

The Friends of the Bendigo-Kilmore Rail Trail is a group of people who recognise the fabulous potential of a long distance trail on or near the route of the former railway line between Wandong and Bendigo.

We all love rail trails and long distance trails, and members have travelled many of them within Australia and overseas. We combine interests in railway and local history, environmental conservation, and community health and wellbeing.

The Friends acts as a specialist trail advisory body to local councils. We assisted in a number of ways with the extension of the O'Keefe Rail Trail from Axedale to Heathcote. Now we're advocating for the creation of a Wandong/Wallan to Heathcote rail trail.

### Want to know more? Get in touch with us.

- e** [bendigokilmorerailtrail@gmail.com](mailto:bendigokilmorerailtrail@gmail.com)
- w** [bendigokilmorerailtrail.com](http://bendigokilmorerailtrail.com)
- f** Search for Friends of the Bendigo-Kilmore Rail Trail
- t** @BKRailTrail
- p** PO Box 578, Bendigo Vic 3552

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*This brochure is funded through the  
City of Greater Bendigo Community Grants Program*

# Friends of the Bendigo-Kilmore Rail Trail





Photo by Melanie Ball



## An impressive list of achievements

The O'Keefe Rail Trail between Bendigo and Axedale was built in two stages between 1993 and 1999. Over the following ten years the condition of the trail deteriorated and six missing bridges prevented many people from accessing the trail.

The Friends group formed in 2009 with a vision to upgrade and extend the trail. It was great timing. The City of Greater Bendigo and local state representative, Jacinta Allan MP, supported the vision. Joint funding of \$3.22 million was announced in May 2010, with the council contributing \$1.32 million. By June 2015, 13 bridges had been replaced, a new foot bridge constructed over the Campaspe River at Axedale and a new underpass built under Mclvor Highway. The trail – now 50 km long – had been upgraded and extended all the way to Heathcote.

## Pursue your passion

Many skills have contributed to the realisation of the dream so far. Engineers, builders, painters, lobbyists, grant writers, historians, researchers, events planners, photographers, public relations officers, web developers and many others have all contributed to our achievements.

Many more hands will be needed to see the vision of the full-length trail realised. If you have a particular passion or simply want to help make it happen, we'd love to hear from you.

Get in touch for more details, or complete the membership application form and send it off to us.

The Friends acted as a community advisory group during the construction phase and, with the support of a range of local businesses and philanthropic organisations, were also active on the ground:

- constructing two replica platforms
- installing nine replica station signs
- creating and installing 26 concrete mile marker posts
- installing 13 picnic tables and seats and 16 bike racks

All the time we had our sights set far beyond Heathcote. Following the railway's original route would bring it up from Wandong/Wallan to join Heathcote. Six years of advocacy in the Mitchell Shire in partnership with the Mitchell Bicycle Users Group resulted in \$185,000 funding for a feasibility study to extend the trail further; \$150,000 from the state government with the balance from Mitchell Shire, the City of Greater Bendigo and an in kind contribution from the Friends group.



Photo by City of Greater Bendigo

## Membership Application Form

### MEMBERSHIP TYPE

The membership year runs from 1 July to 30 June.

Please select the membership option that applies.

New membership  Renewal

(If renewing we only need your name, unless other details have changed)

Single \$25  Family \$50

Family: Up to 2 adults + 2 FT students residing at same address

### CONTACT DETAILS

Last name		
First name		
Address		
	Town/suburb	
State	P'code	
Phone (h)		
Phone (m)		
Family	First name	Last name
Members	First name	Last name
	First name	Last name
Email (1)		
Email (2)		

### PAYMENT

You can pay by either:

- **Direct transfer** to our account with your last name and initial as reference (BSB 633-000 Acc. 139960181). Please email a copy of this form to bendigokilmoretrail@gmail.com **OR**
- **Cheque or money order** made payable to Friends of the Bendigo-Kilmore Rail Trail. Please post payment and this form to: PO Box 578 Bendigo Vic 3552

Privacy

We collect information about you only for the purpose of contacting you about events and activities, and insurance cover while you are engaged in activities for the Friends. We do not share your information with anyone except our insurer. We usually communicate with our members by email, and also send out emailed newsletters. If you DO NOT wish to receive our email newsletter, please tick or check this box

I/We agreed to be bound by the rules of the association for the time being in force.

Signed  Date