

## Everton to Myrtleford Trail Description

### Trail Stages

- *Everton to Brookfield – 5 kilometres*
- *Brookfield to Bowman – 8 kilometres*
- *Bowmans to Gapsted – 6 kilometres*
- *Gapsted to Myrtleford – 8 kilometres*

### Everton to Brookfield – 5 kilometres Top

#### Trail Description

This short section of trail is down hill through rural farmlands. Care should be taken when crossing Diffey Road as trucks use this as access road to a nearby quarry.

Known locally as the Brookfield Crossing, the station was more of a siding where goods were loaded and offloaded. Concrete footings remain where the railway signals were displayed on the Great Alpine Road (formerly the Ovens Highway). A sign has been erected to show where the former Railway Station was located. Again the committee intend to reinstate this siding as a community development program.

#### Going

Easy

#### Status

Sealed in its entire length.

#### Amenities

Nil. Users will need to ride back to Everton for any support or services

#### Other Attractions

*Hume and Hovell Trail.*

A nearby historical monument has been erected to mark the route that Hume and Hovell took in their journey to map an inland route between Sydney and Melbourne.

## **Brookfield to Bowman (previously known as Murrumgee and Bowmans Forrest) – 8 kilometres Top**

### **Trail Description**

Care should be taken when crossing the Great Alpine Road (GAR) it is a major road and vehicles approach at 100km/hr. The trail parallels the GAR up until Burgoigee Creek bridge crossing. En route riders will pass through a large cattle property. Farmers often move cattle across the GAR and to the stockyards to the north. It is for this reason that fences and gates have been erected to stop cattle entering the rail reserve and damaging the bitumen seal as well as for user safety. Gates will normally left in the open position, and are only closed when cattle are being moved. Please leave gates as you find them and follow any instruction by farmers using the crossing.

The Bowmans Station site has been signposted and can be identified by an old open goods shed on the platform, users should note this is now private property. There is no car parking at the Bowman Station, as it is now land locked. It is located in quite a picturesque spot and the view of the 'Murrumgee Bowl' is quite spectacular at certain times of the day, particularly when the shadows form in the valleys and re-entrants.

### **Going**

Easy to moderate difficulty for most. The trail is quite flat apart from the last three kilometres or so, which is slightly uphill to the Bowman Station Site.

### **Status**

Complete.

### **Amenities**

There are no amenities en route between or at the Bowmans Station Site.

### **Other Attractions**

*Whorouly.*

At the first bitumen crossing past the Bowman Station site, experienced road riders could ride to Whorouly as a short detour.

## **Bowmans to Gapsted (Formerly called Stony Creek, Goat Town, Quartz Reef, and Palmerston) – 6 kilometres Top**

Taylor's Gap Before and After

### **Trail Description**

This too (in the opinion of the author) is one of the best sections of the Murray to the Mountains Rail Trail. Users will appreciate the ambience that will put you in harmony with the bush. The train line in the past went beneath the Great Alpine Road and was known locally as the Taylor's Gap. It is understood the train in its early days was quite slow due to the gradient, and local Myrtleford folk recall actually getting off the train and walking and able to beat it to the top. The reward for users reaching the top is that it is mostly downhill all the way to Myrtleford.

Gapsted Station like most of the sites along the Owen's Valley Railway where more or less sidings where goods were loaded and offloaded, it too is not easy to locate and users should look for the in and out roads from the Great Alpine Road to find its true position.

### **Going**

Moderate and a hard grind to the top of the gap, then downhill to Gapsted, which is quite easy.

### **Status**

Trail is now fully sealed and distance signposts have been erected.

### **Amenities**

A water tank has been established at Taylor's Gap on the Myrtleford side of the Great Alpine Road and is a good place for a stop. Located adjacent to the Trail is the Gapsted sportsground where toilets are located and available for use by users of the Murray to the Mountains Rail Trail. Users also seeking shelter could prop in the pavilion until in inclement weather passes.

### **Other Attractions**

*Gapsted Winery.*

Just pass the Taylor's Gap users will pass the Gapsted and Vic Alps Winery. The committee intend to reinstate the Gapsted Siding in this location as it is more easily accessed than the true sight 500m or up the line towards Wangaratta. Many users ride from Beechworth to the winery for lunch as it offers a fantastic views and surroundings to have lunch, with Myrtleford an easy 8 km downhill ride roll.

## **Gapsted to Myrtleford – 8 kilometres Top**

### **Trail Description**

If you have ridden or walked from Wangaratta, you are now to receive the full benefits of your efforts. The trail is predominately downhill and users will be given outstanding views of Mt Buffalo and should pause to view this and the farmlands below. Nut trees, orchards, nurseries and vineyards are abundant and worthy of inspection. In the autumn visitors will be most impressed with the range of colour.

The alignment of the Trail through Myrtleford has now been signposted. Regrettably when the railway line closed some of the land was sold off for housing development. The railway station site now has retirement villas in place with further construction planned.

Alignment is as follows (see Myrtleford map): From the Wangaratta side of Myrtleford, users will pass the saleyards and cross a historic railway bridge. Immediately after crossing the bridge users should turn right and proceed along the Barwidgee River reserve.

Note: A trail is being developed beneath the Barwidgee Creek Road Bridge to allow users to cross into Rotary Park and the public toilets.

A new trail has been developed parallel to the Great Alpine Road and passes in front a motel and the Savoy Sporting Club. Continuing in the same direction users will enter a service road where normal road traffic rules apply. Users should continue along this service road until Prince Street then turn left. The footpath along Prince Street has been developed as a shared footpath/cycleway. Users should then take the first right into Smith Street at the crossing points constructed - due care should be exercised. Once in Smith Street users will pass the 'Big Tree' and then proceed to Hancocks Plantation Timber Office (three houses from the corner) and turn left into a new trail (pathway) to bring them back into the rail reserve proper. Trail then veers right and travels between Ruby's Milk Bar and Hieners' Bakery (both worthy stopping points in Myrtleford for refreshments).

Users will then cross Standish Streets and proceed along the Trail, crossing Queen and Alberts Streets. Trail then veer left and travel along a cycle lane in Elgin Street for one block. Trail then turns right into Alice Road and then back into the Rail reserve.

An abbreviated form of the above travelling towards Bright is as follows:

- Barwidgee Creek Turn Right (TR)
- Great Alpine Road Turn Left (TL)
- Service Road Straight ahead
- Prince Street TL
- Smith Street TR then turn L into rail reserve
- Cross Standish Street
- Cross Queen Street
- Cross Albert Street
- Veer L into Cycle lane in Elgin Street
- Alice Road TR
- Rail Reserve TL.

### **Going**

Easy, however, now that users are now in a built up area extreme care and caution should be exercised, especially for the younger members of your group.

### **Status**

Trail is complete.

### **Amenities**

There are a number of public toilet amenities within Myrtleford these are at Rotary Park, Memorial Park, Jubilee Park and Cundy Park. In addition many businesses make available their toilets to customers. Users should note this is the last toilet stop before Porepunkah. (See Map)

### **Other Attractions**

There are many things to do in Myrtleford and information can be obtained from the Ponderosa Cabin Information Centre located in Clyde Street; tourists can access this centre from the rail reserve between Standish and Queen Streets. A walk up Reform Hill Lookout is well worth the journey as panoramic views of the Valley can be had. A visit to the Old Schoolhouse Museum can also be recommended.

Lake Buffalo. For more accomplished and serious bicycle riders and good mornings ride is to Lake Buffalo (26km each way). Many cycling clubs have this trip as a 'must do'. There is no camping at Lake Buffalo, nor is there any shops - visitors need to BYO everything.