

New rail trail signage points the way

OUT walking or cycling along the O'Keefe Rail Trail for the first time? Admiring the natural environment and the wildflowers?

Or chatting with friends whilst jogging, and then wondering where you actually were?

A recently completed project by the Friends of the Bendigo Kilmore Rail Trail will help you.

To improve the rail trail's identity signage, new signs have now been installed at each of the road crossings between Agedale and Heathcote.

Addressing this lack of signage has been a project in the planning by Friends of the Bendigo-Kilmore Rail Trail group since the trail's last 30km extension was completed in 2015.

A \$5000 grant from Fosterville Gold Mine's 2020-21 Community Grant program has now enabled this project to be completed.

The basic design of these signs relates back to the original railway and steam locomotives, where similar 'whistle posts' were located along the railway to alert the locomotive driver of an ap-

proaching road crossing.

This visual alert then required the train driver to sound the loco's whistle, as a warning to road users of the approaching train.

Manufactured and finished with 21st century materials, the new signs identify the name of the rail trail and the road name at the crossing.

This location information should assist trail users to more accurately give their location should there be a requirement for emergency first responders to attend.

The generous grant

from the Fosterville Gold Mine (Kirkland Lake Gold) Company, together with a monetary contribution from the Friends of the Bendigo Kilmore Rail, plus members volunteering their time, means the project has been completed without cost to the City of Greater Bendigo.

The installation crew included Lindsay Clay, Colin Scott, Ken Hanson, Greg Ralton, Steve Boswell and Athol Fredrick.

The new signs will help to promote this trail as a high quality active tourist attraction.



TEAM EFFORT: Lindsay Clay, Colin Scott, Ken Hanson, Greg Ralton, Steve Boswell and Athol Fredrick. **Picture: LES LEWIS**