

December 2010

## Inside This Issue

New Information Boards For Orbost.....	1
The hop Kilns At Mossiface.....	2
Things Are happening At Bruthen!.....	3
Meeting dates for 2011.....	4
Fighting The Weeds.....	4
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater.....	5
Acknowledging Our Business Friends.....	6

## New Information Boards For Orbost

Sponsors have been found for five new story boards to be placed along the trail which links the end of the rail trail Newmerella with the Orbost township.

With expert assistance from members of the Orbost & District Historical Society, the boards have been developed to interpret the early history of the railway in Orbost. When installed they should add another dimension to cycling or walking the trail.

It is hoped that eventually more story boards will be located along the trail. These could depict not only the history of the line but describe the flora and fauna to be enjoyed on the trail



*May Leatch working with Tristan at Sign Line*

At Preston's Road there will be a board describing the flora which can be seen in the section from Burn Road through to Preston's.

A seat will also be placed nearby. This section of the trail is used frequently by locals and the board will be an interesting addition to their morning walks.

### **Sponsors**

**Orbost & District Historical Society**

**Orbost Chamber of Commerce & Industry**

**Orbost Visitor Information Centre**

**Friends of Orbost Opp. Shop**

**Santos**



## The Hop Kilns at Mossiface



Bruthen is situated on the Tambo River, 24 kilometres north-east of Bairnsdale.

Bruthen, or Brewathan as the area was first called, is thought to be a word of Aboriginal origin meaning "bracken" or "place of evil spirit". In the 1840s, the first pastoralists used the Tambo Valley as a route from the Monaro to the Gippsland plains. Matthew and Thomas Macalister took up the area as Kilmorie run in 1845. By 1858, a hotel, a store and blacksmith were catering to drovers using the stock routes and packers and miners travelling north to the mining settlements around Omeo.

In 1859 a township was laid out, two kilometres to the east, at the junction of the main routes.

The hop kilns at nearby Mossiface are strong reminders of a once important industry that flourished in the Mitchell and Tambo Valleys. John Calvert's kilns were built in late 1881. The bricks were made on the property and the timber milled on the spot.

The Mossiface site consists of three buildings of historical interest - a large rectangular wooden building consisting of a cooling / storage / packing shed and two kilns. The drying apparatus (consisting of brick furnaces, wooden scaffolding of the drying funnels, bricks which line the funnels, and drying racks) of both kilns are in good condition apart from the slowly disintegrating shingle roofs. A large nineteenth century iron screw press for bailing hops is located in its original position in the shed.



The hops were planted (generally from rootstock cuttings) in early spring and some time later hop poles were placed on mounds and the bines (the climbing stems) of the plant trained to the pole. The poles were often cut from tea-tree and cutters would have prepared up to 300 poles each day.

The hops were usually ready for picking by March. Pickers would come from near and far to help in the fields. The local schools would close for the season and crowds of Melbourne would make a holiday of it.

Pickers began working at 7am. Men took down the poles which were then laid upon the bins. Twice a day the bins containing 20 bushels (540kg) of hops were emptied into large bags and carted to the kilns for drying.

In the kilns the hops were spread on floor cloths to a depth of ten inches (25cm). The kiln was heated by burning charcoal (115-120°). The hops dried for 12 hours being turned over once about three hours before being raked on to cooling floors. After approximately 5 days they would be baled.

The picking season usually ended with picnics, concerts or a ball held in either the emptied kilns or a local hall.

### **From the Bairnsdale Advertiser 22 March 1884**

***....one picker ran off from Calvert's garden and was arrested with a warrant, sentenced to seven hour's imprisonment and sent back to work.***

***The hop vine, humulus lupulus, is a perennial, dying off at the end of autumn to grow back the following spring.***

## Things Are happening At Bruthen!

### Bullant Beer Boost 4 Bruthen

A new colorbond steel clad building overlooking the Trail next to the unique former railway tunnel is set to reshape Bruthen as a 'must visit' destination. Housing the soon to be opened Bullant Brewery complete with bar and restaurant and outside decking with views across the Tambo valley, it is simply a stand out.



Plans are forming to establish a pathway off the Trail to the adjacent foot bridge for easy access by Trail visitors.

Landscaping along the top of the Trail cutting will enhance the precinct which should become a major attraction for all visitors to Bruthen.



The eastern Bruthen access ramp (just before the tunnel) has been recently re-built as part of a DSE funded risk management project. Better drainage along the storm water channel and an easier gradient from the Trail pathway to the side path (on the RHS of the photo, behind the hand trolley) is part of a larger upgrade at this location. The Shire Council has agreed to seal the side pathway from the western footbridge to this access point.

We hope it will include the new ramp. Work is now needed to protect the cleaned out drains from weed invasion.



Bruthen is getting new buildings, or at least in the case of the Arts & Info. Centre, a 4 times recycled one! In its new incarnation the old building is a bright and valuable addition to the town and local tourism activity. The Council conducted a formal opening ceremony before an enthusiastic crowd in November. This Centre promotes the Rail Trail. We hope that it will not be too long before it is joined by the old fettlers' hut as a 'new' historic museum. The Trail Committee is presently discussing arrangements for the hut with the Bruthen & District Citizens Association.



*Michael Oxer*



If you haven't renewed as a Friend please do so. We need your support!



## Meeting dates for 2011

**Feb 7<sup>th</sup>** Orbost

**May 9<sup>th</sup>** Nowa Nowa

**Aug 14<sup>th</sup>** Bruthen AGM

**Nov 14<sup>th</sup>** Nicholson



## Fighting The Weeds



***This photo shows preparation of the mulch bed.***



At a major planting west of Sandford Lane 315 Black She Oak tubes were set out in clusters on previous trash burn sites. Friends from Railtrails Australia and local volunteers managed to get them in during an excellent rain period. Each area was mulched with material from a Black Wattle removal project at the Bairnsdale entrance earlier this year. With ongoing rains at the end of the year these trees should thrive and in time provide a fine grove. This section also boasts a heavy Kangaroo Grass cover. The objective is to out-compete feral grasses and weeds to reduce long term maintenance.

## Walking Track to Grandview Lookout

From Grandview Lookout, panoramic views of Orbost, the Snowy River and the railway viaduct across the flood plains can be enjoyed. The area has just been upgraded with picnic tables with further improvements to come. Now it is possible to walk from the shelter at Burn Road to Grandview Road and on to the lookout. It is possible to ride up the newly slashed track although it is a little steep and rough.

The track is on the left of the carpark and heads obviously uphill. At the top, turn left at the bollards and head down the road until you reach the lookout.

## Yellow-tufted Honeyeater

The Yellow-tufted Honeyeater is a striking, medium to medium-large honeyeater with a slightly down-curved bill. It is olive-green above, olive yellow below, with a black face mask and bright yellow ear tufts and sides of the throat. The males are slightly larger but the sexes are otherwise similar. Young are duller and paler, with yellow areas washed green.

Four races are recognised:

- *L. m. cassidix*, **Helmeted Honeyeater**, restricted to a five km length of remnant bushland along two streams in the Yellingbo Conservation Nature Reserve 50 km east of Melbourne in Victoria.  
Endangered
- *L. m. gippslandicus*, **Gippsland Yellow-tufted Honeyeater** can be seen along the rail trail
- *L. m. melanops*, **Sydney Yellow-tufted Honeyeater**
- *L. m. meltoni*, **Inland Yellow-tufted Honeyeater**,

The Yellow-tufted Honeyeater is much brighter and more conspicuous than other honeyeaters that it may be found with.



The Yellow-tufted Honeyeater is found in open dry forests and woodlands dominated by eucalypts, and often near water. They sometimes visit gardens. At this time of year, Yellow Tufted Honeyeaters can be found along the East Gippsland Rail Trail.

The Yellow-tufted Honeyeater has a varied single-note contact or alarm call: tsup, shup, jik, chow or scow. It also has various soft notes used as social calls, and a soft 'weet-weet-weet' territorial call.

The Yellow-tufted Honeyeater feeds singly or in twos, or in groups of up to ten outside the breeding season, in the canopy of trees and shrubs. It feeds mainly on nectar from eucalypt flowers and insects from leaves and bark. The Helmeted Honeyeater (sub-species *L. m. cassidix*) specialises on feeding from the Mountain Swamp Gum and also commonly feeds on the sap from injuries on eucalypt trunks.

The Yellow-tufted Honeyeater builds tightly woven, cup-shaped nest hung in understorey shrubs. Lays 1-3 eggs, usually 2.

*Janice Preston*



Ride safely over the summer season

## Accommodation

allambi holiday apartments  
Bairnsdale Mitchell Gardens Holiday Park  
Bairnsdale Travellers Rest Motel  
bairnsdalemotel  
Beachside Loft at Eagle Bay  
Bellas in Bruthen  
Bruthen Inn  
Country Roads Motor Inn  
Jumping Fish Place  
Marlo Ocean Views Caravan Park  
Mingling Waters  
Mitchell Motor Inn

Nowa Nowa Caravan Park  
Orbost Caravan park  
Orbost Countryman Motor Inn  
Snowy River Homestead B.&B.  
Stringy Bark Cottages  
Tambo Park Cottages  
Tambo River Tourist Park  
The Grand Terminus Hotel Motel  
Tostaree Cottages  
Waterholes Guest House



## Cafes

Nicholson River General Store  
Le Cafe Bruthen



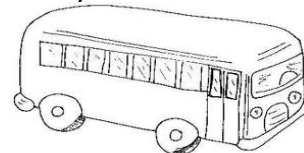
Lake Whadie Cafe

## Attractions

The Fruitfarm Johnsonville  
Tambo Hydroponics  
Orbost Chamber of Commerce  
Nicholson River Winery  
Blueberry Fields  
Snowy River cycling

## Transport

Perry's Bus services



## Bicycles

Snowy River Cycling  
Riviera Cycles  
East Gippsland Sports  
Bicycle Passion

## Services

R.J. Bourke C.P.A  
Strategic Accounting Services  
Orbost Services

## **Acknowledging Our Business Friends**

The above businesses are members of our group and it is important that we continue to support them. Contact details for each are on the web site.



Many thanks to Craig Ingram's office for the support in printing this newsletter for such a long time.