



NEWSLETTER 1, 2024

Chair: Susan Brumby chair@redgumtrack.net.au
Secretary: Hilary King secretary@redgumtrack.net.au
<https://www.redgumtrack.net.au/CurrentRGT.html>



TRYING THE NEW SANDY CREEK LOW LEVEL BOARD WALK

The Hamilton-Coleraine Rail Reserve has been buzzing like a beehive this summer and into the year of 2024! Time flies - can you believe it's March already? So many exciting updates to share since our last newsletter!

In December, Sandy Creek finally got a fancy facelift with a new low level boardwalk, thanks to Straight Edge Fencing. Walkers and cyclists have been loving it, earning a thumbs-up from a user: "*Loving the smooth ride over the creek - no need to hit the brakes!*" Even wallabies and koalas have been making surprise appearances. If you haven't been out do make the time - it is a great boardwalk and the scenery is fantastic.

A huge shoutout to Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) for supporting us to get a shiny new Gravely mower. This bad boy is helping us keep the track in tip-top shape, especially with the early summer showers as we are seeing a lot of regrowth. And check us out in our snazzy HI Vis vests - now you'll know it's us tinkering away on the reserve!

As we gear up for autumn, we're planting more greenery to lure in our feathered friends at the Hamilton end of the reserve. Thanks to the **Landcare grant**, the *Hamilton Habitat Corridor project* will soon be in full swing. We've got our pals at Arborline and Birdlife Australia on board to assist us with 600 bird-attracting native plants and grasses. Fancy lending a hand? Join us for some planting fun and community /education catch ups.

We've been teaming up with landholders to help us spruce up the joint, tackling fences, old structures, narrow gateways and dumped rubbish that needs to be removed. Huge thanks to our supportive adjoining landholders and neighbors and partners at SGSC, DEECA, and VicPolice for making it all possible. Let's get and keep the rail reserve shining bright!



NEW MOWER WITH FRIENDS LARRY AND DAVID



NEW HI VIS VESTS



NEWSLETTER 1, 2024



WORKING ALONGSIDE LANDHOLDER MATT, ARE THE DYNAMIC TRIO OF RESERVE FRIENDS: LES, DAVID, AND ANOTHER DAVID!

In our most recent newsletter, we highlighted the contribution and suggestions from CFA District 5 Vegetation Management Officers and thanked them for their valuable insights. The HCRRC and friends have been working to widen or remove gateways and clear paths and structures in the crownland reserve. We are making progress. A special thanks also to the Gritjurk CFA for their support in Coleraine recently.



WE'RE STILL UNTANGLING FROM THOSE WILD STORMS, SO IF YOU SPOT ANY FALLEN BRANCHES, GIVE US A HOLLER!

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/FRIENDS OFHAMILTONCOLERIANERAILTRAIL/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofhamiltoncolerianerailtrail/)

Recently, we completed two occupational crossings, thanks to the generous support of the Southern Grampians Shire Council Greater Grants program. This initiative provided funding for essential materials and received dedicated assistance from our Friends of the Rail Reserve.

As previously noted, arsenic has been found on the trail. DEECA advise that the reserve is open and is safe for walking and cycling. However, avoid direct contact with the soil, and wash/wipe hands prior to eating. We continue to work through this with DEECA. Further information contact DEECA 136 186

In 2023, the SGSC made a budget commitment of \$225,000 to the Hamilton Coleraine Rail Reserve to design and implement pedestrian treatments and road crossings along on the rail trail. Our primary aim is to see good use of these funds by the SGSC to improve and deliver a safe rail trail and road crossings.

While progress on the rail reserve is evident, challenges persist, notably the presence of unauthorised structures and wandering livestock. Our resolve lies in working with landholders, neighbors, community and livestock owners on the proper protocol along the trail. Should any uncertainties arise, please do not hesitate to seek clarification from us.

We are grateful for the support we have received from Mick F spraying, CFA, Vic Pol, SGSC, DEECA, Wannon Water, GHAMA, Friends, David R, Lynne S, David D, Chris D, Brian C, Larry W, Arborline, Peter D, Campbell K, Les T and Sam G.

Interested in joining our cause? Contact us at enquiry@redgumtrack.net.au
Warm regards,

Hamilton Coleraine Rail Reserve Committee of Management