



# MEDIA RELEASE

## Running Festival Fever Comes to Puffing Billy with Launch of a New and Exciting Trail Run Registrations now open for 2020 Puffing Billy Running Festival

In a test of endurance, fitness and good old fashion family fun, Puffing Billy Railway is thrilled to announce the launch of the *Puffing Billy Running Festival* this May; the newest running event on the circuit with four new and exciting races to enjoy, including two courses designed for parents and their little ones.

Taking place on Sunday May 3, the inaugural *Puffing Billy Running Festival* will welcome runners of all ages and abilities to race against the Puffing Billy steam train while taking in the breathtaking views of the Eastern Dandenong Ranges between Belgrave and Gembrook.

Participants will have four diverse tracks to choose from, ranging in difficulty level from beginner to elite.

For those who like to push their bodies to the limit, runners **can take on the Running Festival's longest run** – the 25km road and trail run starting at Belgrave and finishing at Gembrook Station. Be prepared to wind your way through unwavering hills and multi-purpose trails with all its unspoilt Wright Forest, as you **race against the clock to beat two of Puffing Billy's steam locomotives**.

Runners competing in the 10km trail will start at Gembrook Station and run to Old Gembrook Road, Cockatoo, before returning to Gembrook Station. From stunning views across various terrains, this track will get the adrenaline pumping as you pit muscle against machine to outrun a steam train trailing not-too-far behind.

A day of fun 5km and 2km races can also be enjoyed by families looking to stretch their legs and get the kids active. Those participating in the 5km trail will race from Gembrook Station to Gembrook Recreation Reserve and back again as the steam train works hard to toot and puff its way past you, while the 2km trail will start at Gembrook Recreation Reserve and finish at Gembrook Station.

**Whether you're an annual participator, or you have been inspired to take on your first race**, there is a course to favour everyone.

Organised by the dedicated team at Puffing Billy Railway and supported by its committed volunteers, the Puffing Billy Running Festival will see all proceeds going towards the preservation of the heritage Railway.

For Puffing Billy Railway Events Manager, Matt Collopy, these new curated courses provide a great opportunity to involve the entire community.

“This is an exciting new running festival that challenges our avid running community, but also provides variety for those who **aren't** necessarily elite but enjoy being active. It will be a **fun-filled day out for everyone, especially with Puffing Billy's whistle coming up behind you,**” said Matt.

Those looking to cheer on participants along the way can enjoy a ride on Puffing Billy and possibly even beat them to it!

Registrations are now open, with early bird rates available until Monday 9 March 2020.

For more information or enquiries, please visit [www.puffingbillyrunningfestival.com.au](http://www.puffingbillyrunningfestival.com.au) or email [race@pbr.org.au](mailto:race@pbr.org.au).

### EVENT DETAILS:

**Date:** Sunday 3 May 2020

**Time:** 9:00am

**Entries:** Early Bird registrations OPEN from Friday 14 February to Monday 9 March 2020.

Register online at [www.puffingbillyrunningfestival.com.au](http://www.puffingbillyrunningfestival.com.au)

Participants can join our mailing list [here](#).

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