

RIDE FOR TOMORROW

RESPECT THE ENVIRONMENT, RESPECT OTHERS - WWW.DSE.VIC.GOV.AU/TRAILBIKES

Newsletter

Issue No 5 June 2009

Statewide Information



Trail Bike Project Officer Simon White with Motorcycling Australia's Chief Executive Officer David White.

DSE joins Motorcycling Australia for World Environment Day

Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) Trail Bike Project staff joined Motorcycling Australia (MA) and industry representatives to celebrate World Environment Day at Sol Green Reserve, South Melbourne. Guests took in displays from Honda, PS Importers, Zero Motorcycles Australia (distributors of electric trail bikes), Vectrix (distributors of electric scooters) and the DSE and were able to have a chat with representatives about the latest green innovations in motorcycling.

MA's CEO David White said that it was important for the motorcycling industry to play a leading role in protecting the environment to ensure the future of motorcycling both recreationally and competitively. Roger Pitt, Trail Bike Project Manager noted that Motorcycling Australia and Motorcycling Victoria had a key role in promoting awareness of the need for all motorcycling enthusiasts to respect the environment while enjoying their recreation.

The inaugural MA Environmental Achievement Award was presented to Motorcycling Victoria for its efforts at the State Motorcycle Complex, Broadford, including the planting over the years of more than 30,000 trees and a 65% reduction in venue waste going to landfill.

Trail Bike Rider Research

Preliminary results from the trail bike research project indicate that riders are very committed to their recreation, are generally aware of many of the key issues regarding riding on public land, and acknowledge that irresponsible riding by a minority can generate significant conflict.

Some surprises came up, including a much higher than expected number of cases where riders have been threatened, abused and even attacked. Of particular concern was the high number of riders reporting tracks being sabotaged with the aim of injuring riders.

Rider's attitudes towards DSE were ambivalent. On the one hand, riders recognised that DSE has a complex responsibility managing the forests for a broad range of users, and on the other hand feeling that DSE does not provide satisfactory explanations for its forest management policies.

The great majority of riders felt that their environmental impact was relatively low compared to some other user groups, rural industries and residents, and DSE itself.

Preliminary findings have been presented to a small forum of Government agencies, motorcycle industry representatives and key stakeholders prior to preparation of a final report which will be made available to all research participants and other interested readers.

Noise Testing Compliance Operations

DSE noise testing staff have spoken to several thousand riders over the past two years about the importance of reducing noise to minimise conflict with other forest users. This work has now progressed to the next phase where riders of excessively noisy bikes are being reported to the EPA and required to take the bike to a Licensed Noise Testing Station for a follow-up test at the owner's expense. The fine for failing to comply with noise emission requirements is currently \$567.00.

North East Regional Information

Riding in Fire Affected Forests

The Black Saturday Fires caused significant environmental and structural damage to the forests and parks within North East Victoria. Whilst many of these forests have re-opened, road access within some State forests maybe restricted until road clearing and safety assessments have been



completed. All closed and re-opened roads will be sign posted.

Photo: Road closure sign in fire affected area.

Where Can I Ride? You can now access the *Fire Recovery - Road, Track and Recreation Site Status Interactive Map* from the trail bike web page. This will provide you with the most up to date information about the status (open or closed) for each forest road, track and recreation site in the fire affected area. The site will be updated on a weekly basis and will be a useful tool when planning your trips. Visit www.dse.vic.gov.au/trailbikes and head to the Fire recovery link located under the latest news section.

Trail Bike Enforcement & Education Campaign

DSE, Parks Victoria, Victoria Police are stepping up trail bike compliance operations now that Winter is here. All agencies have additional staff to undertake trail bike mounted compliance and education patrols. These Multi agency patrols will be focussing environmental damage including off-road riding, seasonal road closures and non compliant trail bike riders.



Photo: North east Victoria Police trail bike operators with DSE.



Published by the Victorian Government Department of Sustainability and Environment, Melbourne, June 2009. © The State of Victoria Department of Sustainability and Environment 2008. This publication is copyright. No part may be reproduced by any process except in accordance with the provisions of the *Copyright Act 1968*. Authorised by the Victorian Government, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne. For more information contact the DSE Customer Service Centre 136 186.

Disclaimer

This publication may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

www.dse.vic.gov.au/trailbikes

Seasonal Closed Roads

Riders and forest users should be aware that many roads and tracks are now seasonally closed. These tracks are closed for visitor safety, to maintain water quality and to prevent erosion during the winter months. Seasonal road closures operate from the long weekend in June through to the end of October, but may be extended due to seasonal conditions.



Please keep in mind that seasonally closed roads will be targeted in compliance operations and penalties will apply for riding/driving behind these gates.

Information on seasonal road closures for both DSE and Parks Victoria can be found at www.parkweb.vic.gov.au.

Trail Bike Visitor Areas

The Mount Disappointment TBVA plans - Full plans are available on the DSE trail bike website

The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) is currently sourcing contractors to develop the Trail Bike Visitor Areas. The site will be located at

- Leviathan Track, Mount Disappointment State Forest. 15km South East of Broadford (approx)

The site is expected to be completed to coincide with the re-opening of Mount Disappointment State Forest in November this year.

Work is still progressing on the development of other TBVA's in Toolangi, Mount Robertson and Stanley State forests, including building facilities, developing maps for riders, information boards and brochures.

Trail Bike DVD's

The trail bike project has just completed filming five trail bike DVD's. The DVD's were filmed in Mount Disappointment State Forest and take you through some basic tips and tricks to reduce your environmental foot print whilst trail bike riding in Victoria's forests. You can view these DVD's by visiting the trail bike web page www.dse.vic.gov.au/trailbikes.

Contact

Statewide

Roger Pitt (03) 9637 9737
Statewide Project Manager
trail.bikes@dse.vic.gov.au

Contact - South West Region

Felicity Wardlaw (03) 5761 1589
Trail Bike Project Officer - North East
felicity.a.wardlaw@dse.vic.gov.au