

Trail Bike Project

Newsletter

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Statewide Information



Ride for Tomorrow

Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) Trail Bike Project staff took the Ride for Tomorrow message to three major motorcycle events in late 2008. Participants in the Stockman's Rally at Big River and the Blue Light Ride near Noojee had their bikes tested for noise compliance, learned more about sustainable riding, and then were joined by DSE staff who rode the event course with them.

Trail Bike Project Officers distributed thousands of Ride for Tomorrow brochures to visitors at the four day Australian Motorcycle Expo in Melbourne. Working jointly with the Victorian Motorcycle Advisory Council (VMAC), project team members spoke to many hundreds of riders about responsible trail bike riding and what riders can do to promote sustainable riding.

For more Ride for Tomorrow information go to www.dse.vic.gov.au/trailbikes.

Trail Bike Rider Research

DSE contracted the research company Instinct and Reason in late November 2008 to improve government's understanding of what riders want out of their recreation as well as their views on other issues such as conflict with other forest users and residents over noise, environmental impacts of forest use and current legal requirements (such as the need to be licensed and registered). The rider research involves:

- one on one in-depth interviews with 20 riders (mixture of age groups, gender, frequency of

use and location - rural and metro based riders) - completed in December

- 12 Focus Group discussions with small groups of riders (mixture of age groups, gender and location) - to be completed in late January
- On-line survey of 500 riders - to be completed in February/March

In addition to talking to riders, the researchers will also be talking to trail bike retailers to better understand their perceptions of what information riders want as well as their understanding of what types of motor bikes can be legally registered, and what types of mufflers meet legal noise emission requirements.

The researchers will also talk to rural residents who live adjacent to popular forest riding areas, to better understand the issues they may have with trail bike use in their area.

Trail Bike Operations

Visitors to State forests across Victoria are increasingly likely to meet DSE forest officers conducting patrols on trail bikes. Fifteen DSE staff with motorcycle riding experience have undertaken additional training to become qualified to ride the Yamaha, Kawasaki and Honda trail bikes.



"People may be a bit surprised at first to see Forest Officers on trail bikes but it makes a lot of sense. Staff can travel around the forest very easily, and get to meet lots of visitors; it certainly helps our information and education work to be more effective", said Roger Pitt, Trail Bike Project Manager

Gippsland Regional Information

Trail Bike Visitor Area

Work is progressing well at the Latrobe River Rd Trail Bike Visitor Area, Neerim East with the toilet now being installed early February, we will have an official launch once everything is completed.

Signage

The most important aspect of our Trail Bike visitor Areas will be the information board advising trail bike riders of good riding opportunities, at the same time making sure they are aware of local residential properties and other forest users. Supporting road signage is now being initiated at Latrobe River Rd and we have worked closely with the Baw Baw Shire and Vic Roads to develop relevant signage.

Compliance

DSE trail bikes are now used on all our joint DSE/VicPol compliance operations and are proving to be very useful when engaging with trail bike riders. There is a noticeable increase in compliance with regard to unlicensed/unregistered bikes out in the forest as riders recognize we will be out and about on a regular basis.

Working with Motorcycle Groups

Warragul motorcycle club have agreed to 'adopt' the Latrobe River Rd Trail Bike Visitor Area and we look forward to working with them.

Community Involvement

We have been fortunate to have local community groups assisting in developing these visitor areas and Rokeby Crossover Friends Group and Green Corp have agreed to help maintain the Latrobe River site.



Events

The Blue Light Ride event held at Nayook in November was well attended and the Police Association liaised with the Department to make sure any damage to the forest was minimised.

Rawson Community Reference Group

A meeting was held January 21st to discuss future plans for a Trail Bike Visitor Area to be developed to cater for riders in the Rawson/Erica area. Local residents and other forest users were also present to ensure their needs were also taken into consideration.



Gippsland - Mailing List

Would you like updates about meetings, web site developments, community workshops, or regular copies of this newsletter? To be added to a mail distribution list, please contact Joy (details below)

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