



# TRACKS

BNT

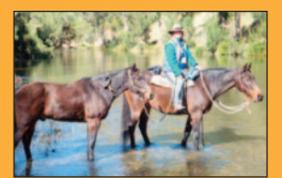


NEWSLETTER OF THE  
*Bicentennial*  
NATIONAL TRAIL

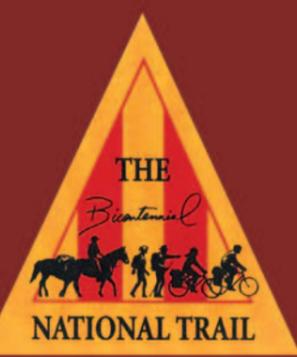
## INSIDE:



Into the unknown



River of many crossings



August 2015



## LIVING THE BNT DREAM

## From the Chair

AT THIS year's AGM, to be held in Mackay (see article inside this edition), we will be seeking the assistance of members with the management and operations of the BNT. Our Constitution allows up to seven directors however another year has passed where we have operated with a five member Board – and I thank my fellow Directors for their dedication. With some members of the Board now wanting to step down, securing the future of the BNT is crucial. I would like to see interested members nominate for the BNT Board. Please, if you have a passion for the BNT, please consider nominating for a Board position or just call me to discuss any questions you might have.

After six years at the helm, and a possible seventh, consideration must also go towards finding a replacement Chair of the BNT. I am stating my intention to stand down from the Board in 2016. With the BNT membership base now over 500, our financials are indeed very healthy. I feel it is time for a new direction and new leadership and it would be ideal if we could manage that change smoothly.

The transition to, and updating of, the office and management procedures have taken some time, but are now

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firmly in place and working well. Thanks go to my fellow Board members Jenny Costin, Sue Cumming, Karen Carter and Lesley Haine. I must also give thanks to Abbie Grant-Taylor and Tracy Barkham for their valuable assistance to the Board.

The Mapping Committee, led by Andrew Graham with Mal Keeley and Dave McLeod, is progressing with the arduous task of updating the Queensland Guide Books with both GB 1 and 6 near completion. Due to the ongoing changes in GB 6, it will only be available as a PDF file.

The BNT is entering a critical stage for our future with our Guide Books and operations that require us to progress into the digital age. This is a field is where expertise and guidance is



Nick & Mal at Grassy Mtn Camp on the BNT (GB9)

## Abundance of stories

Editorial

SO MANY readers responded to our call for more stories that we haven't been able to fit them all in.

Rest assured we will endeavour to fit the ones which missed out into our next edition. Remember a good length for a feature article is around a thousand words with half a dozen good high reso-

needed. The BNT is hopeful of holding an IT Conference sometime during 2016 at Gatton, but this will depend on the progress of the remapping of Queensland and Victorian guide books. I would also be pleased to hear from anyone with the technical expertise to guide us into this arena.

Hoping to see BNT members at the AGM. Don't hesitate to call if you think you can help in any way.

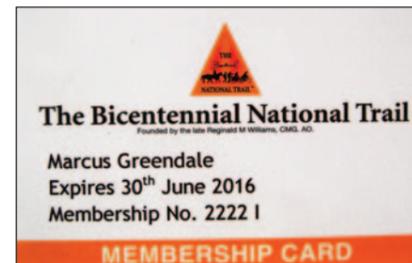
Also thanking Lesley Oldfield and Phillip Wilcocks for there years of service and dedication to the BNT. And their involvement that goes back to the 1970s with the National Horse Trail.

Nick Jacomas

[nickjacomas@bigpond.com](mailto:nickjacomas@bigpond.com)

0417 900 070

## News



## New membership cards

ALL NEW or renewing members from July are being sent a new membership card.

All other financial members who have already received membership letters, cards will be sent out as voluntary time permits.

The card is an easy peel off card from the membership letter designed to fit into your wallet or pocket, so much better than carrying around a soggy letter.

Members travelling through private property on the BNT please take your card this will identify you as a current financial member of the Bicentennial Trail and therefore being covered by BNT Public Liability Insurance on Private Property.

JENNY COSTIN  
Company Secretary

## REMINDER TO MEMBERS

Those members whose membership expired on 30th June 2015 if you haven't re-joined this will be your last Tracks magazine.

Membership renewals can be sent to The Treasurer Sue Cumming 250 Somersby Falls Rd Somersby NSW 2250 or email

[order@nationaltrail.com.au](mailto:order@nationaltrail.com.au).



Al's horse Rino trying on the pack saddle for size

## Pack saddle auction

IT WAS a lovely experience to meet with Carol Geraghty at Malmsbury VIC where she kindly handed over the pack saddle which she and the boys donated to the BNT.

As Carol and I chatted over coffee and hot chocolate it became obvious that this was a special donation made by the boys so I asked Carol to share that with us below.

The packsaddle we donated to the BNT was brought from Digger Dog Canvas new.

The pack was delivered to us in Healesville the afternoon before we started on the trail. The first time it was on a horse was our first day on the trail. It is a unique piece of trail history, it was only ever used on the

trail and was carried by the same packhorse the entire trail. Jacob suggested donating the pack to the BNT as our way of saying thank you for the most amazing experience. I hope it brings as much pleasure in its new home.

Photo with Carol caption: Carol hands over pack saddle at Malmsbury to Karen Carter, Director

Alan Lanyon from Gundagai was the highest bidder on the auction night of 30th June and is appreciative of Carol's donation to the BNT.

Al is new to packing and looking forward to small trips to start with through the Kosciuszko National Park this coming season.



# Ride For Cancer



By **MATTHEW BOSCH**

I first heard of the BNT when I went in a 50K point to point Mountain Bike Race across Canberra called Capital Punishment. Apparently we rode part of the trail in the race. Having done the Mawson Trail in South Australia and ridden and walked parts of the Hume and Hovell Walking Trail in NSW, I wanted to experience this one.

I decided later to ride it to commemorate my son's 20th anniversary of his death. He wasn't a cyclist but looking back he and the trail had a lot in common. His life and the trail were beautiful but hard!

Having been warned about the Victorian section, I decided to ride the whole of NSW border to border. On a few trips, we had a look at the southern end, parts around Canberra and Glen Davis. The trail was hard so my husband suggested bringing the car. I accepted reluctantly.

Last year we did an 8 day reccy from Tom Groggin to Canberra and learnt a

lot. I did wonder how I was going to last 7-8 weeks!

We started the trip late February and ended in Killarney Queensland in mid-April. It was an amazing trip.

What I loved...

Seeing parts of NSW I had never seen before

Riding tracks which can only be walked, ridden or ridden on a horse

Doing 50K through Wollemi National Park where my husband had to drive 200K to meet me

The trail life.. travelling, eating sleeping and seeing places.

What I hated....

Following a track which didn't exist, getting lost and bush bashing when it would have been easier to take the road.

Not enough markers!

Things going wrong on the bike and not being able to fix it. We had to struggle for weeks before getting to a decent bike shop.

What I couldn't do without ...

My GPS which was a Garmin ETrex 30.

There were parts of the trail which I didn't ride. From Adaminaby to Mt Black Jack and the northern section which follows the river for ages. There we took minor roads west of the trail and found some of them were more like tracks as well.

It is now hard being home and being back to normal life. I definitely want to ride more of the trail just small sections self-supported. It has made me mentally stronger. Just last weekend a race I went in involved pushing the bike up a 2K hill very steep in places. I just thought "This is like the trail" and kept going whilst others were complaining around me.

I have made a video of the photos which includes some of my son but mostly of our adventures and the beautiful scenery.  
www.youtube.com/watch?v=z14VzNva8hQ

## A shared Trail Trail Etiquette

THE BNT is a multi-use trail which means it is shared by users on foot, on horses and on bikes which can result in potentially hazardous situations when different users meet. Trail etiquette, and a shared understanding of the protocols in yielding, can help everyone have a safe and enjoyable experience.

We particularly like the yielding protocols developed and implemented in the ACT and we recommend these practices be observed by all users right along the BNT. This sign (see photo) sums up the yielding protocol nicely.

When using a shared trail, horses have the right of way over all other trail users, walkers have the next priority followed by cyclists.

All trail users need to remember that their behaviour is a reflection on their entire user group, so courtesy, attention and common sense are required at all times.

While horses have right of way, equestrians must remember that other trail users may be travelling faster and may need to overtake. On busy trails, riders should travel in single file to allow plenty of room for other trail users. Cyclists and runners may not be familiar with horses, or their reactions, so equestrians must be prepared to position their horses to allow others to overtake safely.

For cyclists approaching horses, it is safer to use your voice to alert a rider to your presence than to use a bell. Be prepared to slow down or stop until the rider has settled and positioned their horse to allow you to pass. For cyclists approaching runners, a bell may be sufficient.

On busy trails general etiquette requires all users to: Be courteous and respectful of other trail users; Keep left; Ride in single file so as not to block the trail for others; Overtake to the right; Yield where required; and Give an audible signal, voice or bell, before passing, and allow time to respond.

We want all trail users to enjoy their experience.

## Share the path

Stop!



## ATHRA and John and Jo Kasch presents 2 DAY PACK SADDLE WORKSHOP

Hosted by Gold Coast & Albert Trail Riding Club

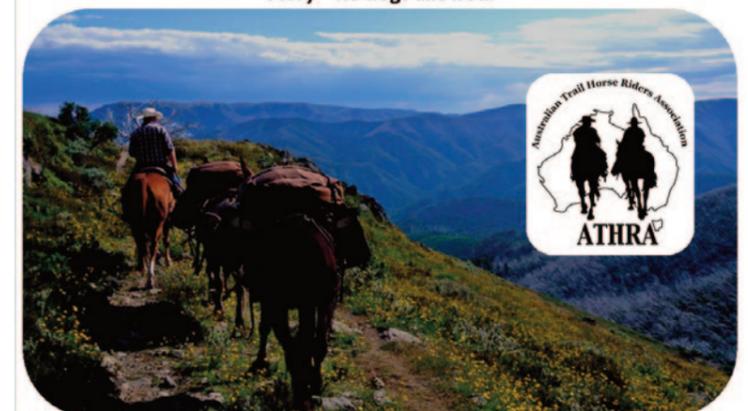
Sat 21 and Sunday 22 November 2015  
Lilybrook – Western Trail Head Wyalong Dam  
Boonah – Beaudesert Road Boonah

Contact: Claire Bourke  
Ph: 0418 438 807 E: [clairebourke1@bigpond.com](mailto:clairebourke1@bigpond.com)  
To book: [www.trybooking.com/ILHO](http://www.trybooking.com/ILHO)

**ATHRA Members**  
2 day workshop (with camping & Sat night meal) \$30.00  
2 day workshop (no camping or Sat night meal) \$10.00

**Non ATHRA Member**  
2 day workshop (camping & Sat night meal) \$60.00  
2 day workshop (no camping or Sat night meal) \$40.00

Tea, coffee, milo will be provided. BYO chair and lunch.  
Sorry—no dogs allowed.





## Boxed up in the Guy Fawkes

### McDonalds Ridge into the beautiful Guy Fawkes River

WE FLOATED our horses and unloaded near Red Robin yards. Leonie Box came from Dorrigo, Bridgett Hone from Uralla, the longest traveller all the way from Gundagai Karen Carter - Good one Karen for traveling that far!!!

With our trusty mounts we headed towards McDonalds Ridge. The ride to the ridge is really pretty, it's quite grassy and then really timbered. After a quick cup of tea overlooking the Marengo Falls we started the steep decent down McDonalds ridge. The ridge had three main parts. We gave the horses a short break between each one. We zig zagged our way to the bottom, reaching Marengo Creek first, the views coming down are spectacular.

When we reached Guy Fawkes River we could easily see it had been running quite high and had come down quite a

lot. The usual track had been washed away, leaving soft mud in our trail. Karen was the brave one who discovered a safer place to cross!!

Behind Leonie Casuarina's flattened by flood – other areas picturesque and untouched.

The Guy Fawkes is really deep in places. We were glad Leonie had been keeping an eye on the weather and the height of the river. It wasn't long before we were greeted with our first mob of brumbies. They looked really healthy and didn't bother our horses at all. Lots of palominos and buckskins. The weeds down there are quite high, so the brumby tracks made it easier to get around.

We stayed on the junction of House Water Creek and the Guy Fawkes where there is a remnant of an old hut, good pasture and the water from House Water creek seems really clean.

Averaged 6 river crossings a day and plentiful brumbies to admire.

Leaving the floats around 11 left us enough time to get camp set up and horses yarded.

We were lucky enough that the wild horses left us alone during the night.

Our first night was the start of some amazing food!! We certainly didn't rough it. With roast potatoes and pumpkin and even roasted eggplant, which happens to pack really well, we had a series of delicious meals, It was camp fire cooking at its best, we even had home grown nectarines and warm custard for dessert!

The weather treated us well, warm days colder nights, perfect riding weather, we explored up and down Guy Fawkes. The ride to Combalo Hut ruins was really lovely, the Orange tree was full and we picked a couple to have with pikelets and a cuppa. The merging creeks were interesting too, the Aberfolye was almost stagnate, which just goes to show how much rain they have had around Guyra.



Karen and I were not that comfortable at night and it didn't take us long to check out what bedding Leonie had. She was sleeping on a light weight Heli-nox cot and a thick Exped inflatable mattress. No wonder she looked great every morning!! It is nice to see what other experienced packers can fit in. Karen even had a shower that packed to a tiny size.

I spent 3 nights and headed out on my own, the others staying on longer. I was surprised to be sharing McDonald ridge with another BNT lover. A young hiker was on his way down, he had started from Healesville. He was great to talk too.

Thanks Leonie for getting us inspired to go. Previous to this I hadn't meet Karen and I've certainly made a new friend. It's just brilliant to enjoy the trail with good company, who appreciate it as much as I do.

Happy Trekking



Casuarina's flattened by flood (Leonie)  
Other areas picturesque and untouched (Karen)  
Averaged 6 river crossings a day (Bridgett)  
Plentiful brumbies to admire (Leonie)



# Passing through Calliope?

Hi there,

In answer to your crie de couer for Tracks contributions I would just like to let all trekkers know that I live at Calliope, not so far from where part of Book 4 runs. I can readily reach areas between Bracewell (near Mt. Larcom) and the bottom of the range (before you cross over to Collards Creek) and anywhere along the Mt. Alma Road section where there are 2 mapped campsites on the Calliope River.

If you're passing through and there is anything I can help you with please let me know. I can be contacted on 0438 084 902, and as I'm self-employed I'm generally pretty flexible time-wise. I have my own business providing muscle release therapy for horses and other animals, so perhaps I can also help get some of the long distance body issues sorted for you too.



It's a great pleasure to be a part of this wonderful enterprise called the Bicentennial National Trail, and fantastic to see there are so many people out there enjoying it now. I'll be joining the number as soon as I can, getting close to having the gear and horses all sorted.

I've watched the BNT grow from an idea to a trail-finding expedition to a reality over the decades - what a wonderful achievement. Kind Regards,

Kate Ahmelman  
Calliope Qld

# Leamons Hut refit

NEW WALL AND TANK ON LEAMONS HUT. BOOK 7 MAP 11

The team were at it again, Paul loaded his float up with all the iron and slid his way down the extremely wet and slippery forest track to Leamons hut, with Cherry arriving with no fingernails left. We came from the other direction and after getting lost with Pauls directions (once again!), finally made it with new tank on board. In the mean time Helmut Klein had arrived with everything imaginable in the way of tools in the back of his Ute.

With the experienced help of Mushgang again, they soon had the western wall off the hut, with (more than a) few repairs to timber bearers and joisting up the floor, they finally got to the stage of sheeting her up, with Mushgang a hard task master, soon had Paul and Helmut tonguing it and they were glad to stop for all the morning tea and dinner breaks they could get, supplied by Cherry and Leonie.



The new tank was also fitted, with a bit of engineering ingenuity from Mushgang, Helmut and Paul as it is miles from nowhere to get any fittings on the day, finally got the inlet pipe fitted on the tank as it was quite a bit higher than the previous tank.

Peter and Norma Leamon ( the own-

ers of Leamons hut) came down for lunch and bought some water to put in the tank to hold it down. We all had a jolly good time and a huge thankyou to the three 'boys' for the great job they did and the Leamons for letting the BNT use the Hut.

Leonie Box.

# Goddam that Lantana!



In May, Paul Gillkison, owner of Mountain Home on Georges Creek, and two BNT members, Helen McNeil and Leonie Box from Dorrigo, spent the best part of two days helping to clear the track of lantana and a few fallen trees. Also searching for and finding quite a few soda apples up along the BNT trail. The National Parks had also been and slashed and poisoned from Gilkisons boundary to Georges Creek Fire Trail, so the trail is wide open for travel, and is one of the most beautiful parts of the gorge. A huge thanks to Paul for his time and effort in keeping the trail open and allowing BNT members access through this spectacular property.

Helen McNeil.

## CLEAN UP AT NEWTON BOYD.

## BOOK 7 MAP 15



In June Paul Jones, Cherrie Davies, Mushgang, Leonie Box, Colleen, Mark, Sam and Jake Hinds spent two days at the BNT campsite at Newton Boyd, cutting up and removing huge branches off a fallen tree that fell across one of the sheds that got partly demolished, which we then rebuilt. We had a big bonfire of the debris, and re-

paired the damaged roof of another shed with Mushgang's expertise and left lots of chopped firewood for the next trekkers.

A good load of firewood was taken to Billy Maskey, a great horseman, who has been involved with the Guy Fawkes horses for many, many years and lived at Newton Boyd.

Sadly Billy has since passed away.

We all enjoyed a lamb roast camp oven Sat night, thanks to Cherry and a few good yarns.

After a very hot day all the hard workers went down the river for a dip.

It was a very enjoyable and productive weekend.

Paul Jones. Coordinator.



## Mum and the boys

ALL THOSE years ago, I watched the news feature with R M Williams opening the southern end of the BNT (Healesville). A dream was born. Twice I set off to ride the trail, but only made it to Omeo. I had regretted not riding the whole trail. The dream bubbled inside me, waiting.

So it was on the 19/12/2013 Jacob (then 14), Walter (then 12) and I woke up early and started to pack. Over six hours later all the horses were packed and saddled. Did I mention it was over 40 degrees that day? It was a never ending day of packs continually slipping and needing to be repacked more times than I care to remember. Frantic phone calls to our wonderful coordinators to verify our position and to locate drinking water. Of course we hadn't carried enough drinking water in such heat. We pulled up just before dawn. 500 metres short of our designated camp!

Slowly we became more confident, constantly reevaluating what and how we packed. We toughened up a lot, learnt to drink whatever water was available. The horses settled into the routine.

We climbed mountains, crossed rivers watched in gale as a storm brewed. We loped to water at dusk. Then traversed the magnificent Snowy mountains, over

the high plains and into our nations capital. As the days became shorter, we travelled roads close to civilisation. We met lots of people who were curious and helpful but were shocked at being told our destination was Cooktown.

Then onto the Cappertee valley, a different country with stunning cliffs and rock formations. A feast for our eyes, but not a lot of feed for the horses. The Nundle detour, proved to be the meeting place of so many caring people.

The Demon fault line awaited us with its picturesque rivers and total wilderness. We felt at one with nature, with late starts to avoid freezing mornings. Magnificent wild horses everywhere. By now it was very dry with little feed for the horses, so we pushed on to Killarney in Queensland for a break. It was here that our phone died (the second) lucky we were in town to find a replacement.

Spring came as we trekked through SE Queensland, the Condamine Gorge with plenty of river crossings saw the vegetation change and become more lush. However, as we continued we found that it was dry with little feed or water. We slowed our travel stopping

early if we found a suitable campsite. Over Cunningham's gap and the Scenic rim. The horses grazed the road reserves where the irrigation over spray produced knee high clover.

We followed lots of old wagon and coach roads, and learned to read the lay of the land. These old bullockies routes set off our imagination, especially at Musket Flat. It really was a living history lesson for us, and we have some understanding of the hardships faced by European pioneers. The further north we trekked the hotter it became, along with high humidity. It meant very early starts, which is difficult with teenage boys.

We had the great joy of meeting up with both current and past trekkers.

Near Stanwell power station we were offered a fresh paddock to rest the horses. We needed to wait for the wet season to bring much needed rain and green grass.

So it was that we travelled through the wet season with accompanying high humidity. One day along the Bruce Hwy the passing traffic caused the bitumen to splatter. We could never carry enough water, and once again the thoughtfulness and generosity of people

bringing water for us as well as guiding us to troughs and dams was greatly appreciated. In the wet season, huge electrical storms brought the rain. It was scary watching lightning strikes nearby. Once Jacobs tent was blown down during a storm.

Our next main concern was crossing the largest dam in Queensland, the Burdekin. Once it spills over the road is closed, meaning a huge detour for us if this happened. We decided to push hard for the crossing as the dam was over 95% full. This meant long days in the heat, but we were stopped in our tracks. I had picked up two paralysis ticks, they were only discovered when I could no longer stand or sit. Walter removed the ticks but I received most of their toxins. People were so kind, I was taken to hospital, the boys camped on their own for two nights. On my return I was still very weak and staggered (due to extreme muscle pain I was unable to sit on a horse) to the mighty Burdekin dam. Once again the generosity of station people saw my recovery in comfort.

We continued through dry station country, pushing on as quickly as possible so not to impose. It was their third dry year in a row. We really enjoyed floating in the pools at Innot Hot Springs.

Finally onto our last guide book, taking it slowly resting the horses as often as possible. We savoured the beauty of the ever changing country, then the Bump track led us to the incredibly lush wet tropics. For us it was like being in paradise, except for my terror of crocs! I think we basked in the beauty surrounding us, the ocean was so close.

Then it was back into the tarmac for our final days into Cooktown. On the 5/5/15 we experienced the surreal by reaching this town that we had trekked for so long. It truly was a journey of a lifetime. Carol Geraghty

Jacob rode Cozzie

Walter rode Desert Rose

Our packhorses Charm & Kai

Thank you to all BNT volunteers

Thank you to everyone who supported us with our journey.





## Living the BNT dream

[JACKIE MANN](#)

AS A 16 year old in the mid 70s I took part in the National Mail Relay Ride, a commemoration of the National Trail. Since that time I've dreamed of riding the Trail, and always thought that it would be just that, only a dream. However, things all changed in 2013 when I followed Belinda Ritchie's journey on Facebook. From April of that year I set my mind on doing my own journey in 2015. Many of my friends, family and work colleagues thought this was just another one of my pipe-dreams, but as the months rolled on it was soon very obvious that my

own journey along the Trail was going to eventuate. It hasn't been a cheap exercise with the purchase of suitable horses, gear, etc. Friend, Terry Gibson, solved the logistics of getting my horses to Cooktown by trucking them up, along with three horses of his own so he could spend the first month or so riding with me. The road trip north with the horses was a journey of its own with its own stories and experiences.

Initially, I had planned to do the majority of the trail unsupported, but due to the extremely dry conditions in Northern Queensland, my parents (Ann

and David) have been providing wonderful support, following me for most of the time. Consequently, I feel extremely spoilt when compared with other trekkers who have had to do it tough. The sections between Mt Molloy south through to Nebo at least are very dry, with most of the creeks and rivers dry, and a lot of the windmills and troughs noted in the guidebooks are no longer working. On at least three occasions we've stayed at camps where there has been no water, but the 'support crew' are able to carry 60 litres in containers stored in the car which has been

enough to get us through to water the following day. The horses are also getting two hard feeds a day, as well as grass picking whenever possible.

The Trail through Queensland so far (currently at Nebo as I put this report together) has been mainly along roads, these being from backcountry gravel roads to major four-lane highways. I'm so thankful that the horses I brought away with me are 'city-trained' as far as traffic goes. Having now spent two months on the Trail, the horses are virtually bomb-proof with trucks and trains, and virtually anything put in front of them.

# Living the dream

I'd been warned by other trekkers that there will be many highs and lows during my journey, and I've already experienced both. Travelling alone is something that I normally have no problem with, but there have been times over the past month when I've questioned myself. Thankfully these moments have been brief, and something happens around the next corner which usually picks me up again. The highlights however have been many, the most memorable being the Daintree area which I absolutely loved – so different to anywhere I have ever been (Sally and Peter, owners of the caravan park, are such wonderful people and looked after us so well). Another highlight was meeting up with Vincent Brouillet and his bike in Collinsville – such a 'chance meeting', but so helpful for both of us in the sharing of information and experiences. One last big highlight for me was the interview session with John Anderson and Fiona Harding from the Townsville Bulletin at the Burdekin Dam – this was a lot of fun and I'll remember this for a long time.

With only ten months long service leave available, I don't plan to travel the entire length of the Trail, and haven't planned a destination. I'd like to take time enjoying the country I'm travelling through, particularly in Northern Queensland where I'm unlikely to experience on horseback again. Having said that, I'd been warned to be well south of Northern Queensland by September so have tried to keep the 'pedal down' over the past few weeks. The horses have gradually been gaining fitness and travelling well, and their health is foremost on my mind.

I've thoroughly enjoyed keeping my 'Living the BNT Dream' community Facebook page updated, sharing my journey with so many of my friends, family, and work colleagues, along with others I've never met. The interaction has definitely lifted my spirits on many occasions – to you all I say thanks!



On the road, not far from Bowen River Rodeo Grounds About to leave Amberkolly Station (south of Collinsville) Leaving Amberkolly Station, and about to cross the Bowen River

BNT marker near Gunnawarra camp (Rudd Creek) Gunnawarra camp, excited to finish Book 1 Gunnawarra camp, BNT marker (a rarity!) Horses enjoying a drink, somewhere south of Burdekin Dam



# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

## THE BICENTENNIAL NATIONAL TRAIL LIMITED

2PM SATURDAY 17TH OCTOBER 2015

AT ACTION CHALLENGE

701 HAYPOINT ROAD VIA MACKAY QUEENSLAND

Nominations for the Board of Directors of The Bicentennial National Trail Ltd

Nominations for the Board of Directors to be submitted on this form and received by Monday 5th October 2015

250 Somersby Falls Road Somersby NSW 2250 .Alternatively scan and email to [info@nationaltrail.com.au](mailto:info@nationaltrail.com.au)

Please provide and attach a brief profile of the nominee.

We/I (Nominator) .....

(Seconded) .....

Being a current financial member/s of the Bicentennial National Trail Ltd hereby nominate:

.....

For the position of .....

On the Board of Directors of Bicentennial National Trail Ltd.

Nominator's signature:.....

Date:.....

Seconded's signature: .....

Date:.....

Nominee name in full: .....

I accept this nomination: .....

Nominee's signature: .....

.Date: .....

Action Challenge is a rustic bush camp made from timber logs, nestled amongst a beautiful bush setting. Action Challenge is run and owned by Noel and Sandra Cowan. They designed the camp to step people back 100 years, from the donkey boiler to get your shower hot to the environmental toilets. The setting is great for getting the people back in touch with nature and away from all the modern electronics and some of the home comforts that we all rely on today. This setting along with the activities, rope courses and good home cooked meals and camping out is great for our youth of today as most of them don't get to experience the great outdoors. DIRECTIONS; Action Challenge is situated approximately 30 minutes south of Mackay, heading to-

wards Sarina and turning at the Hay Point Road intersection. Address: 701 Hay Point Road / Approximately 7km off the Highway. On your left. Look out for the Action Challenge sign. CLOSE TO: Action Challenge is 15 minutes north of Sarina. 4.5km from Hay Point Coal Terminal and the township of Hay Point. Hay point has a hotel with accommodation, Sea Eagles Resort, Baker shop, News agent, Chemist, Doctors clinic, and a General store. CAMPING: Non powered camping sites for tents or campers. Power available for 2 or 3 campers. Under cover camping available; Beds and mattresses available, but need to bring own sleeping bag, sheets and pillow. MEALS: Friday/ Tea; BBQ with salads and a Desert Saturday / Breakfast: Spaghetti and Baked

Beans/Cereal Morning Tea: Assortment of Fruit and cake ect Lunch: Assorted meats and salad sandwiches. Dinner: Corn Beef and Veggies , Pudding. Sunday / Breakfast; Bacon and eggs. Morning Tea: Fruit and Cake ect Lunch: Assorted meats and salad TEA <COFFEE< MILO Available at all times WHAT TO BRING: Own Pillow & Blankets Personal Items CONTACT DETAILS: Please let Noel or Sandra know the numbers that are coming for catering purposes and if we have any special dietary needs. RSVP 10th October Ph 07 49564334 Mbl 0427 564334 Email [actionch@easynet.net.au](mailto:actionch@easynet.net.au) If you need any more info just let me know. Regards Sandra Cowan Action Challenge

## Proxy Form

The Bicentennial National Trail Ltd

Proxy Form

Proxy Forms to be submitted on this form and received by Monday 5th October 2015

Returning Officer 250 Somersby Falls Road Somersby NSW 2250

Or scan and email [info@nationaltrail.com.au](mailto:info@nationaltrail.com.au)

I.....

of.....

Being a member of the above named company hereby appoint:

.....

of.....

Or failing him/her, the Chairperson as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the annual general meeting of the company to be held on the Saturday 17th October 2015 at Mackay and at any adjournment thereof.

SIGNED this day of

.....

\* Strike out whichever is not desired. Note: In the event of the member desiring to vote for or against any resolution, he shall instruct his proxy accordingly. Unless otherwise instructed, the proxy may vote as he thinks fit.

Clubs have two delegates, therefore entitled to two votes.



## Into the unknown

“IN JULY 2014, after 5 years living in beautiful Manly (North of Sydney in New South Wales), I decided to quit my job, sell everything and live a nomad life on one of the most challenging (but also rewarding) trails in the world. Four months later, in October 2014, I had gotten rid of all my possessions and I moved to Victoria. After much delays and 3 additional months of planning, preparation and training, I was as ready as I could and I hit the trail on the 1st of March 2015”.

Thus Vincent Brouillet launches his detailed and exciting blog of his National Trail trek. It is a thoroughly enjoyable read with plenty of photos and Vincent doesn't shirk his experiences. Oftentimes when mobile signal was available Vincent would update his blog each night recording his experiences and his emotions while they were still very fresh in his mind.

(I) stayed up late last night so that I could update the blog. I take pride in doing it. Even if nobody was reading it, it would still be very valuable for myself.

Each day is a different adventure, a different challenge. It helps me remember and feel what I felt at a specific time or place.

Those of us who have trekked even just short sections of the Trail can relate to his writing.

Monday the 2nd of March – First Day – Departure from Healesville

It's my first day on the BNT.

The day starts with a climb, 800m elevation gain...The landscape is beautiful. Things go that way until midday when the pain in my right leg starts to slow me down...I allow myself 90 minutes rest and ice my leg. I have only 10km to go for the day. I manage to reposition my foot on the pedal to limit further damages to my leg...

Exhausted, I finally make it to the campsite... I only find a water container for horses near the paddock. But a tiny stream of fresh water is coming in, that will do. I attempt to purify my water with the electronic device I got.. I find Internet coverage and get hold of the in-

struction manual. Not a very good start it seems!

I gather firewood and get a fire started. It is a very quiet campsite. I can hear the echo of my own voice in the surrounding mountains. Fortunately I had enough to keep me busy that night: fire making, water gathering, and dinner. I just hope my leg will be all right. I can't continue if that is not the case.

There is some pretty tough country in Victoria which tests trekkers of all persuasions. However after his rough start Vincent is becoming more comfortable with trekking life and the disciplines it imposes. By Omeo the pace is improving and Vincent is starting to understand his body and its reactions. Finally he takes on the High Country with its challenges. In his last day in the High Country at Bradley's Hut he blogged

I've been in the bush for nearly a month. Before starting this trip I had spent at most 4 days in the bush and never alone. It ain't that bad. The bike riding is the big challenge...Once again the High Country is splendid. I love it.

It's quiet and beautiful. Tomorrow I will reach the highest point of the Bicentennial National Trail at 1,700m. I have all the reasons to celebrate. Finally, I made it. Soon I'll be flying down the hills towards Canberra and soon after it will be Sydney. I will be able to say goodbye to the mountains and find peace with them. Beautiful but unforgiving mountains. I've sweated at them at times, and they didn't mind. But I needed it. Tears came too. I'm ok with that, it was worth it.

Canberra was a good opportunity to replace a failed tent. After Canberra the terrain levelled out somewhat for a while and trekking became somewhat more cruisy with a much-anticipated break in Sydney.

Further north after Sydney as Vincent approached Barrington Tops he accepted advice from trekkers Sue and Bill to take a cyclist's detour around a particularly difficult section of Trail. Vincent had already earned his colours in the mountains of Victoria and it made good sense to head straight for Armidale where a visit to a physio finally provided some solutions for the leg troubles that had plagued him right from Healesville.

At Tenterfield he caught up with BNT hiker Tim and shared farmhouse accommodation with him for the night.

Tim and I compare our habits, and lifestyles on the trail. We both obsess about food, the time of the day, and the number of kilometres covered per day. It's very reassuring to see we are going through similar things...It was a pretty fun day.

Arriving in Queensland was supposed to be something amazing, a huge milestone, worth celebrating. As often on this trip though, fantasies are different from reality. The reality is that I have to keep going and make it at least to the next town.

Queensland produced a mixed bag of memories for Vincent. A thoroughly chilled out night with Tim again at the Killarney Showgrounds. As at Sydney Vincent took advantage of a detour to Brisbane for rest and equipment maintenance and to spend time with girlfriend Michelle who had flown in from Victoria.



Heading out of Brisbane at Murphys Creek Vincent discovered the wonderful BNT champion “Chocolate Lady” Lyn who offers hospitality to BNT Trekkers and makes the most amazing Chili Chocolate. West of Maryborough Q at Musket Flat Vincent spent time with a party of Special Needs students on a cycling journey on the BNT, and shared dinner that night with one of their teachers (yours truly) and local cycle tourist Wayne and his wife.

Rockhampton was interesting for all the wrong reasons with Vincent's bike breaking down twice in 24 hours. Then he found himself lost in long grass with night falling.

I pitch my tent, cook my dinner, and think that this has been a weird day for a birthday. The only thing I want is to relax and sleep.

As Vincent moved into North Qld and his endpoint his spirits lift. Another detour into Mackay found a new derailleur waiting for him (and girlfriend Michelle who had flown up north again) and some great accommodation.

Back in Victoria I knew what to expect. I had very detailed description of the trail and feedback from riders.. In Queensland it's much easier going, but I know very little. I think humans just hate the unknown.

As Vincent approached Wild River he blogged:

“I'm quite excited at the moment to be starting the last section of the BNT... The idea to go on this wild adventure emerged exactly one year ago and since then I've been working hard every day

towards the goal: making it to Cooktown. I've now secured more than enough time to finish the last 400km before I head back south to Cairns and fly out to France for a month break...Victoria was physically difficult. Here it's mentally difficult.”

The last stages of North Queensland in particular presented some tough challenges in navigation and once Vincent broke a chain miles from anywhere with water dwindling fast. His newfound mechanic skills soon repaired it but the situation had been potentially difficult.

Finally the finish was in sight. Wayne and I regularly communicated with Vincent and Michelle via Facebook chat. Early on Vincent had banned the “croc” word in discussions for Michelle's sake. However on his last day heading into Cooktown he finally saw two at safe distance which was a treat for him.

We make it to Cooktown and climb up the Grassy Hill which I consider to be the finish line. Although there is no sign saying so. It's a steep climb and this time I'm not walking it, taking a few breaks. At the top we take pictures and now it's time for a beer. As expected today is not that exceptional. I think it will take some time to take it all in and reflect back on the adventure.

Vincent finished his BNT Trek and his blog on a quiet understated note. At the time of writing he is indeed reflecting on his journey as he takes time off in France with Michelle who has been his rock all the way. When she couldn't be present physically present Michelle was present in thought and as often as Internet and mobile phone would allow. Well done Vincent.

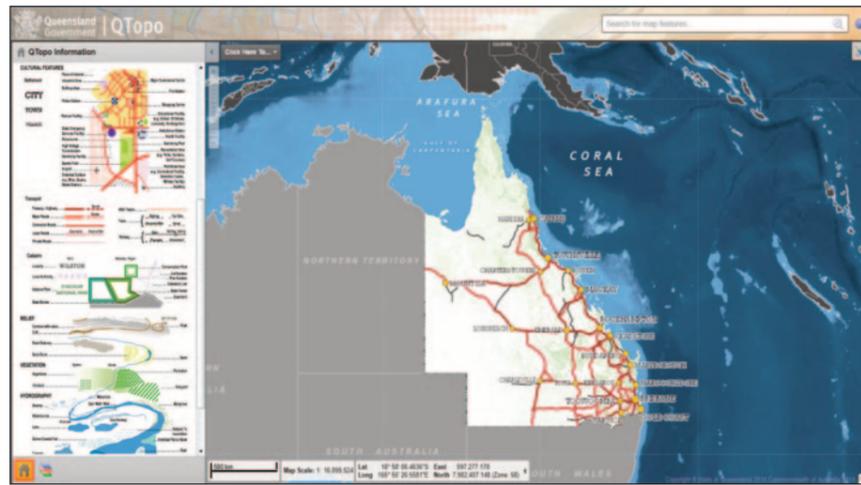
# So paper maps are dead?

MANY trekkers are frustrated these days attempting to source paper topographical maps when planning a National Trail journey. Fewer and fewer businesses are stocking them. And when folks discover the exponentially growing range of apps and online mapping resources they experience a growing conviction that paper maps are dead in the water and digital mapping is IN! But is paper mapping becoming extinct, or is it morphing into a different form?

Recent issues of Tracks have included articles from the BNT mapping committee addressing a range of navigational issues ranging from basic map and compass navigation to the use of GPS, navigation apps for mobile devices, Google Earth mapping and Garmin mapping software. In this issue, we are returning to topographical mapping exploring some of the latest State Government online mapping options and just a couple of the countless mapping apps that are appearing now.

Victoria, NSW and Queensland all now have Globe mapping based on Google maps (links are in the table at the end of this article). These give data including the usual satellite mapping, allowing searches for place names as well as co-ordinates, cadastral information (road and property boundaries), the ability to save maps created both as KML/KMZ files - as used, for example, on Google Earth - and also to save the map as a jpg picture file (from the acronym JPEG for the Joint Photographic Experts Group) for printing and many other features.

Most of these features are only available on Google Earth or Geographic Information System (GIS) programs such as Open Street Map on laptop or desktop computers, however one useful feature of Google Earth on mobile devices is that double clicking on a GPS format mapping co-ordinate will bring that position up on Google Earth if that app is available on the device. This feature can be



very handy when out trekking if mobile signal is available.

The Victorian maps are georeferenced meaning that apps such as "PDF Maps" can use them to display the current position of the trekker or locate co-ordinates entered in a search query. If desired, any of the downloaded topo maps from the three State Governments can be viewed on mobile devices even when out of mobile phone range.

Two apps (out of many) that are worth considering are Memory-Map (available as computer software as well as mobile device app) and PDF Maps available as mobile device app only. Both of these are powerful and can view and work in a wide range of third party maps. Both of them can work with place marks, routes and tracks. Memory-Maps reads GPX (GPS Exchange Format) files where PDF-Maps mostly works in KML/KMZ format (as used on Google Earth) although it will save placemarks in GPX format.

There are differences between them and it is worth researching the options offered by both of them before making a decision. Links can be found in the table below.

Although maps will continue to be provided with the National Trail Guidebook notes there is an increasing expectation that trekkers will use digital and online mapping such as Google Earth in their initial preparations, as well as printing out downloaded topos.

## INTERACTIVE MAPPING

Queensland Globe

<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/business/support-tools-grants/services/mapping-data-imagery/queensland-globe/in->

stall-mac-pc

NSW Globe

<http://globe.six.nsw.gov.au/>

Victorian Interactive Mapping

<http://services.land.vic.gov.au/maps/interactive.jsp>

## DOWNLOADABLE TOPOGRAPHICAL MAPS

Queensland

<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/business/support-tools-grants/services/mapping-data-imagery/maps/topographic-maps>

NSW

<https://six.nsw.gov.au/wps/portal>

Victoria

<http://services.land.vic.gov.au/maps/interactive.jsp> (side bar on left)

## MAPPING SOFTWARE/APPS

Memory-Map

<http://memory-map.com/>

PDF Maps

<http://www.avenza.com/pdf-maps>

## EXPLANATORY LINKS

KML/KMZ

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Keyhole\\_Markup\\_Language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Keyhole_Markup_Language)

GPX

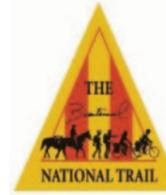
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GPS\\_Exchange\\_Format](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GPS_Exchange_Format)

JPG

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/JPEG>

## OPEN STREET MAP

<https://www.openstreetmap.org>



## Bicentennial National Trail

ABN 83 010 860 143

## Membership Application / Renewal

Send completed form, with your payment/details, to:  
The Bicentennial National Trail Ltd  
250 Somersby Falls Rd Somersby NSW 2250  
email: [order@nationaltrail.com.au](mailto:order@nationaltrail.com.au)  
Phone 1300 138 724 (within Australia)

*When you join the Bicentennial National Trail you become a member of a unique organisation dedicated to preserving Australia's longest multi-use recreational trail!*

### Yes! I want to:

Join  Renew  Donate Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Type

One Year  Individual \$35  Family/Club \$55  
 Three Years  Individual \$90  Family/Club \$150

### Member Information:

BNT Membership Number (renewal): \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/s: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### I am primarily a:

walker  
 horserider  
 cyclist  
 donkey/camel packer  
 other \_\_\_\_\_

### I found out about the BNT through:

website  
 facebook  
 word of mouth  
 magazine or newspaper article  
 other \_\_\_\_\_

### Method of Payment:

Bank Transfer (EFT) (Preferred payment method)

**Bank Name:** Bendigo Bank **BSB:** 633-000 **Account:** 1502 6245 9

**Reference:** Your name and 'new member' or 'renewal' or 'donation'

Credit Card (Credit Card Transactions incur a 5% transaction fee)

Mastercard or  Visa

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date (Mth/Year): \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque or Money Order made payable to "The Bicentennial National Trail Ltd"

Family memberships include a person, their partner and any children under 18. Please include names of all family members. If not enough space, include details in an email or attach a list. Each adult is entitled to one vote. Club memberships are entitled to two votes and nominated persons are:  
1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Membership period July 1 to June 30. Membership renewals are due 30th June the year they fall due.  
New membership paid between April 1st and June provides continuous membership until June of the following year.

Office Use: Received \_\_\_\_\_ Membership No \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_

Replied \_\_\_\_\_ Tracks \_\_\_\_\_

# Defending the BNT experience

From Page 24

There are specified guidelines relating to the decision processes for assessments of closure applications and the application and objection processes are relatively transparent under Freedom of Information (FOI) requests. This FOI aspect has resulted in at least one agitated phone call from a closure applicant to a BNT Board member who submitted a BNT objection that was upheld.

While the guiding Queensland Government policy document<sup>1</sup> recognises that the primary purpose of the surveyed road network is for land access and transport, it also recognises important secondary purposes that include recreation (and the BNT specifically). In considering an application for a closure, the present and future roles of a road have to be assessed, regardless of whether it is a 'constructed' or 'unconstructed' road.

The road network, in its various forms, is a great 'public good', thoughtfully set out, often from colonial times, by our early surveyors. While they could not have envisaged the modern uses and demands on this road network, their early design strategies, based only animal-hauled or railway transport systems, have provided the modern world with a public asset that needs to be defended against fragmentation and attrition by repeated attempts at small changes and closures over decades, through a constant stream of closure applications, many of which appear based on the applicant's blatant self-interest. In this regard, and from a recreational use viewpoint in particular, our road network is less secure for recreational uses than the public pathways system of Great Britain.

When mapped watercourses (technically, the State Land of 'bed and banks' streams) lie beside surveyed roads, the road network provides an unexpected public-access bonus; the water of the stream or river may be accessed by the general public<sup>3</sup> from the road. Because of the specific importance of water access for BNT trekkers, the BNT Board recently resolved: "the BNT has a policy of opposing road closure applications



(whether in part or in whole) that would restrict public access to water courses and water bodies that lie nearby or adjacent to the BNT alignment. Typically such situations would be 'side roads' from the BNT alignment, and distances to the water may be up to a couple of kilometres away. Such surveyed roads may be either constructed or unconstructed. This policy approach is designed to preserve future opportunities for rural recreation and public access to the wider landscape by means of the surveyed road network whether constructed or unconstructed."

In Queensland, the recent LNP government appeared determined to hand over all aspects of road administration, including closure and absolute disposal, to local governments (roads of State Interest excluded). This proposal so alarmed the outdoor recreation community, including the BNT, that the Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation prepared a detailed response<sup>4</sup> to the "Discussion Paper" that included this and other radical proposals which appeared against the public interest. The possibility of local, district and/or regional fragmentation of the road network and the loss of public access to the landscape from dozens of un-coordinated and un-guided parochial council road-closure decision-making processes was truly alarming.

Maintaining present and future public access to the landscape, based on the surveyed road network, is one aspect of the demanding task which the community has entrusted to the experienced public servants who administer the road network. However, to ensure the best planning outcomes and to preserve our public access rights, the outdoor community must continue to make inputs

into decision making processes relating to road closures. The importance of this activity extends across the whole state and not just along the BNT alignment. Be vigilant!

### References

1. Roads under the Land Act 1994 PUX/952/122 SLM/2013/725 Version 2.00 as updated 12/02/2015, [https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/?a=109113:policy\\_registry/roads-under-land-act.pdf](https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/?a=109113:policy_registry/roads-under-land-act.pdf), accessed 16 February 2015.)

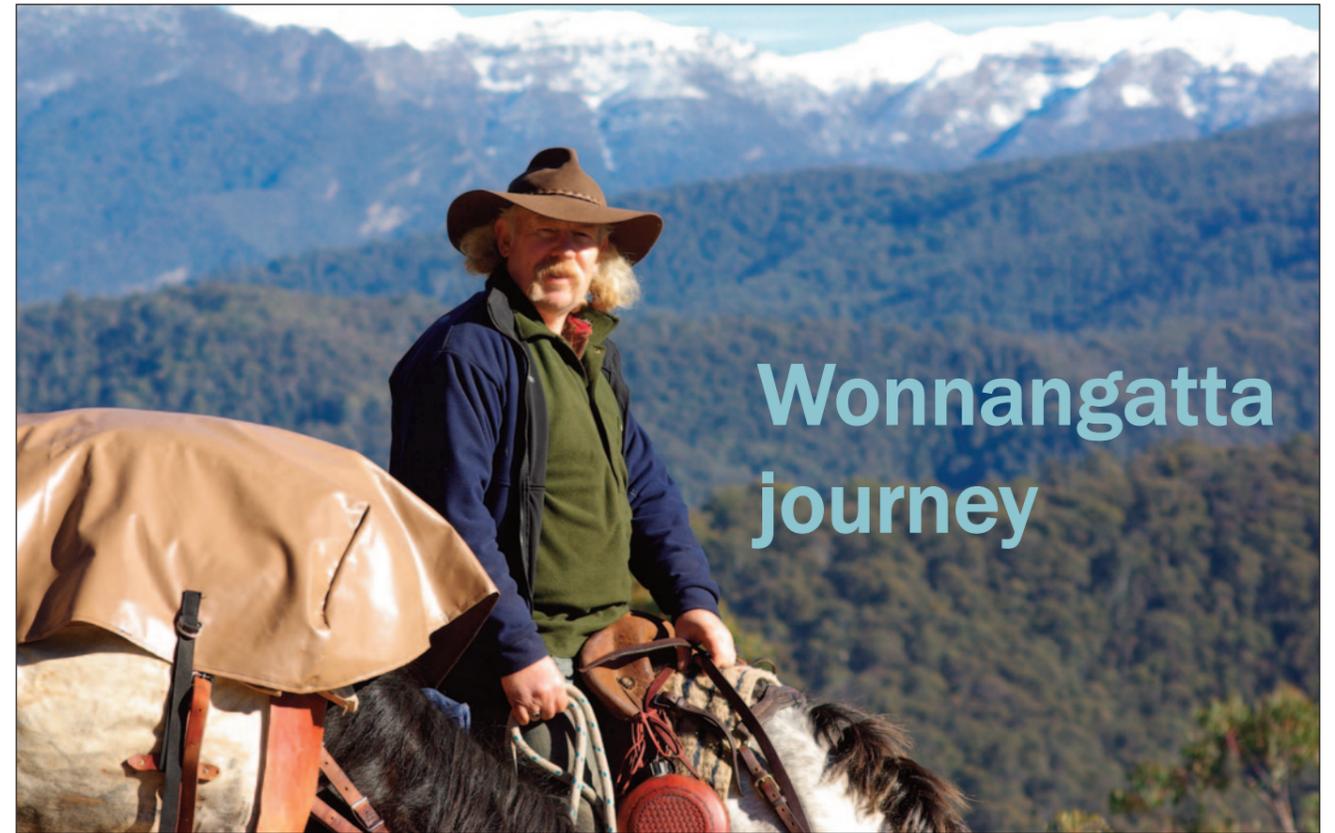
2. Queensland Government Gazette available as downloadable PDFs (e.g. <https://publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/gazettes-may-2015>)

3. Access rights over non-freehold land PUX/901/654 SLM/2013/401 Version 2.05, ([https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/?a=109113:policy\\_registry/access-rights-non-freehold-land.pdf](https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/?a=109113:policy_registry/access-rights-non-freehold-land.pdf), accessed 12 May 2015)

4. Underpinning the Foundations of the Four Pillars: A suggested Strategy and Work Plan. Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation Inc. August 2014. (see QORF Website - <http://qorf.org.au/> then go to the 'Industry' tab, then 'Industry info' and click 'Submission' at the end of the 'Industry Info' options, or try [http://qorf.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/QORF\\_Submission\\_Underpinning\\_the\\_Pillars.pdf](http://qorf.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/QORF_Submission_Underpinning_the_Pillars.pdf)

- Queensland Road Closure Objections

by the BNT Mapping Committee, June 2015



## Wonnangatta journey

Above: Greg Bryann Heading into the Wonnangatta

Every year for the past 4 years JoAnne & John Kasch along with a few other dedicated packers brave the elements and Pack Saddle into the Wonnangatta Valley for two weeks during the winter months. Tackling a winter journey has a whole new range of issues, not only having to combat the colder temperatures, (often down to minus 4 to minus 8 deg), you battle the shorter daylight hours. You have to make sure that you have set up camp well before the chill night air sets in. Making sure that you have enough food in case you get snowed in is also another consideration.

Even though there are a few extra issues to think about all the preparation is worth it. Riding through the snow heading into the 'Gatta, navigating the rivers swollen with the heavy rains. Relaxing in our chairs, around a warm fire that will burn all day to keep the chill away, watching our horses graze contentedly in the foreground and the Mountains shrouded in morning mist and when the sun breaks through you see them covered in pure white snow, glistening in the sunlight in the background. Some people call us crazy for winter packing. But we love it, mostly in the 'Gatta in the winter there is no more than 12 people throughout the whole valley. So peace and quiet is the call for the day.

WRITTEN AND PHOTOS JO KASCH



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Barrington tops has southern ac-  
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Sun's property Karamea. No ac-  
cess or coverage for Maps 13 -14.  
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## Contributions

BNT TRACKS welcomes  
contributions. Photos need to be  
300 pixels per inch at size of  
publication, meaning the file size  
needs to be at least 500kb.

We are looking for photos,  
news items, snippets, poems,  
stories and particularly treks and  
other activities carried out on the  
Trail.

Photos should be emailed as  
JPGs, stories in MS Word if  
possible, but any format would do.

Contributions are cursorily  
edited but largely style and correct  
English is the responsibility of the  
writer – thus retaining the original  
flavour of the text as the author  
intends.

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## Who's on the Trail

SENDING in your registration available to  
down load from [www.nationaltrail.com.au](http://www.nationaltrail.com.au)  
website to [info@nationaltrail.com.au](mailto:info@nationaltrail.com.au) or to  
the 250 Somersby Falls Road Somersby NSW  
2250 helps Nick Jacomas Board Chairman to  
contact you if needed to warn of severe  
weather conditions.

Trekkers on the trail also experience latest  
changes that local Section coordinators may  
not be aware of. Help the management of the  
updates of the relevant Guide Book BNT by  
emailing the areas Section Coordinators and  
Trail Updates Coordinator Mal Keeley  
[mal.keeley@bigpond.com](mailto:mal.keeley@bigpond.com) changes to trail  
conditions, changes in property owners and  
contact details.

Some of the members on the trail:

Cath Bateman riding left Healesville in Febru-  
ary heading north to ACT for a 6 week trek.

Jackie Mann riding left Cooktown in May  
heading south no further than Aberdeen  
NSW for 10month trek.

Mark Linnet cycled on the trail from Linville  
near Blackbutt QLD for a short trip

Robert Nieuwenhoven lead 50 Australian Air  
Force Cadets for a 2 day hike from Barambah  
Education Centre to Kilkivan in Queensland.

Preston Stroud and Kathryn Holzberger rid-  
ing started in Cooktown May 2014 now stay-  
ing at Gundaroo near Canberra over winter  
before continuing South into Alpine areas in  
October.

Sharon Roberts riding started March from  
Khancoban NSW for a return trip to Buck-  
wong Creek.

Stephen Signor from USA started at  
Healesville Victoria last November hiking  
north to Cooktown.

Tanya Bosch cycling from Tom Groggin Vic-  
toria north to Killarney left in February.

Kevin Bristow getting prepared for cycling  
from Aberdeen to Jenolan Caves NSW in  
September.

Pia Gjedde Heijgaard left Cooktown last June  
still on the trail heading south.

Sue riding and Bill Clifton supporting having  
started in Cooktown last July now back home  
on South Coast NSW.

Karen Carter riding had a trip of discovery in  
the Guy Fawkes National Park in Autumn  
with local member Leonie Box.

Garry Parker from the UK riding for "Help  
for Heroes" UK returned soldiers, started in  
Cooktown has finished near Ebor.



## Defending the BNT Experience

### Queensland Road Closure Objections by the BNT Mapping Committee, June 2015

**I**N QUEENSLAND, much of the BNT alignment is based on surveyed roads, both constructed and unconstructed, and the route is recorded by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM). The BNT is mentioned specifically in the DNRM 'Roads under the Lands Act' policy document<sup>1</sup>.

Section 100(1) of the Land Act requires the Minister to give appropriate public notice of almost all road closure applications. The Land Act specifies that appropriate public notice will include notification in the Queensland Government Gazette<sup>2</sup> and by placing a notice on the site. The DNRM policy document requires that each road closure application be advertised in a newspaper that "has a circulation in the locality of the road except where it is considered that there is unlikely to be any general public interest in the road area." However, as one of our northern BNT members has pointed out, in the country areas, this process is open to interpretation regarding what is a 'local' newspaper.

Members of the general public are relatively disadvantaged in making comment on road closure applications

that are not in their immediate vicinity; they may not see the required on-ground notification nor read about it in the 'local' newspaper, the location of application has to be found and then the precise maps obtained from a DNRM regional office. In a digital age, it is amazing that this data is not provided over the internet for the wider Queensland community - but that is a matter for the future perhaps.

Any road closure applications which may impact on the BNT, either directly or indirectly, are referred to the BNT administration to allow for a possible BNT objection to the closure application. This is probably the least known or recognised administrative task undertaken by the volunteers who assist the BNT Board.

There are many types of road closure applications - including permanent, temporary, partial, simultaneous opening and closing - for a wide range of possible purposes spanning amalgamation into adjacent land parcels to cropping of the roadside or incorporation into shopping centres. In rural areas, it seems that some applications are simply exercises in private land acquisition from the public estate.