

New Chair for Rail Trail Group

AT the second meeting of the Goulburn River High Country Rail Trail Advisory Group held recently, Murrumbidgee Shire community representative Rod Clue was elected as Chair.

Colleen Reynolds and Bernard Morris have also been appointed to represent the communities of Mansfield and Mitchell Shires respectively.

The Rail Trail Advisory Group has been established to provide a conduit for community interaction with the exciting 134km Rail Trail project, which will connect towns and communities including Tallarook, Trawool, Kerrisdale,

Homewood, Yea, Molesworth, Cathkin, Alexandra, Koriella, Kanumbra, Merton, Woodfield, Bonnie Doon, Mandampale and Mansfield.

Individuals and community groups along the trail are encouraged to contact their local representatives with input, ideas or concerns about the project and future use of the trail.

The Advisory Group will then provide feedback to the Rail Trail Committee of Management.

All enquiries of a technical nature or regarding project status are still to be referred to the Project Manager, Michael Dougall, on 5775 8555.

The first Advisory Group Chairman, Mr Clue, has been president of the Yea Business and Tourism Association since 2008 and also worked on the Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail as part of a volunteer group re-decking bridges.

"We really hope everyone is as excited about the High Country Rail Trail as we are – it will be great for tourism and bushfire recovery, as well as local health and fitness," Mr Clue said.

"We'll be asking for input from community groups along the way and hope people will contact us with their ideas as well," he said.

Colleen Reynolds, representing the Mansfield Shire, is an active community member who works at the High Country Visitor Information Centre and sits on the Mansfield Recreation Reserve Committee of Management.

Ms Reynolds has participated in a number of recreation planning and strategic studies, and is excited about the potential of the Rail Trail for tourism and local health and wellbeing.

Bernard Morris, representing Mitchell Shire, is an active local community member in Tallarook and sees the Rail Trail as offering significant benefits to the region.

He believes his corporate background, including involvement in large projects, combined with his commitment to the community will enable him to assist in representing the community views to the Rail Trail Committee of Management.

Other members of the Advisory Group are Shire officers, Jane Archbold (Murrumbidgee), Kaaren Smethurst (Mansfield) and Chris Guthrie (Mitchell), as well as Phil Browne (CFA) and John Sinclair, Victorian Farmers Federation.



Trail blazers: Rail Trail Advisory Group community representatives (L-F) Bernard Morris, Mitchell Shire, Colleen Reynolds, Mansfield Shire and Chair, Rod Clue, Murrumbidgee Shire.

Early start for Nagambie bypass

MAJOR construction work has started on the Nagambie Bypass several months ahead of schedule, with an upgraded and safer freeway route one step closer to taking trucks and through-traffic away from the Nagambie town centre.

Weir Road last December. "The bypass will provide a great boost for transport in the area, including major benefits for the fruit and vegetable-growing industries that depend on the highway for access to interstate and

number of jobs will be created by this project, many of which will be filled by people in the Nagambie and Greater Shepparton region."

When completed in 2012, the Nagambie Bypass will provide a miss-

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