



The Riesling Trail

Every season, another reason

Chairman's report

Riesling Trail Management Committee AGM, 14th October, 2021

I am pleased to present my report for the past twelve months. Following on from the middle of last year we have seen a sustained increase in the number of trail users. At this rate we will exceed 100,000 by the end of the year for the first time. This is no doubt due to the appealing nature of the trail and its many attractions, such as wineries and facilities along the way as well as linkages to other trails, including the Mawson, Lavender Federation and Wine and Wilderness Trails.

Riesling Trail developments

Although we haven't done anything quite as big as the recent completion of the trail into Auburn, developments over the past 12 months have still been impressive. These include widening Quarry Road bridge, adding a station platform and sculpture next to the Showgrounds and putting in seats next to the Lennon Street car park, next to Quarry Road bridge and at the Cyclist sculpture, a table and seat near Schaefer's at 2km north of Clare and a seat and shelter near the southern end of the Showgrounds. We have also restored the table and seat setting at the Sevenhill Cellars dam. The most recent development is sealing the short section in front of the Riesling Trail Cottages and adding line markings and safety signs. This is to improve safety for trail users at these crossings.

Funding from these projects has come from many sources. The new Quarry Road bridge was funded by the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing and the Grosset Gaia Fund. It was no easy job to replace this bridge and retain its iconic profile but was very well managed by Clare Metal Fabrications, Mace Engineering, GP Architects, Clare Quarry, JC Gill and Fleurieu Cranes. The shelter and some seats were funded from a Federal Government grant through the Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council, the seat at Lennon Street car park by the U3A Coffee and Chat Group and the table and seat at Schaefer's by Don Howell.

We have also been fortunate to receive a Special Initiative Grant from the Office for Sport, Recreation and Racing of \$25,000 for upgrading structures along the trail. These include strengthening bridges at the Sollys Hill Road crossing at Watervale and near the 12km south of Clare distance marker.

We are also continuing with the clean-up of olives and Aleppo pines along sections of the trail and in the Watervale Station yard, in part funded by Northern and Yorke Landscapes Board. This will prevent further encroachment of these pest species and will allow greater regeneration of native species and associated bird life.

Maintaining the trail

A critical part of the maintenance of the trail is to ensure that the surface is in good condition. The new trail surface, completed in 2018, has made this job much easier. This is in excellent condition and, so far, we have not had any erosion and rutting issues that we had with the older, flatter surface.

Supporting the Riesling Trail

There are many supporters of the Riesling Trail, both financially and in other ways. These are:

- The Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing and the Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council for on-going financial support with trail maintenance.
- Our Business Partners and Friends who contribute significantly to improving facilities along the Riesling Trail.
- Other businesses and organisations who also generously contribute to developments and upkeep of the trail. I would especially like to thank Jason Gill for his work next to the Lennon Street park and for the showground platform and to Shane Fraser (MAIT Plumbing) and the Clare Show Society for connecting water to the shelter next to the Showgrounds.
- Volunteers who help with the many projects to maintain and develop the trail further.

I am also grateful for the many watchful eyes who report any hazards or misuse of the trail. I am amazed how quickly we are notified when there is something amiss and so we can then act quickly to rectify the situation.

Finally, I wish to thank members of the Management Committee and Monica Trengove for their great work in helping to improve the trail, so it continues to be enjoyed and valued by trail users and the wider community.

Allan Mayfield,
Chairman, Riesling Trail Management Committee