

Walking Trails Classification and Improvement Project

Update no. 6 – August 2008

The Walking Trails Classification and Improvement Project is funded under 'Go for your life', which is a Victorian Government initiative that aims to promote the health and wellbeing of all Victorians through healthy eating and increased participation in physical activity.

There are two parts to the project:

- Developing a new Standard Classification system for walking trails
- Undertaking upgrades to selected State forest walking trails in Victoria.

The Walking Trails Classification and Improvement Project is funded for 4 years and is coordinated through the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE).

Next research phase – testing of walking trail classification systems

The parks agencies from each Australian state and territory have agreed to work together to develop a national system for classifying walking trails.

The next research phase will test various complete walking trail classification systems on walkers of varying abilities and experience Australia wide. The aim is to find the most user friendly system that is accepted by walkers as meeting their needs; and provides the most appropriate level of information to assist walkers in their decision making.

The research will take into account:

- Walkers of varying abilities and experience
- Different climatic conditions across Australia and the effect on the walking experience
- Different landscapes and environments including rural and urban conditions

The tender was advertised on 6 August on the Victorian Government website <http://www.tenders.vic.gov.au>.

For more information

Rosalie Bent

Tourism and Recreation
Department of Sustainability and Environment
PO Box 500
East Melbourne 3002 VIC
Ph: 03 9637 8957
Fax: 03 9637 8483
Email: rosalie.bent@dse.vic.gov.au

NE major upgrade

The north east of Victoria will receive the next major walking track upgrade. This will involve two areas – Rubicon and Marysville. At Rubicon the Kendalls Loop track will be upgraded. In Marysville, upgrades will be undertaken on the Keppels Lookout Track and the Beauty Spot track. In addition, a signage project will link the most popular tracks to the township and the Visitor Information Centre.



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Before and after at the Ada Tree Scenic Reserve

Work at the Ada Tree Scenic Reserve is nearing completion. The car park and picnic area is nearly finished and the upgrade to the walking track to the Ada Tree has had boardwalks installed on the previously muddy sections. The toilet block, interpretation facilities and signage are yet to be completed. The work was undertaken by Sure Constructions of Warragul in conjunction with Head Office staff and Wally Notman of DSE Powelltown.

Some work has been postponed until spring due to the wet ground and adverse weather conditions. Crowning and drainage works on the walking track and final trims to the car park will take place as soon as the weather and ground dries out. In the meantime the site has re-opened to the public.



The Ada Tree arrival experience before upgrade



The Ada Tree arrival experience after upgrade

White Woman's Waterhole

The White Woman's Waterhole Walk near Yarram was upgraded to provide ease of access for less able and elderly residents of the local area.

This involved removing hazards (trees, tripping hazards) and crossing some of the gullies with board-walks to remove steeper slopes, in conjunction with using broader steps with less rise. To accommodate wheelchair access, a turnaround point will be provided to avoid the section of the walk which requires steps. The project was coordinated by Bob Chaffey of DSE Yarram.



Works being undertaken at White Woman's Waterhole

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