

Our Mission Statement

We wish to put the disused Monaro railway line to productive use as a recreational trail for cycling and in doing so, boost tourism, the economy and the wellbeing of the region. At the same time we wish to preserve the old rail buildings, bridges and a tunnel that are part of the Monaro rail history.

Building community awareness



The Monaro Rail Trail banner road show

February: Recent purchase of a pull up banner to promote our proposal has allowed the committee to visit communities along the route. Our first outing was a very busy February Saturday morning in Michelago. Local residents showed great interest in the rail trail proposal, some signed up as members and others signed a petition calling for a feasibility study. Shown in the photo are Cate Spencer, MRT, and Sally Connelly, the owner of the Michelago General Store.



March: This gathering was a combined meeting of NSW rail trail groups. At Parliament House in Sydney, the meeting was held to update groups such as ours on the current attitude of government to rail trail development in NSW. Key speakers from the NSW Department of Infrastructure and Department of Trade and Investment advised that the approved rail trail at Tumbarumba is going to be a model for rail trail development. They cautioned that preparing this model will be slow.



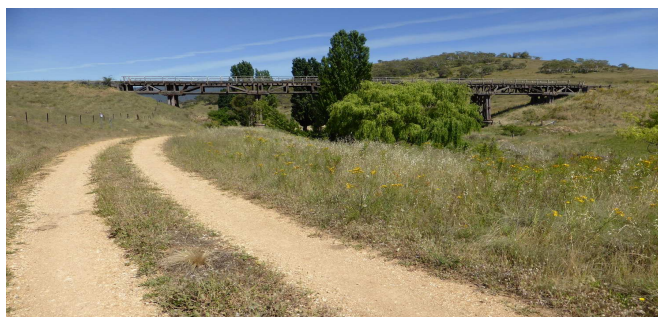
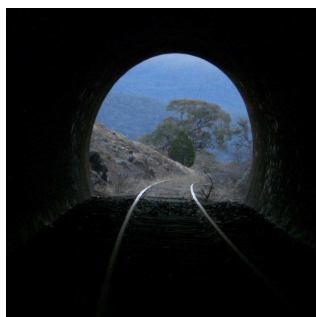
April: Nimmitabel was our most recent outing. Every two years in April the Nimmitabel Garden Group organise an Open Garden day which this year included lunch at the showground. Over 400 people moved through the pavilion and past our banner. MRT committee members Michael Daniel and Mary Walters had a busy day handling enquiries from locals and visitors. A common comment was “great idea, now we don’t have to go to Victoria to ride a rail trail”. The photo shows Michael Daniel, MRT, and local farming identity Jim Jardine.

Some significant meetings

In January we attended a meeting with the Cooma Monaro Council and as a result we have written a submission to the Council. The submission points out the immense benefits that rail trail tourism would bring to the region while at the same time preserving the rail corridor for any other future use. Copies of that document are available from us, please email monarorailtrail@gmail.com to request a copy.

On April 11th we met with a community group at Bombala. Attending were three councillors (including the mayor Bob Stewart), the local rail history group and the historical society. The MRT team included Michael Daniel, Will Jardine, Bombala landholders Charlie and Ann Maslin and Les Atkins, Bombala Chamber of Commerce. The response was very supportive and the rail history group could see benefits by teaming up with MRT to develop their scheme for tourist rail trikes.

Our MRT team returns to Bombala on April 20th to address the full Bombala Council.



Coming events

Bike ride: In the last newsletter we were thinking of a future bike ride from Cooma to Nimmitabel via the quiet back roads. It has been deferred to 29th October to coincide with the annual Nimmitabel Bell festival so that there will be lots to enjoy after the ride.

Field trip Saturday 21st May: This outing creates an opportunity to inspect several features on the rail corridor between Michelago and Bredbo. Our meeting point is the Bush Heritage Australia property, Scottsdale, that adjoins the rail corridor and is 3 km north of Bredbo on the Monaro Highway. From here and after morning tea, (taken under cover if weather a bit dodgy), we can see the conservation work being undertaken at Scottsdale and then inspect the rail tunnel. A bbq lunch will then be given as will details on how to view the heritage listed rail bridge over the nearby Ingelara Creek.

Your contribution of \$30 will cover morning tea, lunch and donations to MRT and Bush Heritage Australia who are very supportive to MRT

Bookings are essential by Sat 7 May as catering must be arranged and there will be a limit of 50 people. Please contact Andrew for enquiries and bookings.
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Stay up to date



Friends of Monaro Rail Trail