



NEWSLETTER 2, 2024

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IN APRIL WE WELCOMED THE GREAT SOUTH WEST WALKING GROUP FINISHING AT COLERAINE FOR LUNCH!



NEW TRAILER THANKS TO FRRR GRANT

Can you believe we're already knee-deep in July?

So much buzz since our last update! The Hamilton-Coleraine Rail Reserve has been a hive of activity. From mastering first aid (thanks Wannon Water Ripple Grant) to taming chainsaws, fixing culverts, setting up and burning bonfires, showing the SGSC councillors and executives around parts of the reserve, and getting some further reserve works undertaken.

A massive round of applause to the Foundation for Regional and Rural Renewal for supporting us up with a brand new trailer to shift our gear and mowers around safely. We've also gone eco-friendly with electric chainsaws - cutting costs and staying safe. This trailer is our trusty sidekick in getting the track all spruced up, even in this very-dry weather.

Good news alert: no more fence acrobatics needed between Dunns Road and Coffey Street! You can now stroll or cycle without having to climb the fences or use the sty.

More good news: Another section is now fenced between Fairburns Rd and Pelchens Rd - a big shoutout to our adjoining landholders Jos and Peter, for making it happen. Cant wait to see this area progress further.

Time's flying by, and with the committee appointed in 2021, we're on the lookout for fresh faces.

Want in on the action? Expressions of Interest are open to join the Hamilton Coleraine Rail Reserve Committee. Get those applications in by July 28th to DEECA.

Keen to be a Friend of the Rail Trail instead? Hit us up by filling in this form:

<https://www.redgumtrack.net.au/Membership.html>.

Let's keep the adventure and the progress rolling! We have a variety of projects that we can use help with including reserve maintenance (it is 37km long), planting, assisting with signage, grant writing, helping with newsletters.



Expressions of Interest

MEMBERSHIP OF THE HAMILTON - COLERAINE RAIL RESERVE COMMITTEE INCORPORATED.

Nominations are invited from interested and skilled members of the community wishing to be considered for membership of the Hamilton - Coleraine Rail Reserve Committee Incorporated. This volunteer committee is responsible for the day-to-day management, care and development of the Hamilton - Coleraine Rail Reserve. The term of appointment is three years to 31st August 2027.

Specific interest or skills in one of the following areas would be highly regarded:

- Community and stakeholder engagement
- Environmental science and / or land management
- Governance and volunteer management

All registrations of interest for the voluntary role will be considered.

Further information and nomination forms are available by emailing aiden.campbell@deeca.vic.gov.au or phone 0458 826 280.

Expressions of Interest are to be on the formal nomination form and addressed to: Land and Built Environment, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, 703-709 Raglan Parade, Warrnambool, VIC, 3280 - or emailed to: publicland.bsw@deeca.vic.gov.au.

Women, First Nations people, people with disabilities, young people and people from culturally diverse backgrounds are actively encouraged to apply to ensure that the committee's membership reflects the composition of the community it serves.

Expressions of Interest close Sunday 28 July 2024.

www.deeca.vic.gov.au

Customer Service Centre 136 186



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THANK YOU SO MUCH HAMILTON HIRE FOR THE WORK TO REPLACE CULVERTS ALONG THE RAIL TRAIL



IN APRIL, RAIL TRAILS AUSTRALIA SPENT THE DAY WITH US REVIEWING AND PROVIDING SOME THOUGHTS. THANKS

The Human Health and Ecological Assessment has now been completed in regard to the investigation supported by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA). The HHERA report should be read in full. Subject to the assumptions and limitations stated within the report, a summary of the conclusions is as follows. The report noted that risks of exposure to arsenic in soils within the rail reserve were assessed as low, which included:

- Exposure of adults and children using the reserve for recreational activities (walking, cycling and/or running);
 - Exposure when undertaking activities that mobilise dust (such as mowing);
 - Exposure of livestock who occasionally graze within the rail reserve as well as the adult and children consumers of the meat or milk products; and
 - Risks will be lower than those assessed in the report if a person is exposed to soil in various locations rather than the most impacted location (BH16)
- Risks to aquatic ecosystems is low due to low leachability of arsenic.

• The above excerpt is taken from page 22/329 of the full Hamilton-Coleraine Rail Reserve Soil Investigation and Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment 25 June, 2024.

Please contact DEECA 186186 if you wish to see a full report. It is a large document. The CoM continues to work to minimise any possible risk through our Environment Management Plan and we thank DEECA for their support.

Due to aging infrastructure, some/many of the old rail culverts have collapsed. A special acknowledgment goes out to David Murrie from Hamilton Hire for generously volunteering his time, expertise, and equipment to assist along the Hockey Stick section to replace some of these.

Let's now delve into upcoming known projects:

- Anticipate enhancements along the rail trail at the Hamilton end, promising improved pedestrian safety and road upgrades, courtesy of the **SGSC Road and Pedestrian Safety Initiative**.
- **The Hamilton Habitat Corridor** is gearing up to provide a more hospitable environment for our avian friends, with forthcoming actions slated for Henderson Street, Pioneer, and Kenny Street areas, facilitated by a **Landcare grant**. Please note any plant selection is undertaken by referring to the Environment Audit and Management Plan 2015 <https://www.redgumtrack.net.au/LINKS.htm>
- Other exciting developments include the implementation of **new wayfinding posts**, made possible by FRRR. We would love some help in putting these in (see picture opposite) pending opportune soft ground conditions.

While progress continues with our rail reserve upgrades, vigilance is required to prevent unexpected visits from wandering farm animals. Containing livestock off the reserve is the responsibility of the owner.

A heartfelt thank you to all our dedicated supporters; your contributions are truly invaluable. There is always plenty to do.

Interested in joining our endeavors? Reach out to us at enquiry@redgumtrack.net.au

Warm regards,

Hamilton Coleraine Rail Reserve Committee of Management



PS: THE HOCKEY STICK SECTION (21KM MARK FROM HAMILTON) IS LOOKING AMAZING IF YOU ARE UP FOR A STROLL.