

Code of conduct

When using the trail, respect other users, the natural environment and the privacy of adjacent landholders.

Sharing

- Park in designated areas only
- **Please leave all gates as found**
- Observe local signs and regulations
- Do not obstruct the trail. Cyclists must alert other users on approach and pass at a reduced speed
- Approach horses with care
- Keep dogs under control and on a lead

Environment

- Keep on the trail at all times
- Do not interfere with native plants or animals
- **Take your rubbish home with you**
- Clean up after your dog
- Do not light fires
- Clean bikes, walking boots and other equipment after your trip to minimise the spread of plant and animal pests and diseases

For your safety and comfort

- Be cautious at all road and creek crossings
- **Cyclists and horse riders must dismount at road crossings**
- Cyclists and horse riders must wear an approved helmet and ride in control
- Do not approach pets or livestock in adjacent properties
- Carry drinking water and light snacks
- Wear appropriate clothing for the conditions

- Maintain your equipment, and carry repair and first aid kits in case of emergencies
- **Where possible, don't travel by yourself**
- **Let a responsible person know where you are going and when you expect to return**

Emergencies

Call 000

For more information

Blackbutt Visitor Information Centre
Hart Street Blackbutt
tel + 61 7 4163 0633

Esk Visitor Information Centre
82 Ipswich Street Esk
tel + 61 7 5424 2923

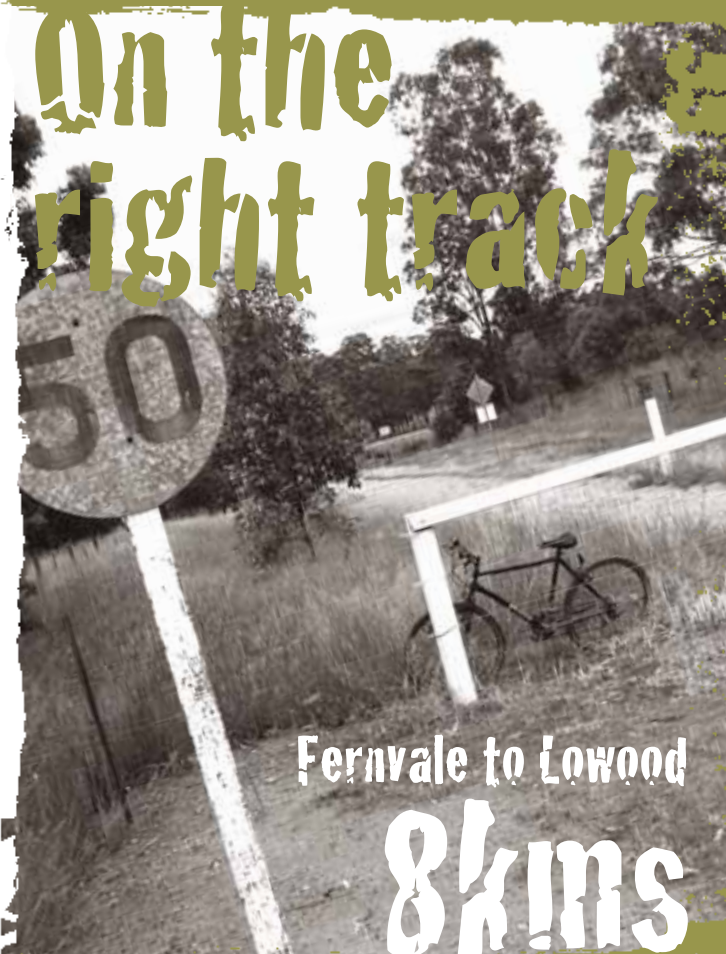
Fernvale Futures Visitor Information Centre
1483 Brisbane Valley Highway Fernvale
tel + 61 7 5427 0200

Nanango Visitor Information Centre
Drayton Street Nanango
tel + 61 7 4171 6871

www.brisbanevalleyrailtrail.org.au



On the right track



Fernvale to Lowood

8kms



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Rail summary

Location

The Fernvale to Lowood section of the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail is approximately 30 km north west of Ipswich and 60 km from Brisbane. The trail head in Fernvale is at the Fernvale Futures Visitor Information Centre, a 45 minute drive from Brisbane via Ipswich, along the Warrego and Brisbane Valley Highways. This section of the Rail Trail was opened in December 2002.

Environment

Well known for its Sunday markets, Fernvale is close to South East Queensland's largest water source, Wivenhoe Dam. Much of the trail near Lowood is near the Brisbane River and features spectacular views of the river. Other features of the trail include:

- railway cuttings stabilised with dry-stone pitch rock and brick walling
- picturesque farm lands of the Brisbane River Valley
- a flying fox colony and koala corridor adjacent to the river on the approach to Lowood.

Use

The trail features a compacted gravel road base suited to people with a low to moderate fitness level—this particular section is especially suited to families. The 8½ km length is a comfortable 30 minute bike ride and a moderate 1¼ hour walk. Daytime summer temperatures can reach 35°C. Walking shoes or light hiking boots are required and horses must be shod.

Only walking, cycling and horse riding are permitted. The surface is not suitable for road or racing bicycles, personal mobility vehicles or horse drawn vehicles. Motorised vehicles of any type are prohibited.



Heritage—Indigenous

The Jagera, Yuggera and Ugarapul peoples are the traditional owners of the Fernvale-Lowood district. Prior to European settlement in 1824, the landscape of South East Queensland (as elsewhere in Australia) was influenced and protected by millennia of Aboriginal stewardship. Indigenous use and management of the landscape (e.g. moving camp when resources depleted, closures of areas for particular species) maintained a balance between the land and human needs. The South East Queensland Traditional Owners Alliance (SEQTOA) is currently managing some archaeological research projects into the Indigenous heritage of the Brisbane Valley.

Heritage—European

The original railway line through the Brisbane Valley was built during the early years of last century to transport supplies to the growing number of small farms in the valley, and to transport milk products, timber and stock to Brisbane markets. The last rail motor service on the line was in 1989 and the railway line was finally closed later that year. Brisbane Valley Heritage Trails Inc. has a wealth



of old photos from the early days of the Brisbane Valley Line as well as stories of the working people, including the railway men.

Distance

Fernvale Futures Visitor Information Centre to Lowood Station is 8½ km. Completion time (walking) is approximately 1¼ hours.

Sites of interest

Lowood Train Station, Fernvale Memorial Park, Fernvale Futures Visitor Information Centre.

Mobile phone coverage

Good.

Services

Public toilets and picnic facilities are located at either end of the trail. Visit the Fernvale Futures Visitor Information Centre for more information about local facilities and amenities.

