Green Wedge Trail.

Cath Giles requested past meeting minutes be attached to email to Committee rather than link to Council website.

Action: Committee minutes can be attached to meeting email

Rodger road trail

Query raised in relation to status of works on Rodger Road. Nathan confirmed updated provided to group. Update 9/8/19: After discussing the change to the trail alignment with planning, Council were required to submit an application to amend the original permit. Construction works will commence as soon as practicable following the approval from Planning.

8.00pm meeting concluded

9. Next Meeting

Next formal meeting will be in February 2020.

Recreation Trails Advisory Committee

Update August 2019

Regional Trails Update

Diamond Creek Trail

Work on the Diamond Creek Trail extension progresses

Artefacts were found along the Diamond Creek trail extension in Hurstbridge last month as part of cultural significance works carried out to ensure Aboriginal culture is protected before construction begins.

Nillumbik Shire Council engaged archaeologists from Heritage Insight to develop a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) for the new Diamond Creek to Hurstbridge trail extension.



Left to right: Anthony Hamdorf (Archaeologist – Heritage Insight), Ian Edmondson (Archaeologist – Heritage Insight), Tony Binney (Wurundjeri Cultural Heritage Officer), Paul Charles O'Shea (Archaeologist – Heritage Insight), Front: Thane Dinnaway (Wurundjeri Cultural Heritage Officer)

The archaeologists worked with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation to assess archaeological and cultural significance and ensure the cultural values of the Wurundjeri people are protected and reflected in the design and construction.

Their work involved background research into the history, geology, environmental and archaeological nature of the area and a series of survey work and excavation along the proposed trail.

Mayor Karen Egan said archaeologists identified a variety of Aboriginal stone artefacts which will be protected through the Cultural Heritage Management Plan. “Council is expected to receive the report in late 2019, in which it will review and implement outlined recommendations to ensure Aboriginal cultural heritage is protected,” Cr Egan said.

The artefacts are predominately made of silcrete and will undergo formal analysis and identification as part of the CHMP. Cr Egan said the Diamond Creek Trail extension was one of the highest priority infrastructure projects in the region.

“Works are progressing well on the extension. In addition to the cultural assessment, we have finalised land acquisition and are continuing to work with emergency agencies around access and mandatory planning requirements.”

Construction of Stage 1 of the extension – which covers Diamond Creek to Wattle Glen and includes three bridges and the trail – is expected to start in early 2020.

Nillumbik Shire Council and the State Government have together committed \$8 million to fund the project.

Council will continue to advocate for further external funding to construct Stage 2 of the extension which will cover Wattle Glen to Hurstbridge.

The project extends Diamond Creek Trail eight kilometres from Diamond Creek to Hurstbridge. When completed, the extension of the trail from Diamond Creek to Hurstbridge will create a 55km unbroken trail to the CBD.

Aqueduct Trail

An update will be provided at our meeting on Thursday 22nd August.

Green Wedge Trail

At this stage there is no further planning work being completed for this Trail.

Rodger Road Sealing

The trail works are nearing completion to resolve issue with the steepness of the ramp to the new access trail. After discussions with our Environmental Planner:

- the ramp will be redesigned on a different angle to achieve a flatter grade.
- this option is likely to have least impact on surrounding area
- the redesign will be completed shortly planning will then review to determine if amendment to planning permit is required.

Update 9/8/19: After discussing the change to the trail alignment with planning, we were required to submit an application to amend the original permit. Construction works will commence as soon as practicable following the approval from Planning.



Trail maintenance and improvement program

As part of the 2018-19 trails maintenance program the following trails were widened / improved; Diamond Creek Trail along Watkins Street, Diamond Creek Trail Barrack Bushland, Aqueduct Trail Research (renewed and widened where possible). Plus various other upgrades including – Eltham Trestle Bridge, Diamond Creek Trail at Allendale Road, Pedestrian crossing at Watkins St (Diamond Creek Trail). Works concluded at the end of June with a total of 2 kilometres widened. A works program for the 2019-20 budget is currently in development



Local Links

Planning is commencing for the local links trail project in 2019/20. A review of the next priorities as nominated by RTAC members will be done to best understand project readiness, scope, likely costs and strategic alignment. A budget of \$45,000 is available for this financial year.

Pick my project

Plenty Gorge MTB trails

The PG MTB trails project is progressing, current summary:

- Funding agreement signed between DPC & PV, project has officially started
- Environment, Cultural Heritage and Trail contracts awarded to Acacia, Archaeological Solutions Australia & Trailscapes
- Notice of intent to prepare CHMP lodged with and accepted by the Wurundjeri Aboriginal Corporation
- Acacia and Trailscapes are preparing for on-site trail alignment review
- PGMTB plan to hold annual general meeting soon to update members on progress and to call for volunteers for trail work

Widening Diamond Creek Trail

Approximately 800m of path along the Diamond Creek Trail from Allendale Road north towards Marngrook oval has been widened to 3m to a total cost of \$200,000 excl. GST (State Government Pick my project funding) as at end of June 2019.

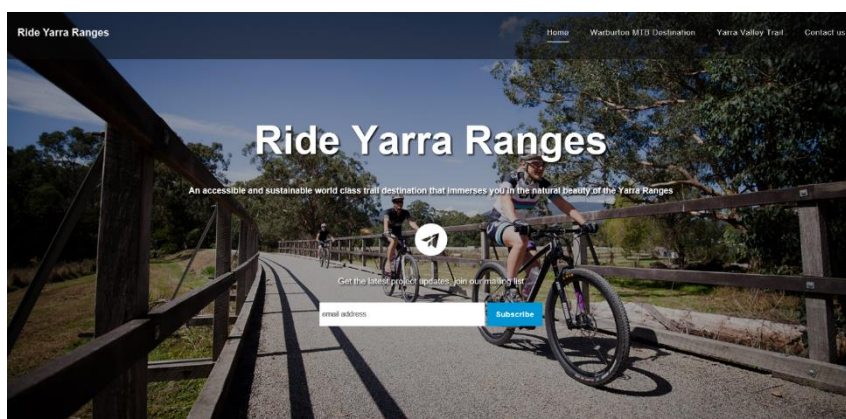
Strategic update

Northern Regional Trails Strategy update

Meeting was hosted by Banyule Council on Thursday 15th August. Information from meeting to be shared at RTAC meeting later this month including announcement of \$10.6 million on the table from DELWP for the Northern Region over the next 3 half years.

Yarra Ranges Trail Infrastructure

Nillumbik Shire Council officers recently met with Yarra Ranges Council to discuss the learnings and shared challenges of trail construction. More detail regarding their projects can be found on the following website: rideyarraranges.com.au



Works are continuing on stage 1A of the Yarra Valley Trail.

The old railway has been removed and stockpiled for future use of heritage railways and the original trail ballast has been compacted in preparation for the trail toppings. Read the full story at rideyarraranges.com.au or <https://www.bicyclenetwork.com.au/newsroom/2019/06/05/trail-construction-starts-in-yarra-valley/>

The Warburton Mountain Bike Destination Project team has been busy since the appointment of trail design and construction company World Trail in March. Work has included: refining the master plan in response to community feedback and specialist consultant works, completing studies and assessments to inform an Environmental Effects Statement (EES) Referral and an Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Referral. Read the full story at rideyarraranges.com.au

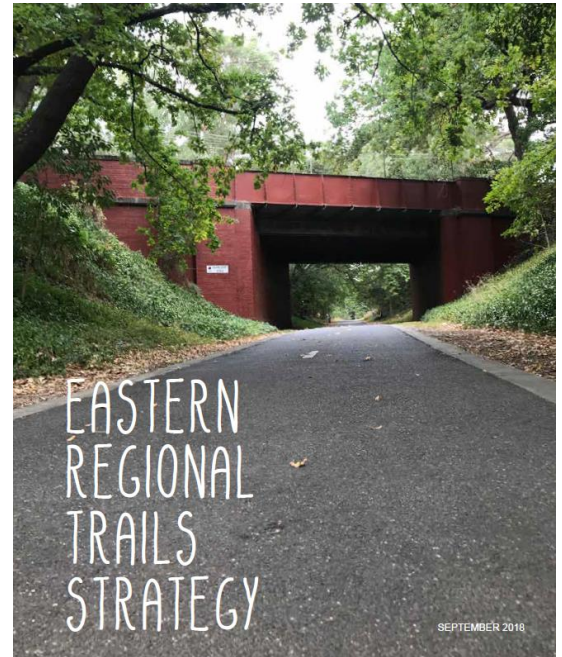
Melbourne East Trails plan

Eastern Trails Strategy is available here -

<https://www.bicyclenetwork.com.au/newsroom/2019/07/18/melbournes-east-gets-trails-plan/>

Within the plan the top ten construction projects identified were:

- Yarra Valley Trail - Construct the Yarra Valley Trail
- Warburton Rail Trail- Continue the Warburton Rail Trail south from Lilydale to the Tarralla Creek Trail via the Melbourne Water Pipe Track Reserve.
- Box Hill to Ringwood Rail Trail - Extend the Box Hill to Ringwood Rail Trail east from Ringwood Station to Croydon Station and to connect to the Carrum to Warburton Trail.
- Box Hill to Ringwood Rail Trail - Extend the Box Hill to Ringwood Rail Trail west from Box Hill Station to Hawthorn Station.
- Main Yarra Trail - Extend the Yarra Trail east to connect to Warrandyte.
- Waverley Rail Trail - Close gap in the Waverley Rail Trail from Beatrice Avenue (east of Jordanville Station) to Stephenson's Road (west of Mount Waverley Station).
- Waverley Rail Trail Complete the gap in the Waverley Rail Trail from Coleman Parade to Kingsway (Glen Waverley Station).
- Box Hill to Ringwood Rail Trail - Complete the gap in the Box Hill to Ringwood Rail Trail from Middleborough Road to Blackburn Road.
- Box Hill to Ringwood Rail Trail - Complete the gap in the Box Hill to Ringwood Rail Trail from Nunawading Station to Walkers Road.
- Anniversary Trail - Complete the gap on the Anniversary Trail between Riversdale Road (Fordham Avenue) and Prospect Hill Road



Panton Hill Bushland Reserve User update

Nillumbik Shire Council is seeking expressions of interest from community representatives to serve on the Panton Hill Bushland Reserves System User Group Advisory Committee. There are 8 positions for community representatives to be appointed for a two year term. Applications close Sunday 25 August 2019, 5pm.

<https://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/Environment/Environment-Advisory-Committees>

Environment grants now open

The Community Environment Grants are now open and close 15 September 2019. In partnership with the State Government we are offering grants valued at \$300 to \$4,000 to support community-led projects that care for our local environment. For all the information, guidelines and the link to apply via Smarty Grants go to <http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/environmentgrants>

Green Wedge Management Plan

Community feedback to the draft plan closed Sunday 11 August. Next steps:

- A summary of all community engagement will be presented to Council at a Future Nillumbik Meeting in September 2019.
- Following the Future Nillumbik Meeting, the summary will be made available to the community.
- Council will consider all submissions received and will use the feedback to inform the development of the final Green Wedge Management Plan.
- The final Green Wedge Management Plan will be presented to Council for endorsement in October 2019.



For further information: <https://participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/gwmp>

Equine Industry and Activities Plan

A draft Equine Industry and Activities Plan is being prepared with a view to briefing Council in September. The next step would be broad consultation that will include all Council advisory committees and community groups. We are also trying to ensure that feedback from the current community engagement piece for the Green Wedge Management Plan is included in this plan where relevant.

Arts Advisory Committee

Minutes

- Date:** Monday 9 September 2019
- Time:** 7pm to 9pm
- Venue:** Nillumbik Shire Council, Civic Drive, Greensborough, Manna Gum 1 & 2
- Chair:** Cr Jane Ashton, Deputy Chair Arts Advisory Committee
- Minute taker:** Grace Longato, Acting Coordinator Arts & Cultural Development

Order of business

1. Welcome

Attendance: Cr Jane Ashton, Blaise van Hecke, Eugene Howard, Matt Blackwood, Ute Leiner, Gillian Essex

Officers: Sarah Hammond, Community Arts Officer and Grace Longato, Acting Coordinator Arts and Cultural Development

Apologies: Mayor Cr Karen Egan, Dennis Coard, Brian Gilkes, Kylie Lethbridge, Executive Manager, Economic Development & Tourism.

2. Conflict of interest and Assembly of Councillor Form

None reported. Assembly of Councillor Form lodged with Governance 10 September 2019.

3. Minutes from previous meeting

That the minutes of the meeting held on 29 July 2019 are confirmed as a true and accurate record:

Moved: Gillian Essex

Seconded: Matt Blackwood

Business items

Details

Action

4. Council reports

update: Art Collection Policy and Curatorial Guidelines, Public Art Policy and Implementation Guidelines and Regional Gallery Feasibility Study

Committee updated on Future Nillumbik Committee - 13 August 2019. Public Art Policy and Implementation Guidelines received one verbal submission in support of the policy. Regional Gallery Feasibility Study received 6 verbal submissions with all but one in support of a gallery, and all but one in support of Main Street 895 Eltham as the preferred site.

Council meetings schedule:

17 September - Council Briefing

29 October - Ordinary Council Meeting

5. Digital Agora: Project update

Committee updated on the progress of this program. Eltham was well received and attended. Diamond Creek and St Andrews are on track and Hurstbridge will be rescheduled/restaged for one night only on Thursday 26 September (Grand Final long weekend).

Committee encouraged to promote this program and attend and/or confirm availability for volunteer (marshalling) roles.

6. Eltham Library Community Gallery 2020 Exhibition Program: Panel assessment

The Committee reviewed all 20 applications, having submitted their assessments prior to the meeting. The six vacancies for the 2020 calendar year were finalised and filled by applications that rated highly in satisfying the program's assessment criteria.

Officers to contact applicants informing them of the outcome and to confirm 2020 exhibition program for next meeting.

Other Business

Committee in favour of scheduling 2020 AAC meetings bi-monthly.

Next Meeting

Monday, 21 October 7pm.

Close: 8.45pm