

# Goulburn River High Country Rail Trail

28 May 2012

## Project Overview

The Goulburn River High Country Rail Trail (GRHCRT) will be a shared pathway for cyclist, walkers and horses. The GRHCRT is to follow the disused rail line for 134km from Tallarook through Yea to Mansfield with a link between Cathkin and Alexandra. Mansfield, Mitchell and Murrindindi Shire Councils have received \$13m funding from the Federal Government and \$1m funding from the State Government to complete the trail.

## Official Opening Goulburn River High Country Rail Trail

It is with much delight and enthusiasm that the project team, Mansfield, Mitchell and Murrindindi Shires announce the official opening of the 134 kilometre Goulburn River High Country Rail Trail. The official opening will be held on 1 June at Molesworth. The Hon Simon Crean MP will officially open the trail at 11am.

After 34 years of being dormant the train line from Tallarook to Mansfield and Alexandra will once again be a 'transport hub' of north-north east Victoria. The first formal paper work was penned in 1996, it has taken some 16 years to see this vision realised.

Between 1993 and 1999, Graeme Stoney (then Member for Central Highlands Province) chaired the newly formed Government Rail Trail committee which developed a mechanism to gain access to disused rail corridors for trails. By 1999, 17 official rail trails were created for the enjoyment of local communities and visitors.

Mansfield Shire secured Committee of Management over the Mansfield to Merton section of the trail in July 2000. Mitchell and Murrindindi Shires are in the process of converting the trail land in their shires to Crown land.

In 2005, the three Shires agreed to seek Federal Government funding and allocate cash and in-kind, to develop a detailed Concept Design & Business Plan.

In 2008 a memorandum of understanding was signed by the three shires.

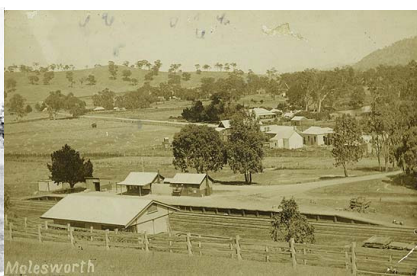
When funding came available through the Strategic Infrastructure Program in 2009 most of the ground work had already been done to complete the application.

After 2 years and nine months the project team's hard work has come to fruition. What was a dream for many and a frustration for others is now the foundation for one of the best rail trails in Australia.

Please get out there enjoy the trip by foot, bike or horse, be it the total trail or a short walk through a station precinct it will be worthwhile.



Alexandra Station



Molesworth Station



Yea Station



### **Yea Visitor Information 03 5797 2663**

<http://www.visitvictoria.com/Regions/High-Country/Travel-information/Visitor-information-centres/Yea-Visitor-Information-Centre.aspx>

### **Alexandra Visitor Information Centre 1800 652 2698**

<http://www.alexandratourism.com/>

### **Mansfield Information Centre 1800 039 049**

<http://www.mansfieldmtbuller.com.au/>

### **Did you know?**

On sunny days more than 6000 cyclists cross the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco and over 2000 cyclists cross the Sydney Harbour Bridge daily.

[www.victorianrailtrails.com.au](http://www.victorianrailtrails.com.au) will give you details on upcoming events in the region and community markets.

Please feel free to forward this newsletter onto any other interested parties

Lynn

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[www.victorianrailtrails.com.au](http://www.victorianrailtrails.com.au)