

# Harcourt Mountain Bike Park

## Project Update

March 2017

Situated on a former pine plantation next to Mount Alexander Regional Park, the Harcourt mountain bike park will offer up to 34 kilometres of dedicated trails and magnificent views alongside a natural forest setting.

Once fully operational the park is expected to inject substantial funds into the local economy, attracting thousands of visitors each year and generate local jobs.

Built to International Mountain Bicycling Association standards, the park will be consistent with future development plans for the Harcourt area while improving the site's environmental value.

## 'Apple of my eye'

It is not hard to see why Harcourt Valley is adored, not just by the loyal local community, but the thousands of visitors each year to the beautiful Central Highlands. This was obvious at this year's successful Harcourt Applefest, which pulled one of the biggest crowds to what is still known as the 'apple centre' of Australia.

DELWP was proud to be a part of Applefest and to connect with the community to hear what people think about the project and what it means to them. Project Manager, Russell Manning, was in his element, engaging with more than 200 people on the day, listening to their comments and answering questions about this exciting new project for the region. Since then Russell has been out and about holding face-to-face meetings with landholders and residents adjoining the project site.

Over the last few months it has been important for us to make connections with everyone who is interested in the project and to hear from them, share information and keep them up to date with the next steps. We should know the outcome of the tender process for the design and construction of the trails very soon and be ready to announce the successful contractor in April. The tender process has been rigorous and there will further opportunity for community consultation once the contractor is appointed and the design phase commences.



Russell Manning guiding visitors through the plans while apple royalty looks on

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## Movement on the mountain

While the tender process and contractor appointment gets sorted, DELWP has been coordinating essential works to improve the site's amenity, safety and environmental value.

Soon after Easter, work will commence on upgrading a fire access track. Our partners, the Dja Dja Wurrung Corporation is rolling out a much needed blackberry control program and they are also developing a strategy so weeds can be effectively controlled.

Behind the scenes, the Community Reference Group is working with the Dja Dja Wurrung Corporation on the design of signs for the park and possible names for the trails as well as the name of the park. If you've got any ideas, by all means let us know.

In response to questions raised at community engagement sessions, we're also working with VicRoads, and Mount Alexander Shire on options for the best access to the mountain bike park from the Harcourt Township. We'll keep you posted on this as part of future community information sessions.

## Time is ticking ...

While we are on track to deliver a world-class destination for Harcourt, it's important to keep in mind that project timelines are always dependent on the progress of various approvals. We will keep you up to date with any changes so that everyone has the latest information.

March	April	May	June	July 2017	August – November
Trail tenderer evaluation.	Contractor appointed.  Preliminary design out for public comment and community consultation.	Community feedback included in final trail design.  Trail design completed and submitted for Federal and State environmental planning approvals.	Federal and State environmental planning approvals underway.	Trail design approved.  Construction begins, weather permitting.	Construction to be undertaken and completed.

## We want to hear from you

It's important to us that we are talking to you and giving you the opportunity to become involved in future consultation and engagement opportunities.

Register your interest at [harcourtmbp@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:harcourtmbp@delwp.vic.gov.au) or call us on 136 186.

There's also our website: [delwp.vic.gov.au/harcourt-mbp](http://delwp.vic.gov.au/harcourt-mbp)