



The Riesling Trail

Every season, another reason

Chairman's report

Riesling Trail Management Committee AGM, 13th October, 2022

I am pleased to present my report for the past twelve months. Even though numbers of trail users are slightly down compared with last year, we are likely to reach 100,000 users for the second year in a row. These high numbers indicate that we must be doing something right for the trail to have such widespread appeal. Looking back, we have done a lot to improve the trail over many years thanks to our dedicated committee and volunteers and funding support.

Riesling Trail developments

During the past 12 months we have continued to improve the trail, amenities and other attractive features. These include replacing the rickety old bridge at Watervale with a smart new one, surfacing the 500 metre section of trail next to Station Road in Clare and giving the car park at the southern end a facelift. This includes adding bollards to improve the safety for trail users. We also plan to install bollards all the way along Station Road to deter vehicles from turning across the trail. In the next six months we will be replacing the bridge just north of Tatkana Road and will be installing a seat and shelter next to the bridge at Auburn. The seat has been donated by the U3A Coffee and Chat Group and the shelter by Stephanie Toole.

We continue to get requests for seats along the trail. Two have been installed in the past year - one south of Sevenhill, as a memorial for Midge Wallace, and the other north of Hubbe Road and donated by Clare Neighbourhood Watch.

Part of the Clare Showground railway platform has been rebuilt and a sculpture of a family heading off to the Show (by Paul Leditschke) installed. We are also in the final stages of installing a sculpture depicting Monica McInerney on the roof of the Station Master's house. This will be opened (by Monica) on Friday 11th November.

We are also continuing to improve biodiversity along the trail by removal of invasive plants (such as olives) to allow native species to regenerate. The most recent is in the Watervale Station area, where we have removed olives from the western boundary and re-planted with local native trees. We also thank Tom Jones and his crew for taking out a large section of olives north of Wakefield Road while they were there building a dam for Tim Adams.

Funding from these projects has come from many sources. The new bridges have been funded by the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing and the Monica McInerney sculpture from the Waterloo Wind Farm, Lions Club of Clare District, several Open Gardens (Di and Geoff Hood and Mark and Jo Healey), the Clare Middle Pub Club and Allan Aughey.

Maintaining the trail

There always seems to be small, and sometimes not so small, jobs to be done to keep the trail in good condition. I am very grateful for those who are quick to report any issues along the trail and to all our volunteers who help with the clean-ups.

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 and help 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 replacing the bridge at Watervale.
- Volunteers who help with the many projects to maintain and develop the trail.

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