

### **Bellarine Rail Trail Run Course Change for 2010**

From 2010, the BRT Run will be an out and back course starting at Queenscliff Railway Station and turning around at Drysdale Railway Station. The course has not been measured exactly but will be between 33.6 & 34.0km.

Why change?

- With increasing participation numbers & general traffic in the region, the logistics & safety of the 3 major highway crossings in the first half of the run have become a real problem. The crossing just before Drysdale Station in particular has become unmanageable and some runners had to wait minutes to get across this year.
- It is planned that over the next 1-2 years, the first 10kms of the trail from Geelong to Leopold will be fully asphalted & this may extend all the way to Drysdale.
- My marshals from 2009 refuse to return unless I adopt this idea of theirs!!

Advantages of the new course:

- It will be more enjoyable, safer & it will be almost exactly the same distance!
- It will allow the run to continue to grow in size as 150 runners were too many on the current course.
- It will be a more realistic 34km run as opposed to a 34km run with a tail wind the whole way (that may disappoint some!). It is likely to be a headwind out (hopefully gentle early in the morning) when the legs are fresh but a tailwind back.
- There will be interest & camaraderie generated near the turn around as runners cross paths.
- There will only be 4 road crossings in each direction & traffic is likely to be very minimal. Those in a rush should be appreciative! NB There are no intentions of converting the run to a race!
- This part of the course is by far the most scenic & has far less running interruptions in terms of barriers.
- Queenscliff is a beautiful place to start & finish a run & makes the option of a weekend stay in Queenscliff very attractive!
- Logistics of marshalling & aid stations is much simpler & requires fewer people.
- There are no transport or baggage logistics to contend with.
- An 8.30am start at the Queenscliff end will be most welcomed by those who needed to be there by 7.30am to catch the bus back in 2009.
- Family & friends can relax at Queenscliff at one of the many cafes during the run.
- There will be no time pressure & minimal transport logistics for those wanting to catch the ferry across from the Mornington Peninsula.
- I may even be able to convince the Bellarine Peninsula Railway to run a train service to Drysdale early in the morning for family & friends if there is enough interest – can't promise that one!

I'm already looking forward to the 2010 event with great enthusiasm & much less stress! Hope to see you there...

Cheers, Brett Coleman