

TRARALGON TO GLENGARRY (approx. 6km)

Commencing at Marshalls Road, approximately 4km north east from Traralgon CBD, the Gippsland Plains Rail Trail heads north, crossing the spectacular Latrobe River flood plain and historic Latrobe River railway bridge. Upon reaching Glengarry, you'll find several specialty shops including a bakery, and a fully stocked supermarket where there is a limited range of cycling accessories.

GLENGARRY TO TOONGABBIE (approx. 9km)

As you travel from Glengarry to Toongabbie you'll quickly come to Eaglehawk Creek which is a peaceful location. The newly constructed wooden deck crossing at Eaglehawk Creek ensures safe passage of this waterway. Ride on a little further, and before you know it, you'll have arrived at Toongabbie. The Toongabbie Trail head and carpark is located next to the CFA shed. Toongabbie was once an important transport link with the remote gold mining town of Walhalla. While you're in Toongabbie, some of the worthwhile attractions are the Toongabbie Wetlands, the Ned Stringer Memorial in Hower Street, and the historic Mechanics Institute.

TOONGABBIE TO COWWARR (approx. 9km)

Leaving Toongabbie you will soon get your first glimpse of the Great Dividing Range. Cross the Traralgon-Maffra Rd (C105 - a busy road) and make your way past the remnant Red Gum forest and the lush irrigated pastures, where contented cattle graze. You will soon arrive at the relics of the old Cowwarr Railway Station. An old 'GY' railway wagon is displayed here. The Cowwarr Butter Factory (c1918) was located adjacent to the station with its own siding to access markets both in Melbourne and abroad, with exports to South Africa, Canada and England. This magnificent example of Federation architecture is listed with Heritage Victoria, and has been transformed into the Cowwarr Art Space.

COWWARR TO DAWSON (approx. 5km)

Cross the main road and head north towards Rainbow Creek, which is about 300 metre further along the Trail. The Trail is interrupted at the Cowwarr-Heyfield Rd (to navigate around the Thomson River), and takes a short diversion along some quiet country roads. There is a large sign at this point and the route from here to Dawson Flora Reserve, where you will rejoin the Trail, is clearly marked. Firstly, turn left onto the Cowwarr-Heyfield Rd and travel for about 600 metre. You'll come to the Cowwarr-Seaton Rd intersection, where you'll turn right and travel another 1.5 kilometre until you reach the Thomson River crossing. Proceed over the bridge and continue along the Cowwarr-Seaton Rd for another 625 metre, then turn right onto the Dawson-Heyfield Rd, and travel about two kilometre. You'll see the entrance to the Dawson Flora Reserve on your left, and it's here that you rejoin the Trail.

DAWSON TO HEYFIELD (approx. 6km)

Crossing over some of the few remaining railway tracks on the Trail, you will enter Dawson Flora Reserve where many Plants of Significance are found. Dawson was once the site of busy Glenmaggie Railway Station and siding, but today, nothing remains of the building that at one time even housed a post office. As you approach Heyfield you will pass by the impressive log stacks of Australia's largest hardwood sawmill. Now there is a short descent to Racecourse Road, and care must be taken here. Follow Racecourse Road to Davis Street and Apex Park or alternatively take the scenic route around the Heyfield Wetlands to look at the displays in the Wetland Centre before proceeding to the Heyfield town centre for refreshments and rejoining the Trail through Apex Park. This is the end of the Cowwarr-Heyfield leg and beginning of the Heyfield-Maffra leg. Heyfield is the ideal place to stay overnight.

HEYFIELD TO TINAMBA (approx. 10km)

Heading east from Heyfield towards Tinamba, the Trail follows the Traralgon-Maffra Road (C105) for three kilometre, before crossing the road (locally known as the 'Two Mile') and heading northeast. It won't be long before you arrive at Tinamba.

TINAMBA TO MAFFRA (approx. 8km)

Not far out of Tinamba, the Trail rejoins the Traralgon-Maffra Road (C105), and runs parallel for five km. The Trail crosses Riversdale Road and shortly after crosses the Traralgon-Maffra Road (C105). You are now very close to Maffra, and about to enter a pretty section of the Trail known as The Billabong Trail, where the Trail meets the Macalister River. Maffra presents so much of interest, and you'd benefit greatly from another overnight stay.

MAFFRA TO POWERSCOURT (approx. 5km)

The Trail from Maffra to Powerscourt is flat, has a firm surface and is easily ridden. Powerscourt is named after the grand Powerscourt Homestead which was built in 1850.

POWERSCOURT TO STRATFORD (approx 5km)

Once again, the Trail from Powerscourt is flat, well surfaced and easy to ride. Just three hundred metre from the Princes Highway (A1), the Trail crosses Maffra-Stratford Road. A dedicated pathway for pedestrians and cyclists extends across the Avon River Bridge upon entry to Stratford. The pathway is protected by barriers, and is quite safe from traffic. Once on the Stratford side of the bridge, do a sharp U-turn to your left and continue down to under the bridge. You can now make your way into Apex Park where the Trail head is located. It is dangerous to attempt to cross the highway from the bridge itself, and we strongly recommend that this not be attempted. Take a break and enjoy a night in Stratford as a reward after your Gippsland Plains Rail Trail journey.



Gippsland Plains Rail Trail



Traralgon
Glengarry Toongabbie
Cowwarr Heyfield
Tinamba Maffra
Stratford

The **Gippsland Plains Rail Trail** extends 63km from Marshalls Road Traralgon to Apex Park Stratford in Central Gippsland, Victoria. The Trail passes through high quality dairy country, and offers panoramic views of the Great Dividing Range to the north, and sweeping 360° views across the Gippsland Plains.

The Gippsland Plains Rail Trail is unique, as visitors can easily connect by V-line Train from Melbourne or Bairnsdale to either end of the Trail (Traralgon or Stratford). The Trail is perfect for short breaks with most townships along the route offering clean, comfortable and affordable accommodation; but all offering hot food, visitor services and amenities.

There's history, wineries, contemporary restaurants and cafes, exciting specialty shops, and much more to discover on your Gippsland Plains Rail Trail adventure. Work began on the first section of the Gippsland Plains Rail Trail in 2004, and was officially opened in 2005. From those humble beginnings, the Trail today is



a wonderful and exciting asset for all to enjoy; locals and visitors alike, and an important example of remnant flora and fauna indigenous to the Gippsland region.

The Trail passes through high quality dairy country, and offers sweeping views of the Great Dividing Range to the north, and is unique as visitors can connect to and travel by train to either end of the Trail. The Trail is perfect for short breaks with most townships along its route offering accommodation, but all offering hot food, visitor services and amenities. With three V-line services daily (www.vline.com.au), trail users can arrive at Traralgon or Stratford by train, then return home, again by train, from the other end



The 63km Gippsland Plains Rail Trail is an easy to ride Trail located in Central Gippsland. The Trail can be completed in one day, however to experience all that the region has to offer, it is better to undertake the journey over a two or even a three day period.

This is truly an epic journey on Gippsland's premier Rail Trail, a trip of a lifetime combining cycling or walking and rail travel within a journey that is full of wonderful experiences, fantastic food and wine and great natural attractions.

