

## Jims-Life-Log ~ A blog of interesting stuff in Jim's life

# Cycling Holiday Day 1 – GVRT Tallarook – Yea

22 Sunday Sep 2013

POSTED BY JAMES STANFORD IN INTERESTING PLACES, NATURE, TRAVELS

≈ 2 COMMENTS

### Tags

australia, cycling, goods shedkerriesdale, goulburn, granite, holiday, mountain, rail, railway, station, tallarook, trail, trawool, valley, victoria, yea

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I woke up this morning to the sound of rain, and by the time we were passing through Albury / Wodonga the rain had that menacing 'raining all day' look about it. But the further south we got, the better the weather got and by the time we arrived at Tallarook the day was warm, and sunny, with a little cloud. Perfect weather for cycling!

As I removed the bike from the bike rack on the back of the car, there was a magpie stuka that was swooping Rebecca and the kids, but it seemed to be content to leave me alone, so while I got the bike set up to start my trek, the rest of the family retreated to the car.



Tallarook railway Station

I had never been to Tallarook, or travelled on the road from there to Trawool, before today so that was a new experience. Tallarook was once the junction for the Mansfield and Alexandra railway lines. Parts of the rail trail are adjacent to the Goulburn River and the grades, being old railway formations tended to be up to about 4% (1:25).



Rail trail next to Goulburn river

Then at the end of Goulburn River Road, the trail follows the Goulburn Valley Highway towards Yea. There were a number of old railway station / siding locations, which basically showed very little evidence of being an important railway formation, and often the signage was the only real proof that a railway facility (apart from the track) was even there, as at Trawool.



Trawool Station remains (I think)

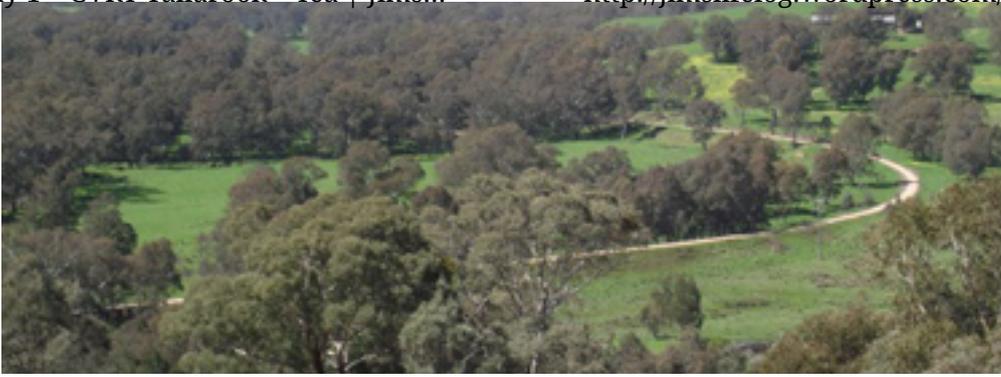
At Granite, where there was once a station but today the overwhelming feature is the Trawool Valley Resort (I think that is the name of it).



Trawool Resort, Granite.

A few kilometres further on was Kerriesdale. At this point in the journey I decided to visit the Kerriesdale Mountain Railway (KMR), a privately owned and operated tourist railway that has a maximum grade of 1:12 (around 8%). The grades reminded me of photos I had seen of the Cass Railway in West Virginia, but the surrounds had a lot less trees.

The views from the Summit and along the journey to the Summit were amazing. The location on the railway called Strath View Siding offered views to the east towards the Australia Alps, and from the Summit the view was nearly 360 degrees with magnificent views into the valleys and mountains beyond! If you are ever in the Trawool area, I would say the the KMR is a 'must visit' location. And I am not just saying that because I like trains!



GVRT from KMR train ride



Views from KMR between Strath View Siding and Summit



Views from KMR between Strath View Siding and Summit

After riding the train to the summit and back we arrived back at the Bottom Points station, where I had some lunch. Then I gingerly descended to the rail trail (the road to / from the Kerriesdale Mountain railway was so steep I had to walk the bike up the last section on the way to get to the KMR), and had to navigate through the scrub for a little way to get back on the rail trail – not ideal when riding a portable bike. And then I continued towards Yea.

Not long after I got back on the rail trail at Kerriesdale, I passed over the King Parrot Creek Bridge. This is a fairly high bridge – I am thinking it is probably the second highest on the whole trail, the one over Lake Eildon being higher – but there may be others that I am not aware of. I wasn't aware of their being a rather long tunnel on the rail trail either until I read about it a week or so ago, so there may be other high bridges I am not aware of too. Also in the area near the King Parraot Creek bridge, there are some old growth River Red Gum forests, which apparently have some trees up to 600 years old.



King Parrot Creek bridge



King Parrot Creek bridge

At Homewood, there was very little evidence of the railway station that once existed. But I did find this:



Homewood station, maybe?

There were a number of long-ish grades on the section between Kerriesdale and Yea, but apart from a swooping magpie actually attacking my helmet (a first since I painted it black and added heaps of cable ties) the whole journey from Tallarook to Yea was without any major incident.

Upon arrival at Yea I had a look around the well preserved railway station and good shed, and then headed off to the motel where I was booked to spend the night.



Yea station



Yea Goods Shed

Over all a very enjoyable and interesting ride.

For GPS tracking for this ride, go to :

- <http://www.strava.com/activities/84011584>
- <http://www.strava.com/activities/84011583>

thoughts on “Cycling Holiday Day 1 – GVRT Tallarook – Yea”

1. *said:*Mum

September 23, 2013 at 9:33 am

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Hi James,

You seem to be having a good ride. I love reading your blog and seeing the photos – I feel I am on the ride too, but without all the effort. You must be very fit to be undertaking such a trip.

Luv Mum

**REPLY**

o *said:***Jims Log-O-Life**

September 23, 2013 at 12:26 pm

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I am really enjoying it. I guess I must be reasonably fit, but I reckon I would like to be fitter – some of the people I keep in contact with that bike ride do 100km rides a few times a week! And they go up and over the Dandenongs, twice. Oh to be that fit.

**REPLY**

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