



# FRIENDS OF THE PENGUIN CRADLE TRAIL



NEWSLETTER

## THIS ISSUE

Gunns Plains track re-alignment

Photo Gallery of the working bees

## NEWS / EVENTS:

- **FIND YOUR FEET** Outdoor Sports Store recently made a donation to our FoPCT group. The funds will purchase marker poles and signage (some of which is used on the track in this issue feature article). We thank FIND YOUR FEET for their support.
- PWS Ulverstone Field Centre have completed work on the stairs at Devil's Elbow (Loongana). The old one was suffering from rusted treads and damaged hand cables. Dangerous trees were also removed. This section of the track is also used by more adventurous tourists visiting the Leven Canyon area. Thanks to PWS and the Rangers involved.
- Track re-habilitation work in the Leven Canyon from Gunns Plains to Loongana was recently completed by contractors. More to come on this project in a later publication.

## What's new with the Penguin Cradle Trail?

Late 2018 the FPCT committee decided to explore the possibility of finding a new way for the Penguin Cradle Trail (PCT) to enter into Gunns Plains, as the existing route went via a private timber plantation. We had already put in a temporary diversion during a harvesting operation and there was the possibility of access issues into the future.

During the summer of 2018 / 2019 exploratory walks were undertaken to find a new route for the track re-alignment. We were fortunate to locate two very overgrown old logging roads with about 300 metres of unformed track between them.

The route terminated at the northern boundary of Wings Wildlife Park at Gunns Plains and after discussion with the property managers, permission was given for PCT walkers to access the property. This was a good outcome for us and walkers now have the opportunity to rest up if they wish.

Camping and meals are available (costs apply). The park is also well regarded for the animals / wildlife resident there.

Applications were made to DPIPWE and Council Planning in March 2019 and after a lengthy process permission was granted Jan 2020. Once approved, we began clearing an existing fire trail so 4WD access was available to the start of the new re-alignment. This meant volunteers didn't have to carry the chain saw and tools 4 Km each working bee (we preferred to tire them out working on the new track instead).

Working bees were planned but then Covid struck and we entered the World of the new normal. On the PCT we work under a PWS permit system and were involved with DPIPWE during the development of their Covid Plan, as no work could be undertaken until it was in place. Work started again in September 2020 and was completed May 2021.

# PCT track works - Gunns Plains track re-alignment - Gallery



Now where do we start ...



Lunch time in the bush



Starting to take shape



Nice job



Still smiling after a big day



Wings Wildlife Park sign and Logbook



Equal opportunity employer ...



... another lunch in the bush

So, after two and a half years of planning and working bees, the track re-alignment is complete. The first walkers filled in the logbook May 2021. Thank you to all the volunteers who willingly offered their time and expertise to make this possible. Happy times, many laughs (usually at someones expense) and good memories.

Details:

- Distance 1.5 Km
- 478 recorded hrs. of on track work
- Approx. 180 hrs. of unrecorded admin and early route finding