

Australia's
LONGEST RAIL TRAIL



**.GREAT VICTORIAN.
RAIL TRAIL**



Yea Township



Driving to Mansfield, Mount Buller in the distance

GETTING THERE

The trail can be accessed from many points. Several towns provide easy access with car parks, picnic facilities and toilets available.

By car

The trail runs east from Tallarook, through the township of Yea to Mansfield. Tallarook is only 100 kilometres from Melbourne, just off the Hume Freeway and approximately 10km south of Seymour.

By train

The V-Line Seymour Line train stops at Tallarook Station.

By air

Melbourne Airport is an hour's drive from the Tallarook trail head. To the north, Albury Airport is 2.5 hours drive from Mansfield.

Alexandra, at the junction of the Goulburn Valley and Maroondah Highways is 138 kilometres from Melbourne.

The Alexandra spur line is 13 kilometres long and joins the main trail at Cathkin.

Mansfield is approximately 192 kilometres from Melbourne at the eastern end of the trail. It is a popular starting point for both single and multi-day trips.

Return transport, bike hire and tours are available through private operators for one-way or return trips.

All Terrain Cycles

(03) 5775 2724

www.allterraincycles.com.au

TRAIL GRADIENT

Tallarook to Mansfield



Cathkin to Alexandra



TRAIL DISTANCES



Find us on Strava.
Search **Great Victorian Rail Trail** to locate key segments and start riding!



Please carry food and water while on the trail.

TALLAROOK									
TRAWOOL	11	TRAWOOL							
GRANITE	14	3	GRANITE						
KERRISDALE	19.5	8.5	5.5	KERRISDALE					
HOMEWOOD	29.5	18.5	15.5	10	HOMEWOOD				
YEA	38.5	27.5	24.5	19	9	YEA			
CHEVIOT	43.5	32.5	29.5	24	14	5	CHEVIOT		
CHEVIOT TUNNEL	47	36	33	27.5	17.5	8.5	3.5	CHEVIOT TUNNEL	
MOLESWORTH	55	44	41	35.5	25.5	16.5	11.5	8	MOLESWORTH
CATHKIN	59.5	48.5	45.5	40	30	21	16	12.5	4.5
KORIELLA	68.5	57.5	54.5	49	39	30	25	21.5	13.5
ALEXANDRA	72.5	61.5	58.5	53	43	34	29	25.5	17.5
YARCK	65.5	54.5	51.5	46	36	27	22	18.5	10.5
KANUMBRA	73.5	62.5	59.5	54	44	35	30	26.5	18.5
MERTON	85	74	71	65.5	55.5	46.5	41.5	38	30
WOODFIELD	94	83	80	74.5	64.5	55.5	50.5	47	39
BONNIE DOON	99	88	85	79.5	69.5	60.5	55.5	52	44
MAINDAMPLE	107	96	93	87.5	77.5	68.5	63.5	60	52
MANSFIELD	121	110	107	101.5	91.5	82.5	77.5	74	66

THE ESSENTIALS

There are 12 toilets on the trail and several shelters with tables and seats. Public toilets are also available in the local towns.

The Eglinton Cutting shelter has the most magnificent view of the Cathedral Range. Stop beside the Goulburn River 6 kilometres from Tallarook, or catch your breath approaching Mansfield and take in the views of the High Country. The approach to Mansfield with the spectacular mountains ahead is a perfect place to stop for refreshments.

BBQs are available at Tallarook, Yea, Alexandra, Bonnie Doon and Mansfield.

See maps for facility locations.

CATHKIN									
9	KORIELLA								
13	4	ALEXANDRA							
6	15	19	YARCK						
14	23	27	8	KANUMBRA					
25.5	34.5	38.5	19.5	11.5	MERTON				
34.5	43.5	47.5	28.5	20.5	9	WOODFIELD			
39.5	48.5	52.5	33.5	25.5	14	5	BONNIE DOON		
47.5	56.5	60.5	41.5	33.5	22	13	8	MAINDAMPLE	
61.5	70.5	74.5	55.5	47.5	36	27	22	14	MANSFIELD



DEAD LOCO

He's a statue now in some playground,
For all the kids to see,
A Goliath of power and beauty,
Whose wheels were once so free.
They have painted him up to catch the eye
With a green and gold that gleam;
But there's no sadder sight to a driver
Than an engine that's got no steam

*Poem by James Dunn,
Station master at Cathkin*



Lunch stop

Family walk

WALK, RIDE OR CYCLE

A trail for everyone

The Great Victorian Rail Trail is a multi-use trail and can be explored on foot, bike or horse.

Experience the trail from a different perspective as you walk, cycle or ride your way through the Victorian countryside.

The trail is suitable for riders of all fitness levels and is the perfect way to enjoy the great outdoors with the kids. Gradients are mostly gentle with a few longer climbs to keep things interesting. The highest point along the trail is 397 metres at Merton Gap and the steepest climb is from Alexandra to Eglinton Cutting, though the view from the top is well worth the effort.

Trail surface

The trail surface varies along the 134 kilometres journey and is made up of either compacted gravel (chert) or granitic sand.

The granitic sand is used in sections that are shared use between walkers, cyclists and horses. Signs mark the way for horses where a dedicated bridle path follows beside the gravel (chert) sections.

Mountain, hybrid or touring bikes are best suited for the trail surface.

Over the page is a list of popular rides however if a shorter trip is more your style, there are many sections accessible from car parks and villages dotted along the rail trail.

Refer to the central map to locate toilets, bike repairs and other essentials.

Whether you have one hour, one day or a full week to spare you can enjoy the trail; wheel, shoe or hoof . . . you choose.

MUST DO

- The 201 metre long Cheviot Tunnel
 - Alexandra Timber Tramway and Museum and Yea Railway Park
 - Yea Wetlands and Mullum Wetlands in Mansfield
 - Country markets in Yea, Tallarook, Alexandra, Yarck and Mansfield (monthly or bi-monthly)
 - Heritage classified Trawool Valley
- Check out many of our local businesses and recommended attractions in the second half of this guide



Popular rides

Tallarook – Trawool:

11 kilometres – beginners and families

The trail follows the heritage-classified Goulburn River at Tallarook and passes through the Trawool Valley. Classified by the National Trust for its scenic beauty, the region was once frequented by famous artists including Tom Roberts, Frederick McCubbin and Arthur Streeton.

Yea – Cheviot Tunnel:

9 kilometres – beginners and families (mainly uphill to the tunnel)

In Yea you'll pass the Gothic-styled Yea Railway Station (1889), where you can make use of the playground, skate park, toilets, picnic tables and BBQs. From Yea, the trail passes directly through Cheviot Tunnel – the longest rail trail tunnel in Victoria. Made in 1889 from bricks handcrafted on site, the tunnel is accessible from a nearby carpark.

Cathkin – Alexandra:

13 kilometres – riders with some competency

The Cathkin Station platform still stands and the Alexandra Timber Tramway and Museum operates at the old Alexandra Station. Coming out of Alexandra you'll head up to Eglinton Cutting, which can be a challenge. From the top enjoy the stunning view of Cathedral Range.

Yarck – Merton:

19 kilometres – riders with some competency (hilly)

The trail runs behind Yarck township, but it's worth riding the 100 metres into town to stop for refreshments. From Yarck travel through scenic farms to Merton Gap – the trail's highest point at 397 metres. At Merton, wander through the area managed by Merton Landcare or stroll through the historic cemetery.

Bonnie Doon – Mansfield:

22 kilometres – families and beginners (some uphill gradients)

Heading east the trail crosses Lake Eildon over the 385 metre Bonnie Doon Bridge, passing through stunning farming country with a backdrop of magnificent high country vistas. Entering Mansfield the trail passes through the Mullum Wetlands before it ends (or begins) at the Mansfield Railway Station and Visitor Information Centre.

LONGER Trips

Tallarook – Yea	38 km
Yea – Alexandra	34 km
Yea – Mansfield	83 km
Alexandra – Mansfield	75 km
Tallarook – Mansfield	121 km



Enjoy local produce and wines along the trail



Alfresco dining in Seymour

STAY • EAT • DO

 The Great Victorian Rail Trail is supported by a variety of accommodation options including hotels, motels, resorts, B&B's, caravan parks and farm stays. There are also cafés, restaurants and bakeries to cater for all tastes and budgets.

 Stop at the markets to stock up on local goodies, finish your ride with a beer and a counter

meal at a country pub, or get a taste of the good life at local wineries along the way.

 There are also plenty of historic sites, parks and other local attractions to keep the whole family entertained.

To find out more about festivals and events contact the local Visitor Information Centres or visit the Great Victorian Rail Trail website for more information.

LOCAL EVENTS

Time your rail trail visit to coincide with a local event or festival from our vibrant calendar of events.

A taste of what's on:

Tallarook

Tallarook Farmers' Market

- monthly, except January

Art @ Old Post Office Seymour

- seasonal exhibitions

Yea

Yea Country Market - monthly

Yea & District Open Gardens -

November

Alexandra

Truck Ute & Rod Show - June

Alexandra Markets at the Timber

Tramway - monthly

September-May

Mansfield

High Country Festival - October

Mansfield Farmers' Markets

- monthly

CONNECT *with* THE TRAIL

Need to book accommodation, find a place to eat or fun things to do? Jump online to connect with local businesses and local people.

You will also find interesting facts and historic gems to enhance your knowledge and add to your storytelling.

Maps, images and essential travel information are all found in the one place at

www.greatvictorianrailtrail.com.au

You can also talk directly with a member of our customer service team on

1800 RTRAIL

We are here to help plan your cycling, riding or walking adventure!

SHARE YOUR STORIES

We would love to hear from you on the trail or when you get home.

Stay connected with the Great Victorian Rail Trail on Facebook or by subscribing to our newsletter on the website homepage.

Please help us to maintain and improve our trail by reporting issues or concerns via **1800 RTRAIL** or

www.greatvictorianrailtrail.com.au

 Great Victorian Rail Trail Official

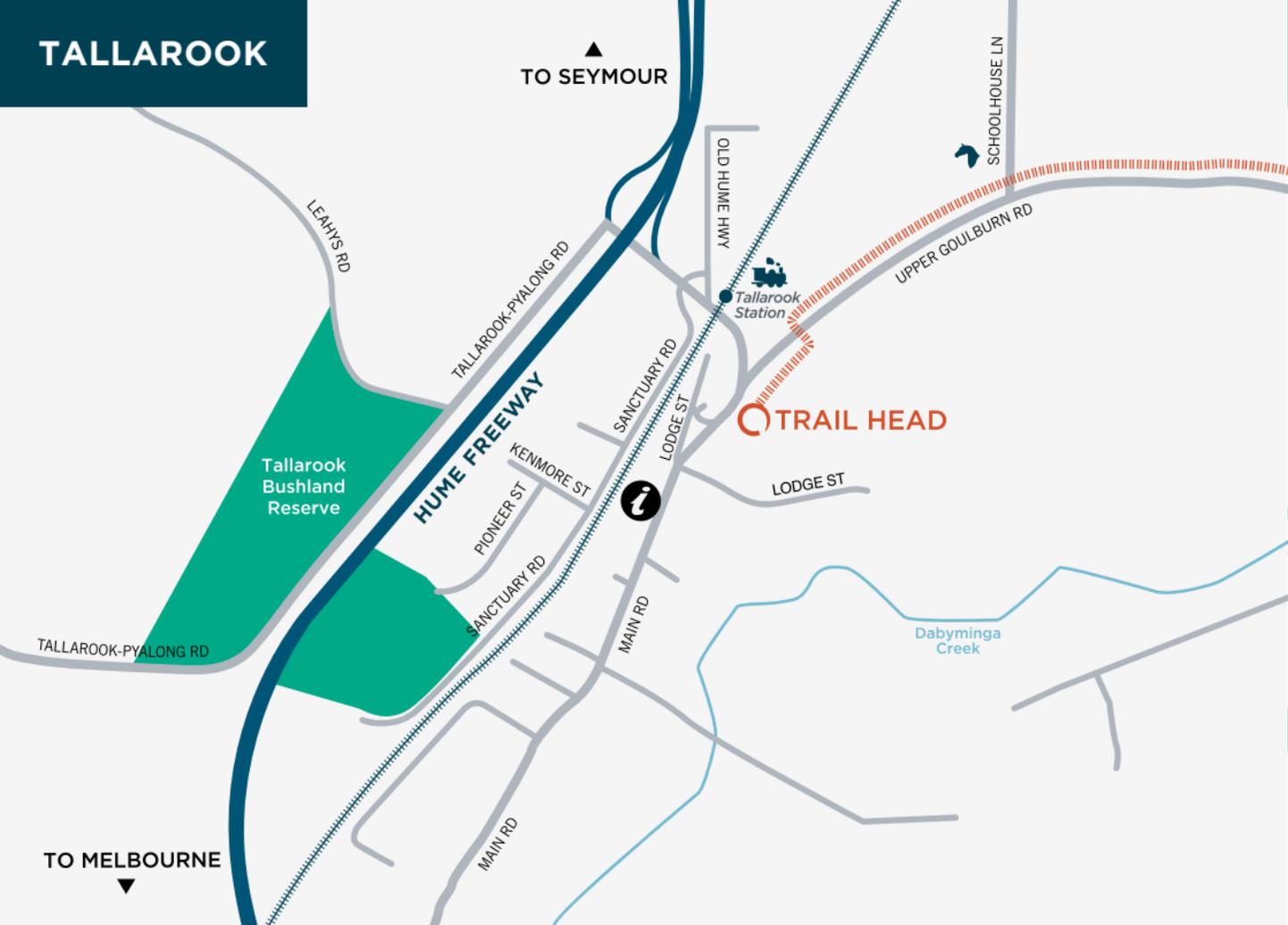
#greatvictorianrailtrail



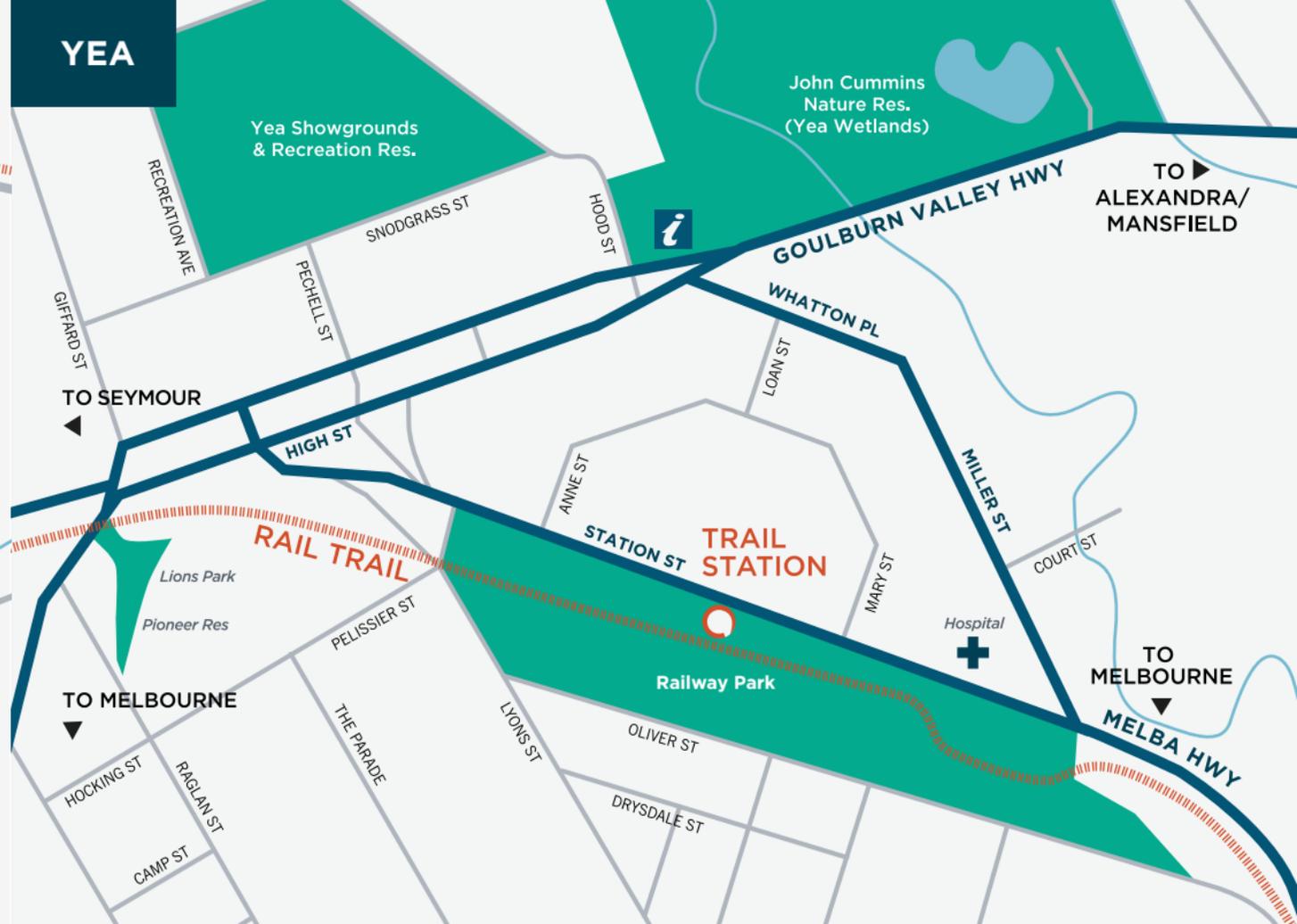
 Scan me to find out more.

Download a "Free QR Barcode Scanner" from your App Store.

TALLAROOK



YEA



 **.GREAT VICTORIAN.
RAIL TRAIL**

KEY

-  Rail trail
-  Major Hubs / interpretive signs
-  Historic station sites
-  Car parks
-  Rivers & lakes
-  Roads
-  Railway line
-  Toilets on rail trail
-  Public toilets
-  Stay
-  Eat
-  Picnic shelters
-  Horse yards
-  No water supplied



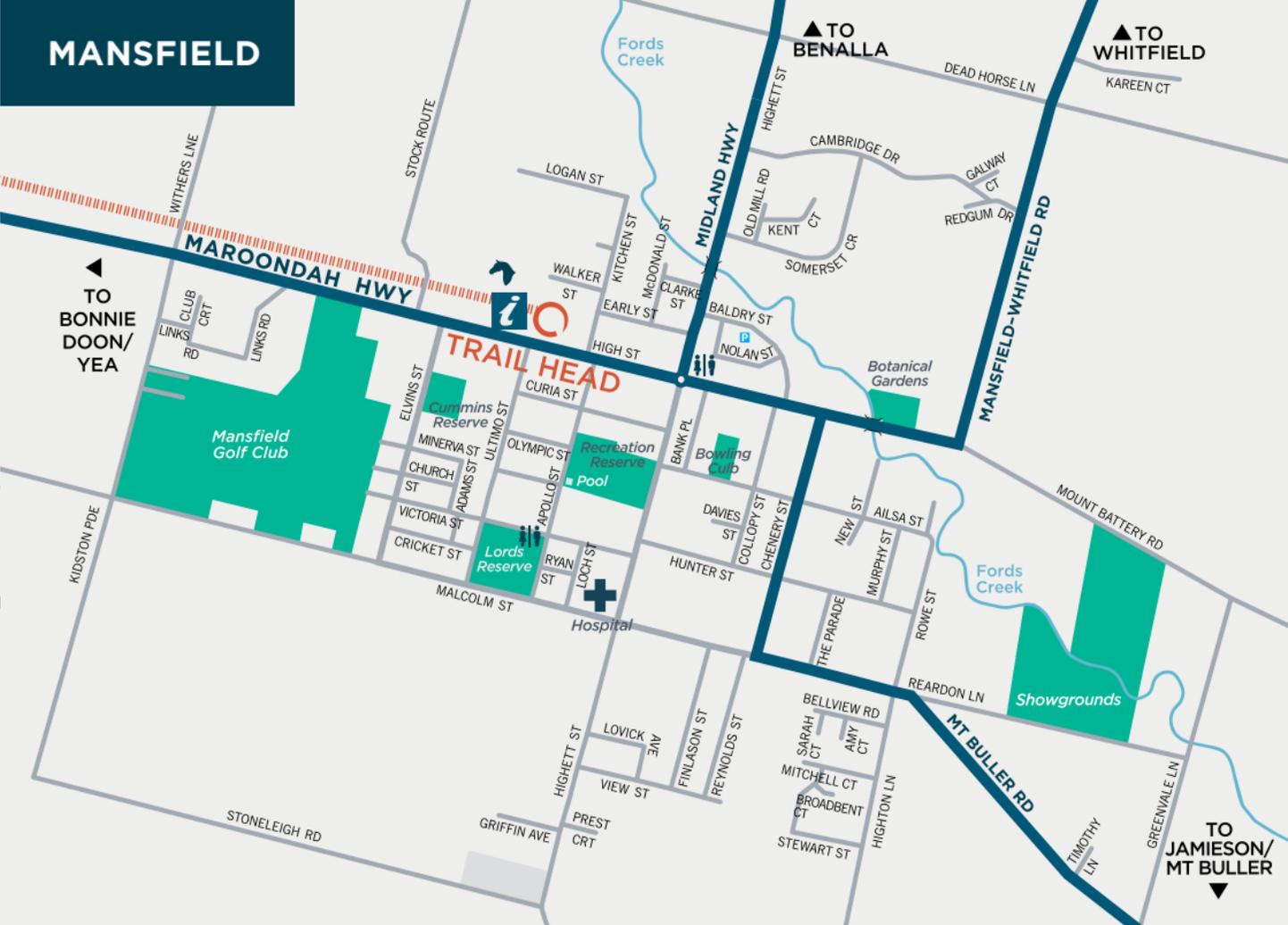
ALEXANDRA

▲ TO MELBOURNE VIA YEA



MANSFIELD

▲ TO BONNIE DOON/ YEA





A SHARED USE TRAIL

The Great Victorian Rail Trail is a multi-use recreational pathway for cyclists, walkers and horse riders. Please respect each other's right to enjoy a safe and pleasant journey.

For your safety and enjoyment please observe the following:

Cyclists

- Keep left and give way to walkers and horses

- Approach horses with care and notify in advance of your approach
- Warn others when approaching from behind and passing
- Keep left and don't obstruct the Rail Trail

Horses

- Ride horses off the bike/walking track unless signage indicates otherwise

- Horses must be ridden at a walking pace when on the track formed for cycling and walking
- Remove horse manure from the bike/walking track
- Horses must not be tied within a 10 metre radius of signage or seat structures

Walkers

- Keep left and give way to horses on bridges and squeeze points

ALL TRAIL USERS

Please respect the rights of landholders:

- Stay within the rail reserve
- Give way to stock at crossing points
- Move quietly near stock
- Leave gates as you find them
- Report any wandering stock within the reserve to the local Council

Leave no trace

- Leave all flora and fauna undisturbed
- Take your rubbish home
- Camp in designated areas only
- Fires are prohibited in the reserve
- No firewood collection

Dogs

- Keep dogs on a leash and under control at all times
- Remove dog droppings from the reserve

For your safety

- Wear approved helmets
- Be careful at road crossings; young and inexperienced riders should dismount
- Observe all signs and local regulations
- Be prepared for changes in weather and trail conditions
- Motor vehicles including motor bikes are not permitted within the reserve
- Plan your journey
- On Total Fire Ban days, days of high fire danger and Code Red days check Emergency Services' broadcasts and websites. Stay informed!

Carry

- Water and food (no drinking water is supplied)
- Bicycle repair kit and a good pump
- Mobile phone (there are some blackspots)
- Sunscreen and insect repellent

Regulations

- Crown Land Reserves (Great Victorian Rail Trail Reserve) Regulations 2010 apply to this reserve
- Permits may be required for some events or activities. For more information visit the Rail Trail website.

STAY SAFE

Saving time, saving lives

Emergency Markers are located at 1 kilometre intervals along the trail and at each station.

In an Emergency dial 000 and quote the Emergency Marker code where you are located.



Stay informed

Radio Stations for regional/local information and emergency broadcasts:

Tallarook/Seymour

ABC 774 AM
96.9 STAR FM

Yea

UGFM Radio Murrindindi 88.9
ABC 774 AM
93.7 STAR FM

Alexandra

UGFM Radio Murrindindi 106.9
ABC 102.9 FM
93.7 STAR FM

Mansfield

Radio Mansfield 99.7 FM
ABC 103.7 FM
93.7 STAR FM

Fire danger information

Be fire ready, stay safe

DIAL 000 for police, fire and ambulance.

Be aware of the Fire Danger Rating for the day you are on the trail, as you are in a high fire risk area.

If the day is declared a day of Code Red fire danger, we advise you not to use the Rail Trail.

For updated information on Fire Danger Ratings in Victoria or general safety advice contact

1800 240 667
www.cfa.vic.gov.au



WHAT TO DO IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG

Parts of the Great Victorian Rail Trail are isolated from towns and villages.

If you have an emergency situation call 000 or 112.

If you have no mobile phone reception, move to another location or ask a member of your group or another trail user to relay your message.

- Call 000 if you require Police, Fire or Ambulance.
- There are numbered Emergency markers every kilometre along the trail. Quote the Code (3 letters & 3 numbers) of the nearest marker if you need help.
- Carry a mobile phone with you, as well as food and water.

- Radio can be accessed along most of the trail, with emergency broadcasts available from local regional stations. UGFM 88.9 or 106.9FM, Radio Mansfield 99.7FM, ABC 774 AM, 102.9FM or 103.7FM.

For damage, faults or trees down along the trail, please report to 1800 RTRAIL (1800 787 245).

On days of Code Red Fire Danger you are advised not to use the trail. Rating information is available at www.cfa.gov.au.

Wildlife such as swooping magpies, snakes etc are protected along the trail; please be aware and take preventative action if needed.

Take a first aid kit and water.

Flat Tyres: Ensure you have a bike puncture repair kit, bike pump and know how to fix a puncture before you set out. There is not a service for bike repairs on the trail. There are bike shops in Mansfield and Yea – Check the website for more details.

PREPLANNING

Pick up your Great Victorian Rail Trail booklet from a Visitor Information Centre along the trail, or check the website www.greatvictorianrailtrail.com.au. There is also a freecall phone number for enquiries – **1800 RTRAIL (1800 787 245)**.

Determine how long you wish to travel, or how many kilometres per day if planning a multi-day ride or walk. Check the map in the booklet or on the website for suitable stops along the way. Gradient maps are also available.

Pre-organise your accommodation – some places along the trail may have a minimum night bookings or may be heavily booked at certain times of the year. Some places have no evening meal options on some days of the week, so check before you leave. Accommodation information is available on the website.

Ensure you pack food, water, mobile phone (for emergency use) and first aid. Cyclists should carry a bike pump and a puncture kit. Trail surface is unsealed. Hybrid bikes or mountain bikes are recommended.

The weather can be variable so check the forecast before setting out and equip yourselves appropriately.

There are 12 toilets on the trail and several shelters with tables and seats. Public toilets are also available in the local towns. For horse riders, there are horse yards with troughs located along the trail. Further details for locations are available at www.greatvictorianrailtrail.com.au

Plan how you will travel from various points along the trail back to your starting destination if necessary. There are Bike Shuttles and bike hire available – see the website for contact details.

Take your camera!!

SOME SHORT TRIPS ALONG THE TRAIL

Mansfield to Bonnie Doon

Suitable for riders of all ages with reasonable fitness. Distance 22kms one way.

From the historic Mansfield Railway Station, pass by the Mansfield Information Centre, with its interpretive displays, at the start of the trail. You will proceed through the Mansfield Mullum Wetlands (with paths, seats and bird hide to observe the bird life). Broadacre and stock pastures dominate the landscape along the trail until you reach Maindample (14 kms) where there is a water stop that supports the local community.

Continue on and you can see the start of Lake Eildon, which you will eventually cross on the 385m Bonnie Doon Bridge before rolling in to the township where you will find food and refreshments. Coming back you will be treated to magnificent views of Mt Buller and the high country mountain around Mansfield.

Yea to Molesworth

First section suitable for all ages with reasonable fitness – especially the river flats within 5kms of Yea. Gradient increases from Cheviot to Molesworth and return – requires moderate fitness. Distance 21kms one way.

Take off from Yea's heritage listed Railway Station and follow the trail along the raised formation over the Yea River flats. Travel along multiple bridges taking in a calm and serene view of the riverland and surrounding views.

Once you reach the old Cheviot station the gradient will increase up to the 201m long Cheviot Tunnel, a feat of engineering built of locally made bricks in 1889. Coast through the tunnel and out the other side down into Molesworth, a quiet little village on the Goulburn River.

Cathkin to Alexandra

Some steady climbing, requires moderate fitness. Distance 14kms one way.

This branch line leaves the main trail at Cathkin and heads south towards Alexandra.

An easy ride for the first 6kms until the old Koriella station, then the gradient increases until the 10km mark. Head downhill towards the Alexandra township and enjoy stunning views of the Goulburn River valley.

Arrive at the Alexandra Railway Station, home of the Alexandra Timber Tramway Museum.

Tallarook to Trawool

A great ride for the kids, or a scenic bushwalk! Only 11kms one way with a relatively flat gradient.

Before you take off from Tallarook, be sure to stop in the town of Seymour for supplies, have a coffee and pump up the tyres before the ride.

Follow the route from the quiet little hamlet of Tallarook, along the picturesque and heritage listed Goulburn River valley. View the magnificent rock formations of the Tallarook Ranges and listen to the abundant birdlife as you travel along the trail.

Mansfield Visitor Information Centre (03) 5775 7000

Alexandra Visitor Information Centre (03) 5772 1100

Yea Visitor Information Centre (03) 5797 2663

Seymour Visitor Information Centre (03) 5799 0233

www.greatvictorianrailtrail.com.au

1800 RTRAIL

#greatvictorianrailtrail

