



## NOW OPEN!

It was an exciting day when La Larr Ba Gauwa Park was officially opened on Friday 9 March, with a ceremony at the Trailhead. Around 100 people attended including members of the local community, bike riding fraternity, government ministers and staff, and contractors.

Minister Jaala Pulford, Minister Lily D'Ambrosio, Maree Edwards MP and Cr Bronwen Machin all spoke at the opening event and congratulated the local community on their drive and determination to deliver this project, which will have significant economic and social benefits for Harcourt and beyond. With an expected 25,000 visitors in 2018 increasing to 100,000 visitors annually within five years, there are plenty of opportunities for the Harcourt community to benefit from these visitors. The Ministers also spoke about the involvement of Goldfields Track, Dja Dja Wurrung, Dirt Art, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and Regional Development Victoria in delivering the project.



Once the ribbon was cut to officially open the Park, grade six students from Harcourt Primary School rode the Wanyarra trail. It was terrific to see local children be the first people to officially ride in the Park. They were followed by plenty of other people keen for their first taste of the La Larr Ba Gauwa trails.

Since the opening, Harcourt and La Larr Ba Gauwa have been buzzing with hundreds of cyclists exploring and enjoying the trails.



# La Larr Ba Gauwa Park Update

## April 2018

### Well done to the Harcourt community and other project supporters

So many people in Harcourt have been involved in this project that it is hard to acknowledge everyone because of the fear of missing someone! However, as the Project Director and Project Manager we are very keen to acknowledge the many people and groups that worked together to develop and deliver this project:

- Thanks to the members of the Harcourt community who had the idea to build mountain bike trails on the former plantation and worked hard to seek funding and support for the Park.
- Thanks to all the members of the Community Reference Group in its different forms over the past five years.
- Thanks to the many community groups who supported the idea and worked hard to bring it to fruition.
- Congratulations to Goldfields Track Inc and all its members for the initial work done to get this project started including undertaking the feasibility study, developing the masterplan, community engagement and seeking funding.
- Thank you to the contractors who worked as project partners and delivered high quality work.
- Thank you to our project partners on the Project Control Board including Dja Dja Wurrung, Regional Development Victoria, Mount Alexander Shire Council and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, who worked so well with us, through design and construction phases of the project.

There has been much work undertaken by many individuals and groups throughout this project and the benefits for Harcourt and the region are already evident.

We have been delighted to be part of this project and thrilled with the outcome.

***Regards, Marg Allan Chair, of Project Control Group, and Russell Manning, Project Manager***

### Where to from here?

The Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning (DELWP) has started transitioning the management of La Larr Ba Gauwa Park to the volunteer Committee of Management that was appointed earlier this year.

The Committee of Management is responsible for caring for, protecting, promoting and managing the park as well as maximising community involvement and use of the mountain bike trails. They will be provided with support as they take on this role, including DELWP working with the Committee and Council to resolve any initial teething problems. The Committee includes members with a range of skills and interests including environmental management, business management, technical expertise in mountain bike use, event management, marketing and promotions, legal affairs, cultural heritage and more.

Members of the Committee are: Rodney Carter; Tony Cordy; Benjamin Fox; David Ling; Michael Scott; Jason Tolland; Annette Rae; Dustin Lavery; Janine McCarthy; Hugh Finlay; Frank Forster; Andrew Nicolas; and Jane McQueenie.

Now that La Larr Ba Gauwa is complete, this will be our last Project Bulletin. We hope you have enjoyed staying in touch with the project progress and thank you for reading.

### Find out more about La Larr Ba Gauwa

- Facebook: Search La Larr Ba Gauwa (@Harcourtmountainbiketrails)
- Instagram: @LaLarrBaGauwamt
- App: Download the More to Explore App for comprehensive information and interactive maps.
- A PDF of the trailmap is available online:  
<https://www.forestsandreserves.vic.gov.au/initiatives/harcourt-mountain-bike-park>