Sam

An earlier email I sent with my thoughts for Woodend to Blackwood.

Rgds

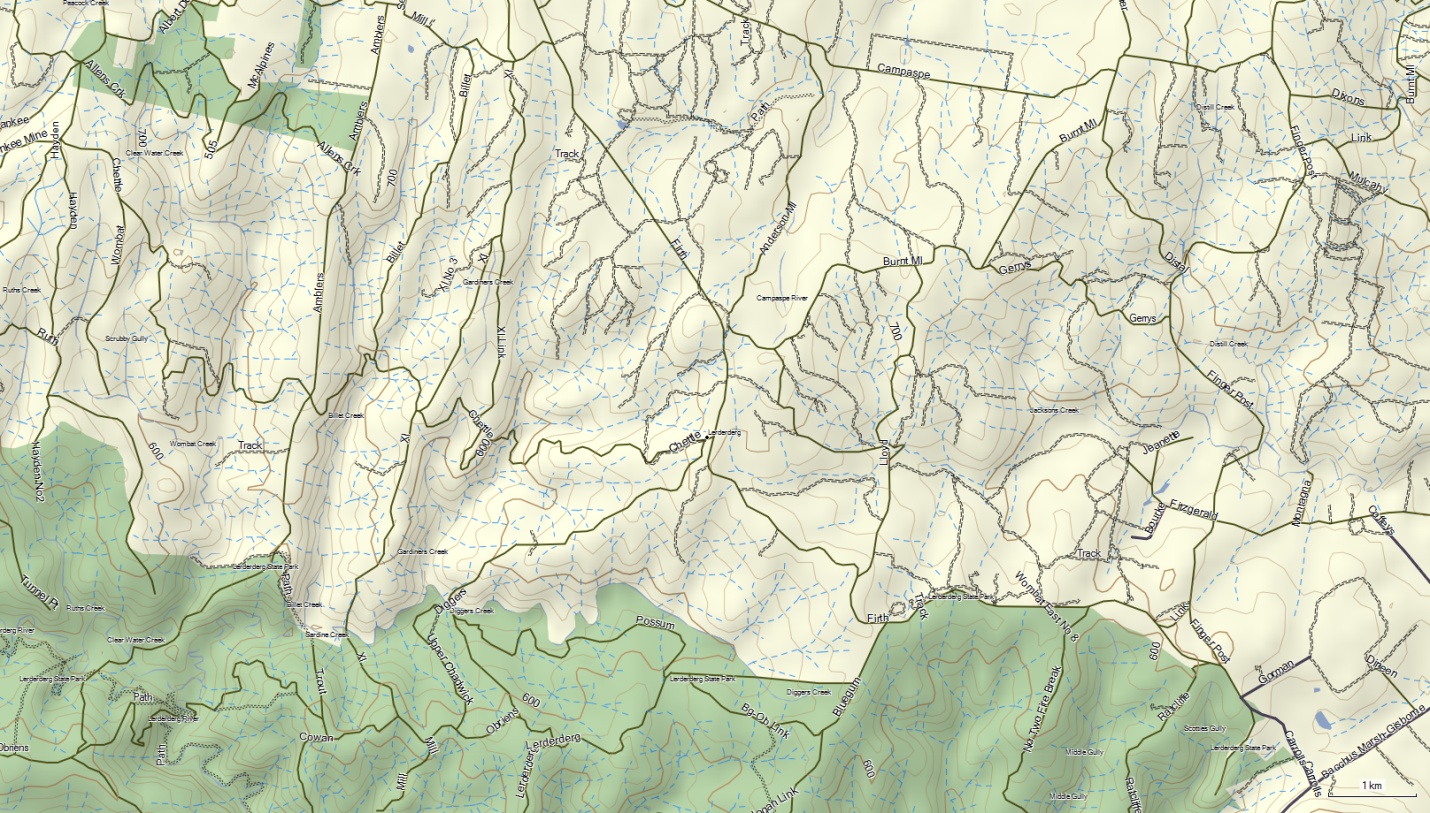
Ray

-------- Forwarded Message --------

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Subject:** | Re: Overnight track |
| **Date:** | Thu, 03 Apr 2014 22:47:39 +1100 |
| **From:** | Ray Durrell <rdurrell@optusnet.com.au> |
| **To:** |  |

Pierre

Good luck with it... Here's a map of the Firth Park area which may help as well... The Woodend tracks are in the top right and O'Briens Crossing in the lower left



On 1/04/2014 12:06 AM, Pierre wrote:

Hi Ray

Thanks so much for this wealth of information, and for taking the time. It amazes me how much there is to ride and enjoy around that area. We are fortunate in Victoria. I think I'll plan to ride in from Woodend, and follow the trails down. Camp the night in the Wombat State Forest and then ride to O'Brien's Crossing the next day for another overnight. Will probably do Kangaroo track before the descent into Baccus Marsh and that should wrap up 2.5 days/2 nights.

I'll certainly let you know how it goes, and hopefully have some pictures/video to tell the tale. Your maps are really great, but I reckon the pictures make all the difference too. It's hard to imagine the terrain otherwise - helps with route selection.

Will be in touch soon.

Cheers

Pierre

On Sat, Mar 29, 2014 at 9:25 PM, Ray Durrell <rdurrell@optusnet.com.au> wrote:

Hi Pierre

Ok this is what I'd do. I would leave from either Woodend or Macedon stations rather than Gisborne as they will heve better access to singletrack and get you into the bush quicker. Look at this link which has the links from these stations to the Woodend trails. I'd use these to get as far west or south west as you can on these.

<https://maps.google.com.au/maps/ms?msid=201962195371300358261.000452a5c37c2117e098c&msa=0&ll=-37.404256,144.50901&spn=0.073772,0.164452&dg=feature>

IF you've got a gps you can get the kml file from this page and convert it into a gpx file for your gps at <http://www.gpsvisualizer.com/>

I am not overly familiar with the Firth Park area so you'd have to work sonething out through there but there are plenty of fire trails and I know the motorbikes like the area so there could be some single trail through there.

After that I'd head for Amblers track and follow it south to the Lerderderg. I haven't ridden all of it but the section from Chettles Road down into the gorge was fun when I rode it (its a 4WD track). At the river there is a crossing where you ford the river. It's quite rideable and is probably dry at the moment as the river has not flowed for a while. Cross this and head for the Byers Back Track. You keep heading up Amblers Lane and I think it's a few hundred metres after the river. It's marked with marker signs and will head left and right from Amblers Lane. Some details of the Amblers Lane / Byers Back Track ride can be found at::

<http://bancoora.com/Blackwood%20Rides/Blackwood%20East%20Ambler%20Lane%20Trail%20Information.html>

<http://bancoora.com/Blackwood%20Rides/Blackwood%20East%20Byers%20Back%20Track%20Trail%20Information.html>

By the time you get to the river crossing, I'm guessing you would have done 25 - 30 kms so you've still got a few kms up your sleeve if you can do 50 -60 in a day. At Byers Back Track, if you're not tired head left and go down into O Briens Crossing and then return via the same trail into Blackwood. This is some brillaint single track and it's why I asked if your experienced - there are a few narrow dicey sections so if you're carrying gear just be careful as you're a long way from anywhere. Walk them if necessary but the trail is 99.9% rideable and has some great views. The Tunnel is worth a look - dump your bike in the bush and walk down. The Tunnel is a diversion tunnel created by the gold miners. When you get to the bottom you'll see a big hole full of trees from a recent flood - this is the tunnel. Head up over the hill and you'll see the other end which is free of flood rubbish and is quite spectacular when you consider it was hand dug. Head back up to the Byers Back Track and head back into Blackwood. As you come into town there is a water hole just before where the bitumen begins which is good for camping and you can have a fire there as well by the river. Other main option is the mineral springs caravan park which has a store at it.

If you're still fresh, try this one out the other side of Blackwood.

<http://bancoora.com/Blackwood%20Rides/Blackwood%20West%20Heritage%20Ride%20Trail%20Information.html>

It's relatively flat and you can readily hop off the track to make it as short or long as you like. It's about 10 kms of single track and I recently cleared all logs from its and have been clearing the scrub as well so it's quite rideable particularly towards the western end. All singletrack :-)

Because you can't ride in the Lerderderg state Park, you are a bit limited in options to get back to Bacchus Marsh.

A couple of options... Ride back along the Byers Back Track and pick up Kangaroo Track you'll have to hike a bike the first bit but the rest is a pretty constant gradient and will drop you out at O Briens Road near Geendale Trentham Road. And then pick up Telstra Track. Or you could just ride into Blackwood and follow the bitumen and pick up the Telstra Trail.

<http://bancoora.com/Blackwood%20Rides/Blackwood%20South%20Kangaroo%20Track%20Trail%20Information.html>

<http://bancoora.com/Blackwood%20Rides/Blackwood%20South%20Telstra%20Track%20Trail%20Information.html>

Then Mount Blackwood Road:

<http://bancoora.com/Lerderderg%20Park%20Rides/Lerderderg%20Mt%20Blackwood%20Road%20Trail%20Information.html>

There's a bit of single track along Mt Blackwood road but it's not continuous.

Go up to Mount Blackwood where the towers are (public is allowed in) some great views.

The next bit is another favourite of mine as you head down to Bacchus Marsh - it has an elevation drop of about 500 metres I think. There are a few pinch climbs but the bulk is down hill. Follow this trail:

<http://bancoora.com/Lerderderg%20Park%20Rides/Lerderderg%20Blackwood%20Ranges%20Track%20Trail%20Information.html>

Hope that helps. I'd be interested to hear how you go and the route you decide on. If you need any maps, I can probably dump a few for you if you dont have GPS.

Rgds

Ray

On 29/03/2014 10:22 AM, Pierre wrote:

Hi Ray

Thanks for your reply. I will travel very light, with light gear strapped to my bike. I've done the Dry Diggings Track before, with a pretty good setup. So bring on the singletrack! I'm relatively experienced. Look forward to your further advice.

Again, thanks for taking the to time.

Cheers

Pierre

On Friday, March 28, 2014, Ray Durrell <rdurrell@optusnet.com.au> wrote:

Hi Pierre

Sounds good. Are you planning to travel light (eg hire caravan at a caravan park, eat at pub, etc) or are you going to travel with a bit of kit (eg tent, stove, sleeping bag, food, etc) as it would influence what I'd recommend. If you can afford the former or have very light gear, I could probably string a pretty good ride together. I'm assuming you're pretty experienced as well? Just as a general guide, you (in general terms) cannot ride in the Lerderderg State Park to the south of the Lerderderg river and the east of the Greendale - Trentham Road.

Depending on your answer to the above, I'd go further on the first day and get down into Blackwood area otherwise you will have a very long second day. Also I'd start at Macedon or Woodend as there is a lot of single track up there taking you in the right direction. Shoot me a reply and I'll shoot you a few ideas. Other option may be the Goldfields Track which has train options but not in the area you're talking about.

Rgds

Ray

On 28/03/2014 1:20 PM, Pierre wrote:

Hi,

I've stumbled upon your website and am better for it. I'm looking to do an overnight ride around the llerderderg area, wombat state forest area. And wondered if you had advice for me. I'd be taking the train into the region from melbourne, and would cycle, preferably off road to a camp spot. Sleep overnight and then cycle the following day out to a train station. Total mileage I would plan for would be 50-60km a day, max.

I was thinking of perhaps cycling from Gisborne Station to Firth Rd campsite, then onward to Baccus Marsh on day 2.

Thanks in advance, and good work on providing such a good resource for riders.

Cheers

Pierre

Sent from my iPad