

Winter on the Riesling Trail

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The Riesling Trail

Thank you to Tour de Vines for the great photo on the Riesling Trail when they
visited



Hello Members

and welcome to our Winter E-News | Along the Riesling Trail ...

Visit our website at <http://rieslingtrail.com.au/> for up to date information of what's
happening on the Riesling Trail and around the Clare Valley.

From the Chairman

After the idyllic autumn weather and with a splash of autumn colours to go with it, we are about to start our winter season. So, rug up and get out and enjoy the trail.

May 14th marked the 30th year since the opening of the first section of the Riesling Trail, from Sevenhill to Watervale. Further sections from Clare to Sevenhill and Watervale to just north of Auburn were opened in 1998, from Clare to Barinia in 2009 and the final piece into Auburn in 2019. It's quick to say, but behind each section were years of planning and determination to overcome significant obstacles – and it took 25 years to complete the entire trail, from Auburn to Barinia. These achievements include installing the bridge over Quarry Road, retaining the bridge over the Farrell Flat Road and crossing the highway and building a bridge just north of Auburn. As a result of this vision and persistence, we have something that is much appreciated by the community and visitors.

Since the completion of the Riesling Trail we have continued to make improvements as well putting a fair effort into the less obvious job of maintenance. These improvements include:

- Replacing the Quarry Road bridge for two-way traffic to make it much safer for users.
- Adding more drainage pipes under the trail to reduce the chance of damage to the trail surface from heavy rainfall.
- Renewing bridges, using steel beams to replace the deteriorating timber beams. Three have been done so far (Watervale, Tatkana Road and College Road) with three still to do.
- Sealing and line marking at major crossings (including College and Mintaro Roads) to improve safety for trail users.
- Seats and shelters.
- Artwork, including the Monica McInerney sculpture in Clare and the sculpture and platform next to the Clare showgrounds.
- Enhancing the native vegetation and bird life by removing olives along much of the trail to stop them encroaching any further. In the Watervale Station area this was followed up with extensive planting of native species.

Plans in the near future include adding drinking fountains at several locations along the trail. All these achievements would not have been possible without the generous support (both financial and in time) of Friends of the Riesling Trail, the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing and the Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council.

Trust you enjoy the trail when you next get a chance.

Allan Mayfield

Chairman

Peter Wood and I had the privilege of hosting Damian McCrohan, President of Rail Trails Australia and Alexander McCooke earlier this month when they visited the Clare Valley to ride and take photos of the Riesling and Rattler Trail.

<https://www.railtrails.org.au/trails/the-riesling-and-rattler-trail/>



The Riesling Trail Committee got together to celebrate 30 years since the first stage of the Riesling Trail (Sevenhill to Watervale) was opened. Thank you to the Sevenhill Hotel for hosting us.



Rebecca Whitfield-Baker and Allan Mayfield

Pearler of a celebration for jewel of Clare Valley

Rebecca Whitfield-Baker

It's been dubbed the jewel in the Clare Valley crown and is worthy of a pearler of a celebration.

This month marks 30 years since the opening of the first section of The Riesling Trail, from Sevenhill to Watervale.

Now spanning 33km of ever-changing landscape – from Auburn in the south to Barinia in

the north – the iconic trail, managed by a volunteer group, attracts 100,000 users annually.

Trail Management Committee chair Allan Mayfield said it was a "fortuitous combination of talents and enthusiasm" – inspired by local winemakers Tony Brady, of Wendouree Wines, and Evan Hiscock, of Petaluma Wines, – that saw the potential to turn an old rail line into a walking trail that could

link with the wineries and promote the area renowned for its riesling wine.

"The Riesling Trail was constructed on the former River-ton to Spalding rail line, which was originally built in 1918 after considerable lobbying by the community to the government of the time," Dr Mayfield said.

"Its construction was not without challenges – bitter wage negotiations, shortage of materials during World War I,

wet weather, and the need to dig significant cuttings through difficult, hilly countryside.

"Ironically, these cuttings are now some of the most attractive features of The Riesling Trail.

"The line was burned in the 1983 Ash Wednesday bushfires and never re-opened, sitting idle for many years.

"The Riesling Trail now goes from Auburn right through to Barinia in the north, and essen-

tially covers the grape growing region of the Clare Valley."

The trail was completed in stages: Sevenhill to Watervale in 1994, Clare to Sevenhill and Watervale to Auburn in 1998, Clare to Barinia in 2009, and the final, upgraded stretch into Auburn was finished five years ago, in 2019.

For more information, go to www.rieslingtrail.com.au or you can follow The Riesling Trail on Facebook.



parkrun every Saturday morning

Great to see Julio at Pakapakanthi on my 300th parkrun. He says hi to Clare!



The beautiful Sarah Wood at Pakapakanthi parkrun



For a one off donation to the Riesling Trail please click here [DONATE](#)

This donation is tax deductible and is very much appreciated by the Committee.

These donations assist to make the Trail safer, more accessible, more enjoyable for all the runners, walkers and cyclists who use it on a regular basis.

We thank you very much. The Riesling Trail Committee.

A working bee was held at the Lennon Street car park of the Riesling Trail to prune shrubs as well as remove dead vegetation. Some replanting was also done. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped on the day: Di, Larn, Martin, Trevor, Mark, Allan, Sue W and Ron



Thank you to our Sponsors for their continued support of the

Riesling Trail

Retreat has been operating for the past eight years with four 2-bedroom villas. In late 2023 we began the development of four new luxury villas consisting of one 3-bedroom villa & three 1-bedroom villas to bring the total offering to 8 luxury villas overlooking vineyards, in the heart of the Clare Valley.

Each of the new villas are equipped like a home away from home with full kitchen facilities, gas log fire, smart TVs, reverse cycle air conditioning, private balconies, BBQs & a fire pit in the yard.

The villas were built using all local Clare Valley builders, trades & local businesses and has injected over 1.2 million dollars into the local economy, while being a self-funded project by owner operators Deb & Scaggs Scaglione.

Neagles Retreat launch four new villas!

Be our guest!

Join us for the grand opening of our four new villas in Clare Valley !

May 14th from 2pm to 4pm

RSVP to Aimee via
0417 870 440



CONTRATULATIONS to the newest Hall of Fame Inductees. Held once every decade, the Clare Valley Wine Hall of Fame celebrates outstanding achievement and innovation in grape growing, wine production, marketing and regional ambassadorship.

This year Hall of Fame Inductees: Peter Barry [Jim Barry Wines], Roly Birks [Wendouree], Neil Paulett [Paulett Wines], Andrew Pike [Pikes Wines], Stephanie Toole [Mount Horrocks Wines].

Congratulations to you all from the Riesling Trail Committee.





The Bentley's Hotel



The Clare Country Club

European Street Food Gourmet Event!



The UPPside
18th & 19th May 2024
12pm - 5pm



Clare Valley Caravan Park



The Rising Sun Hotel



Claymore Wines



Crabtree Wines



Jeanneret Wines



Jim Barry Wines



O'Leary Walker Wines



Mitchell Wines



**Elders Real Estate Clare Valley
& Balaklava**

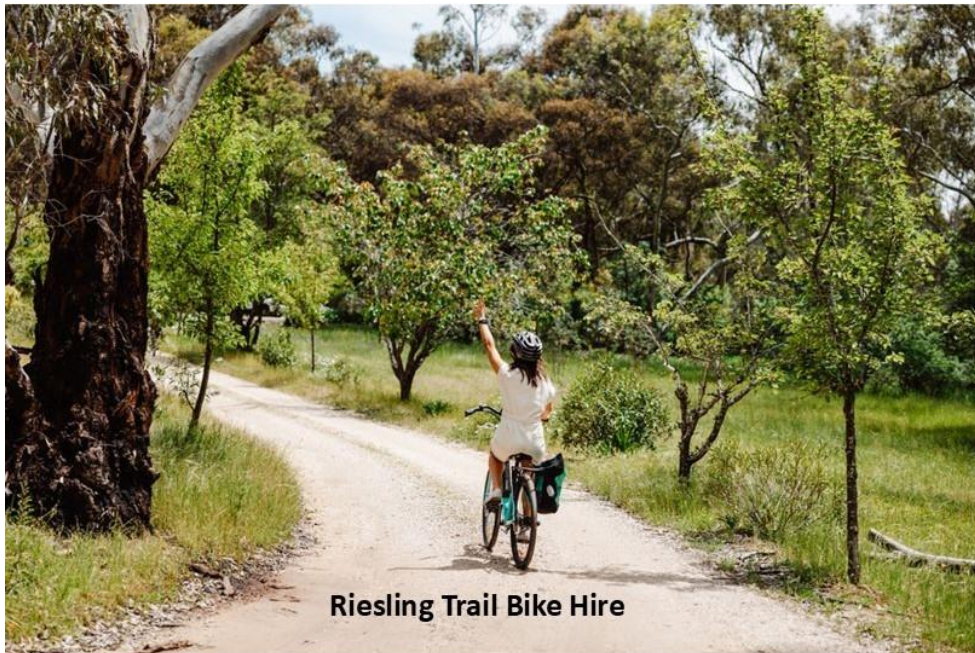


Mid North Real Estate





Shut the Gate Wines



Riesling Trail Bike Hire



Clare Valley Bike Hire





Taylors Wines



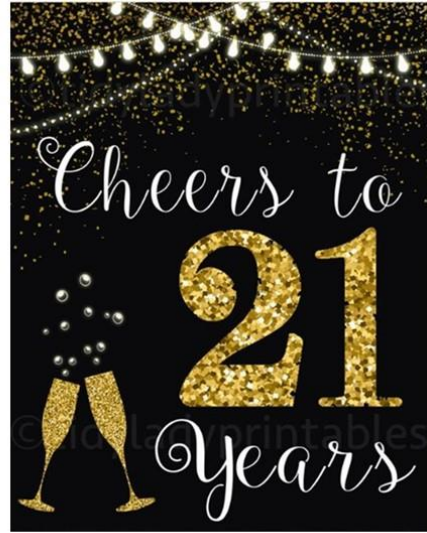
Watervale Hotel



Watervale General Store



Battunga Cottages



Deb & Scaggs have been at the Clare Hotel for 21 years.



Mitre 10 Clare



Tour de Vines



Thank you for your continued support of the Riesling Trail,
it is very much appreciated.

The Riesling Trail Committee

Traker Readings - 2024

USER NUMBERS 2024							
	14443	14493	11987	11535	14237		12765
	2023	2024	2018	?	2022		SPARE
MONTH	White Hut Rd	Clare	Sevenhill	Watervale	Auburn	TOTAL	YTD
January	507	3146	2250	1033	540	7476	7476
February	487	2820	1970	821	398	6496	13972
March	564	2655	3055	1316	641	8231	22203
April	757	4835	4716	1698	981	12987	35190
May	795	3780	3025	1485	788	9873	45063
June						0	45063
July						0	45063
August						0	45063
September						0	45063
October						0	45063
November						0	45063
December						0	45063
TOTAL	3110	17236	15016	6353	3348	45063	
MONTHLY VARIATIONS							
	White Hut	Clare	Sevenhill	Watervale	Auburn	Total	YTD
May-24	795	3780	3025	1485	788	9873	45063
May-23	604	2104	2542	1178	808	7236	47665
Variation	31.62%	79.66%	19.00%	26.06%	-2.48%	36.44%	-5.46%
YTD 2024	3110	17236	15016	6353	3348	45063	45063
YTD 2023	2509	15459	13864	5469	3128	40429	40429
Incr/Decr	23.95%	11.49%	8.31%	16.16%	7.03%	11.46%	11.46%

Tax Deductible Donations are now easy to make

We rely heavily on donations to maintain and improve the Riesling Trail.
Individuals can claim their donations as a tax deduction if the funds are directed
through the Australian Sports Foundation.

Simply click on the link which will take you to the Australian Sports Foundation website, Payment Options [Click here](#). or search the Riesling Trail website at

[The Riesling Trail | The Riesling Trail Development Fund \(asf.org.au\)](#)

This method of donating is mainly for Donors who do not have an ABN for tax purposes.

Thank you for your support of the Riesling Trail, any donation is greatly appreciated.

If you have a specific project you would like to see completed and can make a significant contribution towards it, please contact the committee to discuss your requirements."

Contact Us

Chairman, Allan Mayfield M: 0418 818 569 E: allan@asmayfield.com.au

Vice Chairman, Mark Hill M: 0409 678 022 E: mlpjhill2@bigpond.com

Treasurer, Tony Siebert M: 0419 119 565 E: siebert.tony@gmail.com

Articles for the E-News, Website and Facebook to

Monica Trengove M: 0417 803 386

E: admin@rieslingtrail.com.au

All correspondence to The Treasurer PO Box 637 Clare SA 5453 or

E: admin@rieslingtrail.com.au

Thank you to our Business Partners



Thank you to our Business Friends

Brice Hill Country Lodge; Ampol Roadhouse Clare; Clare Animal Health; Clare Building Supplies; Clare Family Dental; Clare Medical Centre; Clare Valley Tours; Clare Valley Taxis; Clare

Valley Toyota; 'Clarrie Bruce' Remedial Massage; Clarevale Cottage B&B; clos Clare; Complete Wool Services; CVBTA; Elders Real Estate; Jeanneret Wines; Jim Barry Wines; Knappstein Wines; M.R. Electrix [SA]; MGA Insurance Brokers; Mid North Real Estate; Mount Horrocks Wines; Penny Pratt MP; Pikes Wines; Pink's Mitre 10; Ray White Clare Valley; Riesling Trail & Clare Valley Cottages, Rising Sun Hotel; Rohde's Free Range Eggs; St Helen's Country Cottages; Sussex Squire Wines; The Blush Clare Valley Holiday Accommodation; Watervale General Store; Word Solutions

Thank you to our Honorary Business Friends

Grosset Wines, Clare Valley Winemakers, Clare Quarry, MAIT Plumbing, SJM Carpentry Building Pty Ltd, Clare Signs & Design Centre, Smart Earthworks, Mace Engineering, Mid North Pest & Weed Control Pty Ltd, JC Gill, GP Architects, Clare Rotary Club, Clare District Lions Club.

A special thank you to the Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council for printing of the Newsletter for distribution to Members who do not have email.

Finally ... sincere thanks to you, as a Business or Individual Friend of the Riesling Trail for your continued support to upkeep and continually improve the Trail for users.

... from the Riesling Trail Team

Every season, another reason

This E-News was produced by Monica.Trengove Marketing Sub-committee, Riesling Trail