

# Omeo Mountain Bike Trails

Project update – September/October 2023



## Taking trail-building to new heights

The sky was abuzz in mid-September when we temporarily closed the trails to install concrete footings for a new steel overpass, marking a significant milestone for the trails.

Because of the terrain, we called in a helicopter to transport the heavy loads from the bottom car park to the construction site, which is located at the highest point of the Livingstone Park pod of trails.



This structure will cater for the incoming trails from Mt Mesley where they intersect, allowing riders to safely cross paths and continue their fun as they descend to Livingstone Park.

The structure required four footings for support, so a kibble - a fancy name for a bucket with a chute - was suspended under the helicopter and used to deliver the concrete.

Near-perfect weather ensured the safe and effective placement of the concrete.

While we understand the temporary park closure may have inconvenienced some, we sincerely appreciate your patience and support.

The steel overpass structure is now being erected and will form part of the next batch of trail openings.

When finished, it will also allow riders to take in the spectacular views over the trail network and Omeo township.

## Help us keep the trails tip-top

Despite recent heavy rain and flooding, the trails appear to be in good shape. However, after any extreme weather event there is a chance that riders might find damage or hazards such as rocks or fallen trees. So, we're asking all users, especially locals who ride the trails regularly, to report any issues by calling (03) 5153 9500.

While our team always works to address any potential damage to the mountain bike trails, your reports can help us stay vigilant and responsive.

## Fast lane to adventure

Victoria's fastest mountain bikers are out to conquer Mt. Taylor in Bairnsdale this December 2 and 3. Round 2 of the 2023/24 Victorian Downhill Mountain Bike Series (VDHS) has attracted 300 competitors, from Victoria and beyond and local speedsters Hudson Tarling and Tom Faithfull aim to shine on their home turf.

Mountain Biking East Gippsland is hosting this event, its largest since its establishment in 2020.

Spectators will be able to enjoy the action from vantage points along the course. Council has backed the event with \$7000 in sponsorship.

Business owners mark your calendars and take your chance to showcase your offerings and ensure mountain bikers come back to East Gippsland, including Omeo, for more.

For more information, visit [vdhs.com.au](http://vdhs.com.au).

## Council given key trail-steward role

We have been appointed as the Committee of Management (CoM) over certain sections of the Bingo-Munjie Forest Park (formerly Mt Sam State Park), specifically focusing on the Omeo MTB Trails. One of the most notable aspects of this appointment is the endorsement of the trail corridor network for the Omeo MTB Trails in Bingo-Munjie

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Forest Park. This is a significant development that promises enhanced trail management, preservation and an improved experience for all trail users. Importantly, the Department of Environment, Energy, and Climate Action (DEECA) has appointed Council as the land manager for Mt Sam Road. This allows us to collaborate on road maintenance and potential enhancements for a better and safer trail network.

## The Great Vic Bike Ride

The Great Vic Bike Ride is back in East Gippsland, commencing from Orbost on November 25. Even though Omeo is not a scheduled stop on the ride, we urge tourism and event providers to consider how they can harness this moment to showcase their offerings and attractions, ultimately positioning Omeo as a preferred destination.



## Just right

We had a Facebook follower ask if there will be plenty of fast singletrack at Omeo MTB Trails. The short answer is yes, there will be. The trails will include a mix of 'green' family loops to cross country, flow, technical descents and back country adventure loops. So, there will be

trails to suit every riding style and skill level - including plenty of hand-cut singletrack. Learn more at [yoursay.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/omeo-mountain-bike-track](https://yoursay.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/omeo-mountain-bike-track).

## Tips for a safer and happier ride

Our shared passion for Omeo's beautiful trails comes with a responsibility to ensure everyone's well-being and enjoyment.

Here are a few tips for riders and owners of trail-related businesses,

**Helmet safety:** It's mandatory to wear a helmet on the trails. A helmet reduces the risk of head injuries and traumatic brain injury.

**Trail etiquette:** Riding the wrong way along a trail or venturing onto a closed trail not only endangers you but disrupts the experience for others. Please respect trail signage and stay on designated paths.

**Courtesy when passing:** A friendly "on your left" before passing fellow bikers goes a long way to creating a harmonious trail experience.

Let's promote and uphold these safety and etiquette guidelines to make our trails safer and more enjoyable.

Spread the word and set an example.

## Racking up results

A local in Omeo tells us that the town is already "seeing an increasing number of vehicles with a rack and mountain bikes on the back"; welcome evidence that Omeo is on the path to becoming a thriving mountain biking destination.

This update is from East Gippsland Shire Council as the project lead. The update is published on:

- East Gippsland Shire Council website
- East Gippsland Shire Council Facebook page
- East Gippsland Your Say engagement portal
- Visit Omeo website

The project is supported by Council, the Victorian Government (Regional Development Victoria) and Australian Government (Building Better Regions Fund).