### **Re: MTB Trails to ride Woodend / Blackwood / Daylesford**

Ok so here's the remainder in red below...

**From:**

**To:** "rdurrell@bancoora.com" <rdurrell@bancoora.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, 26 November 2015, 15:02

**Subject:** MTB Trails to ride Woodend / Blackwood / Daylesford

Hi Ray,

I've just been checking out the Bancoora website- awesome work! I heard about it from the bloke who runs the camping ground at Blackwood, who also had a couple of maps you had given him (photos attached). Sounds like you're a bit of a guru in those parts, so wondering if you might be able to help me out with a bit of local knowledge...Thanks, it's been a labour of love the website as there wasn't anyhting around when I took it up in 2008. We used to have a holiday place in Blackwood hence know the area pretty well.

I'm planning a multi-day mtb ride with a couple of mates that will be quite an adventure. From the Strava Global Heat Map we can see that there are trails all through the forest so we know it's possible, but thought you might be able to make some route suggestions, or provide Google Earth KML files so we can plan it better. Strava is good source, Open Street Map also - see link in other email

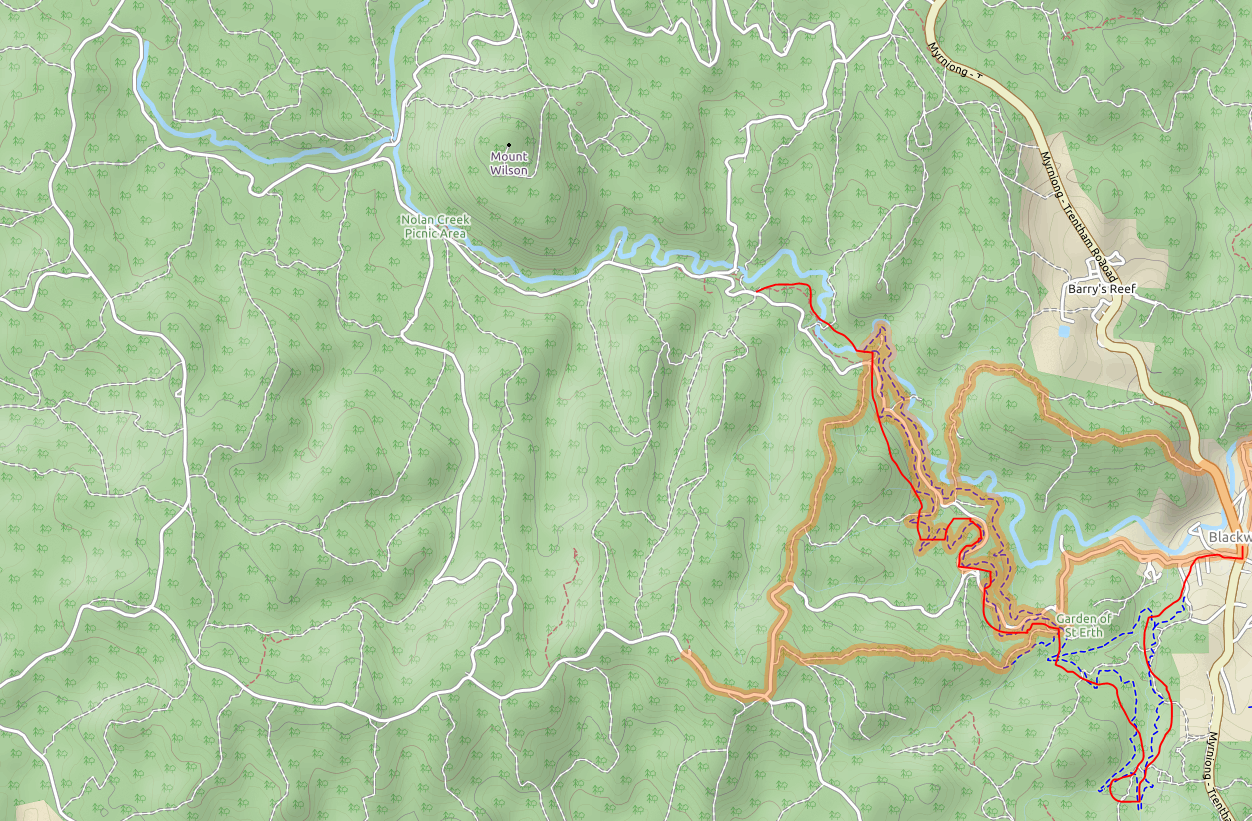
The rough plan is:

Day 1: Park car at Woodend near train station on Sat morning (5 Dec) and ride on road to Wombat. Ride trails through state forest to Blackwood. If we get there early enough (and have energy) maybe check out some singletrack around Blackwood. Stay in a cabin in Blackwood the night. Refer earlier email for route. You're on the right track here hooking into Wombat and heading out southern side of it. Head for the gorge - take care, there are a few sketchy bits but a great ride. Byers Back Track is spectacular. The bancoora site has some pics / videos of the trails. Remember there is no phone coverage out here so load any maps, etc on your phone, don't rely on mobile coverage for internet.

A few things to see around Blackwood

<http://www.bancoora.com/Blackwood%20Rides/Blackwood%20History.html>

Day 2: Ride from Blackwood to Hepburn Springs via Daylesford. Hoping to stick to trails in the bush as much as possible (avoiding roads)- any recommendations? Stay in Hepburn Springs Chalet. Most of the stuff I have done out west of Blackwood is fairly local to town. I'd just follow the GDT out of town. The first bit is single track for about 8k's. Follow this route - Simmons Reef Road, Skinners Road, look for trail head post on right of road. When you get to first signposted trail intersection, go straight ahead (not right). You can then just follow the track around shown in red below. You'll finally get to a big mine shaft and cross a big log. Go left to get to Garden of St Erth. Cross the car car park and head into the pine grove, pick up the trail on the left just before you get to the road (Lerderderg Heritage Walk / GDT). This will take you a fair way on some good single track. I went through this area with a chainsaw last week so the trail is nice and clear for you! This will take you to the end of the red line below on single track. I'd probably road it from there up to Nolan Creek Picnic area for a break (old sawmill site). From there on I'd either follow the GDT or just make it up as you go along. There are some nice trails in there. The GDT passes the remains of a Blatic refugee camp and a couple of mine sites I believe. If you cannot locate route, tell me and I'll dig out a map - they're currently discontinued selling the map but I've got a copy somewhere. I have ridden the Goldfields Trail into Daylesford - mainly fire roads but worth riding to see Sailors Falls and the lake.



Day 3: Ride the Dry Diggings leg of the Goldfields Track to Castlemaine. Might cheat a little and get a maxi taxi (if I can organise one) to Porcupine Ridge Road to avoid the big climb at the start. Ride to Castlemaine train station then get the train to Woodend and drive home.

Haven't done this leg yet so can't really advise on it but sounds like a good plan and I hate climbs as well. I thought part of it was walking only but I can't find any reference to that now so perhaps it's all shared now. It was the bit you'd avoid in the cab anyway. You can still get the map for this leg and it's worthwhile buying for the history notes / navigation

Are there any trails in particular that you would recommend? Would you be able to send me KML files of the known trails in the area?

I'm planning to map the route we end up taking and will take photos / videos along the way to put it into a little blog or something at the end. Happy to share any lessons learned and give you a KML if it's useful on bancoora.com.

Yes that'd be great if you could do that. Anyone that contributes to the site gets acknowledged in the text and it would be great if you could do a section by section "blog" for each leg with some of the good and the bad / tips. It's one of the next things I want to do with the site is do a number of one way rides between train lines eg Woodend - Blackwood - Bacchus Marsh via Lerderderg Park, Ballan to Bacchus Marsh via Greendale via Lerderderg Park, Gisborne to Bacchus Marsh via Lerderderg Park (Pyrete section), etc. I've done a number of these between station rides on the road bike so would like to do the MTB version as well.

Anyway, if you need any maps, etc tell me and I can dig them out for you. I have pdfs of all topo maps in the area if they're of interest as well.

Cheers

Sam