



## ***The Knowsley Forest is Inviting Visitors***

### ***New Facilities***

### ***Smart Track Knowsley Forest and the O’Keefe Rail Trail.***

Users of the O’Keefe Rail Trail will now have another opportunity to further enjoy the rail trail, as well as the natural forests and their facilities.

The Knowsley Forest’s Smart Track Day Visitor Area has recently had its facilities upgraded by the forest’s manager, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) under a State Government funded Victorian Great Outdoors Project.

With the rail trail traversing through the Knowsley Forest, being one of four State forests that the trail connects with, rail trail’s users now have only a short distance to travel from the trail alignment to reach this upgraded Day Visitor Area.

These Knowsley Forest’s Day Visitor Area upgraded facilities include new toilets, a new shelter with tables and seats, outdoor tables and seats, an information board, a water dam feature, as well as the car parking area having new bollards installed.

DELWP’s Loddon Mallee Project Officer, Dale Hill, advises that there are also plans under the same project to install a gas fired BBQ, within the Visitor Area in the near future.



*Knowsley Forest’s Smart Track Day Visitor Area.  
Photo: Dale Hill*



*Day Visitor Area’s sheltered picnic area and toilets.  
Photo: Dale Hill*

This Day Visitor Area is located immediately off Smart Track within the forest environment, accessible by rail trail users on foot or bikes as well as people entering via vehicles.

This Smart Track area gives visitors a chance to both explore the immediate forest area, use these facilities, as well as accessing the rail trail from Smart Track to walk or ride through the remainder of the forest and beyond.

The new toilets are a much needed facility for visitors to the forest, especially for the very popular the O’Keefe Rail Trail during this COVID pandemic, due to the extended distances between such public toilet facilities along the 50km long rail trail.

With a Friends of the Bendigo-Kilmore Rail Trail making a submission to the City of Greater Bendigo, to fund the provision of new toilets and a carpark adjacent to the trail at Peppercorn Park Longlea, it is hoped this proposed project will be given priority in the council’s 2022-23 budget.