

2024 Rail Trails Conference

Attracting more rail trail
users - providing better
experiences and facilities



For the first time in over 20 years, **Rail Trails Australia** is bringing its rail trail conference to Melbourne.

Join discussions and be inspired by hearing how others are making the most of rail trails Australia-wide as they explore the conference topic of 'attracting more rail trail users - providing better experiences and facilities'.

Keynote speaker Christine Harris, Marketing Manager of Ride High Country at Tourism North East will launch the conference by discussing how to develop a strategic tourism direction.

Presentations include Tiffany Stodart of Tweed Shire Council reflecting on the success of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail and Alarna Timmins and Julie Blyth, Murrindindi Shire Council, discussing value-adding for rail trails (focussing on Art on the Great Victorian Rail Trail). Bicycle Network's CEO Alison McCormack will explore the rise of e-bikes and gravel bikes taking to the trails. Get in quickly to also secure your ticket to Friday night's conference dinner at a local venue.

A cycling/lunch event will be held on the Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail on Saturday 19th October to help celebrate 30 years of the 'Warby Trail' and explore its continuing expansion into the Yarra Valley.

Register now to join in the largest gathering of rail trail supporters ever!

Early bird registrations close 31 August.

Date

Friday 18 October 2024 (Conference)

Saturday 19 October 2024 (Rail Trail event)

Location

Jasper Hotel

489 Elizabeth St, Melbourne

To register for this event, scan the QR code or [click here](#).



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Opportunity for further sponsors

Conference program

Day one Friday 18 October

- 9.00-9.20** Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country, and Opening
Steven Kaye, Vice President, Rail Trails Australia
- 9.20-9.50** Keynote presentation: Building a trail network
Christina Harris, Marketing Manager of Ride High Country,
Tourism North East
- 9.50-10.15** The Northern Rivers Rail Trail Success Story
Tiffany Stodart, Northern Rivers Rail Trail
- 10.15-10.40** Morning tea
- 10.40-12.00** Servicing the needs of rail trail users
Rachael Northwood, Alpine Hotel Warburton
Melanie Hardcastle, Carriage Cafe
Danielle Bortignon, Cog Bikes Australia
Amanda Godridge, Great Southern Bike Hire
- 12.00-12.30** The Bicycle Revolution
Alison McCormack, Chief Executive Officer, Bicycle Network
- 12.30-1.15** Lunch
- 1.15-2.15** Panel Discussion 1: Increasing rail trail usage
Damian Cerini, Tour de Vines
Christina Harris, Tourism North East
Tiffany Stodart, Northern Rivers Rail Trail
Alison McCormack, Bicycle Network
- 2.15-2.45** Value adding to rail trail experience - Artwork on the Great
Victorian Rail Trail
Alarna Timmins and Julie Blyth, Murrindindi Shire Council
- 2.45-3.30** Panel Discussion 2: The role of volunteer Committees of
Management and Friends Groups
Ross Vaughan, Friends of Great Victorian Rail Trail
More speakers to be announced
- 3.30-4.30** Break and networking
- 4.30-5.00** Rail Trails Australia Annual General Meeting
- 5.00-Late** Conference drinks and dinner at nearby venue

Day two Saturday 19 October

- 11:00-5:00** Get out on the wonderful Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail

This cycling/lunch event at the unique Carriage Cafe will help celebrate 30 years of the 'Warby Trail' and explore its continuing expansion into the Yarra Valley, with a presentation by the trail manager.

Program subject to revision.

Hotel Parking

Guest parking is not available onsite at Jasper Hotel. However, there is a secure, multi-level undercover car park just around the corner, operated by the Queen Victoria Market.

Queen Victoria Undercover Car Park Details

Located on 456 Queen Street Melbourne, VIC 3000

The Queen Vic Market Undercover Car Park is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The maximum vehicle height for entry into this car park is 2.2 metres.



Conference Guests can receive discounted parking - \$25.00 per day (7:00am - 7:00pm)
This is a single exit ticket; one entry and exit only is permitted.

Access

Entering the car park. No ticket is required, as licence plate recognition is used.

Jasper Hotel guests are only permitted to use the Munro underground car park on levels on B3 and B4.

Exit

Scan parking voucher as provided by Jasper hotel.



Public Transport

Train

Catch any service into the city centre via the City Loop. Depart at Melbourne Central Station and take the Elizabeth Street exit to the corner of Latrobe and Elizabeth Streets. Walk 200 metres north along Elizabeth Street to Jasper Hotel, located on the left-hand side over Franklin Street just before Therry Street.

Tram

Several trams reach the city from various north and northwestern suburbs including routes 19, 57, 59 that travel along Elizabeth Street stopping outside Jasper Hotel. Trams on Elizabeth Street connect with most other services from Melbourne's outer suburbs. Jasper hotel is also reachable using the Free Tram Zone.

Taxi

Taxis can be booked by the hotel reception at any time, they can also make bookings for the future.