

# Harcourt Mountain Bike Park Update September 2017



The Victorian Government is building a world class mountain bike park in Harcourt. Located on a former pine plantation and alongside Mount Alexander Regional Park, the bike park will boost tourism and the health and wellbeing of locals and visitors.

## What's Happening?

- More than 14 kilometres of bike trails have been built at Harcourt since construction started in early August – only another 20 to go! Local granite has been used in some of the tracks, which will provide interesting and technical rides for users.
- Dja Dja Wurrung Corporation has been engaged to develop a plan, including shelter and toilets, for the site at the top of Picnic Gully Road where most of the bike trails will begin.
- VicRoads has agreed to lower the speed limit on Market Street and part of Reservoir Road from 100km/h to 80km/h, making it safer for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians.



*Dirt Art have been making the most of the incredible topography and rock on site at Harcourt to create some pretty special trail features.  
Photo: Dirt Art*

- Council is currently inviting tenders for the off-road path along Market Street and Picnic Gully Road.
- Gates will be installed across the emergency access tracks within the park over the next month to protect the safety of bike riders, walkers and horse riders. Emergency vehicles will still be able to access these tracks but other vehicles will not be able to use them. Of course, The Oaks picnic area remains open to vehicles. Walkers, horse riders and cyclists can continue to use the tracks and paths they have always enjoyed within the park.
- We are now planning the trail and town signage.

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## Committee of Management

Would you like to help manage the Harcourt Mountain Bike Park? Expressions of Interest (EOI) are invited for people interested in volunteering to be on the Committee of Management. The Committee will be responsible for the day-to-day management and future planning of the Harcourt Mountain Bike Park on behalf of the community.

This will be a skills-based committee. We are looking for people who are enthusiastic and have a passion for contributing to their local community in managing this world class recreational facility. Committee members will be responsible for caring for, protecting, promoting and managing the park as well as maximising community involvement and use of the mountain bike trails.

The Committee will need 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.

All Expressions of Interest must be submitted on a nomination form by Monday 16 October. More information and nomination forms are available from Lynda Grant at DELWP on 5430 4444 or by emailing [harcourtmbp@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:harcourtmbp@delwp.vic.gov.au)

## Economic Opportunity Forum

Approximately 80 people attended Mount Alexander Shire Council's Economic Opportunity Forum on Wednesday 20 September at the Harcourt Bowling Club. The crowd heard great insights from the guest speakers about their experiences in creating successful businesses and economic opportunities for mountain bike park visitors.

Simon French from Dirt Art explained some of the facilities that mountain bike riders search for before and after they ride. Emma Ashton from Forrest Guesthouse spoke about how a mountain bike park was just the starting point for Forrest to become a destination town in its own right. Richard Wadsworth from DELWP spoke about the history of mountain bike parks in Victoria and how Harcourt could fit into this network. Adam Balzan from Maldon and District Community Bank talked about the Bank's history in the area and its willingness to further support and do business in the local community in the future. Andrew Mierisch from Harcourt Miniature Railway updated the community about that project and how the facility will contribute to Harcourt's future.

Well done to Mount Alexander Shire Council for a very informative forum.



## Have you seen something?

Unfortunately, over the past couple of weeks there have been some cases of trail bikes riding on the newly constructed bike trails and damaging them. Trail bike riders can legally ride on any of the forest, park and reserve roads open to the public but it is illegal to ride off formed roads. While DELWP compliance officers regularly patrol public land, we're also asking for the public to report any illegal activity to DELWP on 136 186 or Victoria Police.

## Keep in touch

It's important to us that we are talking with you and keeping you up-to-date with information about the Harcourt Mountain Bike Park Project. There are several ways we can keep in touch.

Get on our mailing list and receive regular updates. Email [harcourtmbp@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:harcourtmbp@delwp.vic.gov.au)

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