

July 2021 NEWSLETTER



A President's Perspective:

Chris Stredwick

While it may seem to be a bit of a quiet time with the club, there has been a lot of work going on in the background over the past few months.

The committee have been working on our next objectives for the club and while we are waiting on the Dial Range Recreational Management plan to be completed by Parks and Wildlife, which prevents any further construction in the Dial, we have decided to focus on what we do have control of and that is the Penguin MTB Park.

We have recently hosted two community brainstorming sessions to assist us in coming up with a five-year Master Plan for upgrades to the Park. Although the Master Plan is still to be finalised, we anticipate some great additions to the Park. These will not only add some great riding experiences but also make the Park look a whole lot more presentable and less maintenance intensive.



We have also had some successful working bees in the Park and Dial Range, and I am thankful to all those that gave up their personal time to lend a hand and keep the trail in top shape.

We have been successful in gaining a \$20,000 grant for Park upgrades from the State Government and this can go towards our first objectives for the Master Plan. Many thanks to Roger Jaensch MP, MHA for Braddon for backing us on this objective.



As always, we couldn't run our club without our committee and volunteers of which I am extremely grateful. However, we could still use some extra assistance in the areas of racing, junior development and events. So, if you feel that you could contribute in some way, please contact us or rock up to a club meeting.

Penguin Mountain Bike Park Master Plan Project

Chris Fletcher

In March this year, the Club Committee agreed that a Master Plan for the Penguin Mountain Bike Park was needed if the Club is to expect State and Federal funding for future upgrades. Since 2012, the Park has had several major development upgrades to get it to a stage where it is attracting approximately 12,000 riders a year. That's a lot of love and compaction! The completed Master Plan will spell out how the Park is likely to be used in the future based on stakeholder feedback, and the development priorities for the next 5-7 years as funding becomes available.



Eight people (5 apologies) gathered at the Penguin District School on Wednesday May 19 to start the Plan process. Schools, young riders, family group riders, women, riding instructors, trail builders, XC riders, gravity riders, recreational riders and those interested in competition were all represented.

After 90 minutes of excellent discussion and group work, there was broad consensus on how the Club might develop the Park to better cater for beginner/young riders and how the Park as a whole might be developed to remain a relevant and treasured mountain bike hub. This formative workshop was then followed by a second workshop on June 2. At this meeting, those present turned their attention to the Free-ride area and general Park trails, as well as consolidating upon previous discussions.

It is anticipated that the Master Plan will be completed by November this year. The future is exciting for the Park!

Working Bees

Craig Kerr

The club has recently run 3 working bees and these focussed on trail maintenance, weed eradication and general trail preparations before winter weather sets in. The first working bee was held in April and involved 15 volunteers slashing, brushcutting and raking our Park trails after a period of exceptional summer and autumn growth. Of particular concern to us has been weed management in our Free-ride area, and we are currently considering various options to assist.



Our June and July working bees focussed on drainage issues along the Monty Loop and Monty Extension trails in the Dial Range. Many thanks go to all those who attended our working bees and especially to Chris Stredwick for organising them. In addition, special thanks must go to several club members who help maintain our trails on an as-required basis. For example, during mid-June after a period of very windy weather, many tea trees were uprooted and this resulted in several blocked trails. Special thanks go to Marcus Langham for assisting with this significant maintenance task.

20/21 Giant Tas Gravity Enduro Series at Wild Mersey

Doug Miller, King Miller Events

Photos: Ki Photomedia

This season's Giant Tas Gravity Enduro Series had rounds starting way back in October 2020 at Penguin, and this was then followed by Maydena in November, South Hobart in February, Derby in March and finally, and for the first time, Wild Mersey in May. What a great weekend in Railton and a great way to finish the 2020/21 series.

Due to heavy rain in February, the Wild Mersey round was re-scheduled to autumn. However, the weather was still looking a little iffy for race day and we had our fingers crossed. Fortunately, it turned out to be a perfect sunny autumn weekend, with no wind, and about 20 degrees 🌞. We had our second largest field for the series entered and the weekend was looking great. We certainly had Railton pumping and it was great to see. The venue worked really well. It has a large grass park area, large hall, big pump track, and a great little brewery for presentations. A choice race weekend and an awesome way to finish the series. 🙌

The course started with a 10 km pedal to get all riders from Railton to Sheffield. A solid warmup indeed. Up the hill they headed, first with the elite and e-bike challenge riders on the way up to Stage 1 - Gold Rush. Management opened the top half of this 5-minute trail for us on the Friday before the race. This was a great stage to kick off the event.



Next up was Stage 2 - Rake and Ride. This is an old moto track that is not an official part of the network. Loose, loamy, off-camber, and raw! "Stage of the day" was mentioned quite a few times.

Riders then headed back over the Badgers Range to tackle Gnarvana. The stage with everything, flow and jumps up top, flat and off-camber in the middle, and rocks and tech to finish with.



Stage 4 Echidin' Me starts in a quarry and it was loose...! A very techy stage with lots of rock and very loose. This was a hard stage to ride fast and riders had to gauge where to push and where not to.

Stage 5 Super Hornet. Super short and super fun, big jumps and bigger berms. Riders were split, some stayed low and went for the rail, but some went for air and had some fun 🙌.

Back towards Railton and onto the last stage with Green Hornet. A great course for our first run at Wild Mersey. With more trails in the planning, it's only going to get better. What a great way to finish the Giant Tas Gravity Enduro Series. With a 21% increase in riders for the series, and the juniors U17/U15 being the largest categories, the future of our sport is looking great. Hang tight! The dates for the 2021/22 series will be out soon!

With a sizeable part of the Wild Mersey trails now opened, it is now possible to envision the size of this project and the diversity of trails involved. The Trailscapes crew are continuing the build over the winter and early summer is looking to be the date for opening the next group of trails.

The latest selection of trails will include a continuation of the climb from above Up Start, that will take riders all the way to the highest point of the Badgers Range, Kimberley's Lookout. There will not only be a blue descent that will return you to the top of Gold Rush but also a climb and descent from the Railton side that will start and finish at Woodhooker and the Gnarvana trail node. This then allows for you to make a complete loop via Woodhooker and then take you up to the summit and back to the Railton side of the trails instead of



just returning via the Railton Express. There is also a new jump trail in the arboretum area that makes Super Hornet look like a pump track and creates a loop via the Ewoks climb trail. Also, there are additional black and double diamond trails that are currently under construction up near the Kimberley's Lookout area through some seriously rocky terrain. The council have also secured some funding for two descents from Kimberley's lookout and are looking into the possibility of a shuttle road. So, a lot is happening in the Badgers this year.



However, not all work is in the Badgers with the construction of a new 150m suspension bridge underway. This bridge will be well above any previous flood levels and as far as we can ascertain, it will be Australia's longest pedestrian suspension bridge. The new bridge will replace the current low-level bridge that will be repurposed elsewhere in the community. This bridge was funded from a state government no interest Covid recovery loan and is not coming out of the trail budget,

for those that are concerned about getting less trail. I think the new bridge will be an attraction and will be an iconic image of the Wild Mersey trails. The adjoining photos, taken recently, indicate the approx. location of bridge foundations.



There are also several smaller works underway, such as picnic tables at Warrawee, extra car parking at Goliath Park, bike racks in Railton and Sheffield, gateway structures and improved signage throughout the network.

This summer is looking to be a cracker for mountain biking in Tassie, especially on the North West Coast!

Try Mountain Biking Event

Craig Kerr

A very successful Try Mountain Biking morning was held at the MTB Park on the 18th April.



Eight intrepid beginner riders were briefed on mountain bike design, riding skills and safety equipment and then set off with members Chris Stredwick, Chris Fletcher and Craig Kerr for practice. Later, two groups were formed, one with Fletch practising their balance and cornering skills and the other set off with Streda to explore more advanced trails. Fortunately, our first aid kit was required only the once! It was then lunchtime and a barbeque was enjoyed back at the clubhouse (oops shed). Thanks to those who participated, and we are currently planning a similar event for 9/10th October to coincide with Get *Outdoors Weekend*.

Mountain Biking in Alice Springs

Chris Fletcher

Gravel, rock and dust you probably wouldn't come to the middle of Australia to ride the Alice Springs mountain bike trails, unless you travel for the 'Redback', a 4-day stage race held every August. This event attracts riders from all over the country. Having said that, the extensive network of trails immediately east and west of Alice Springs have plenty of appeal. Described by the locals as 'adventure' riding, you could ride for weeks and still not complete the full network. Low hills provide some climb and descent as well as regular sublime desert country vistas. Gravel and rock provide variety through the low shrub country with endless rock roll-overs and tight technical turns. Overwhelmingly the trails are Green and Blue.



Tip: put a few more PSI in the tyres to ride this harsh country to provide a little more protection for the tyrewalls. The rocks are sharp.

Come winter, the temperature can be reliably expected to be in the low twenties and the beer tastes great in the late afternoon. Alice has an impressive network of concreted shared trails for younger riders and family groups.

The town is well supported with a couple of well stocked bike shops. 'Chris', a major sponsor of the 'Redback' at Ultimate Ride Bicycle Centre was more than helpful with trail info and a bike box to get my bike home. Accommodation options are extensive including a couple of large tourist parks with excellent tent sites, shower and cooking facilities.

Dial Range Trails Update

Craig Kerr

With the completion of the Montgomery Loop in 2018 and then the Iron Tor and the Ironstone Ridge trails in 2020, we are fortunate to have such spectacular and challenging trails available to ride locally. Many thanks go to the Next Level MTB crew for building us such great trails. Iron Tor rider numbers are monitored and have consistently been 400 and 500 per month during recent winter months. However, please note that with above average rainfalls, we have been in consultation with Parks and may have to temporarily close some trails.



CCMBC Annual General Meeting

We are holding our AGM on 14th September and all financial members are encouraged to attend. All executive positions will be declared vacant and any member wishing to nominate for a position (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) is asked to forward their nomination to club@ccmbc.com.au The AGM will then be followed by our monthly general meeting and all riders are invited to attend. There will be further details available soon via Facebook and our website.

CCMBC Office Bearers

President	Chris Stredwick
Vice President	Anne Langham
Treasurer	Selina Stredwick
Secretary and Newsletter Editor	Craig Kerr

Membership and Meetings

If you would like to renew your membership or join a new member then please visit the club's website. <http://www.ccmbc.com.au/> We are also currently structuring a \$10 Club membership for casual riders and non-riders. Donations to assist in the maintenance of our trails can also be made via this website. Meetings are generally held on the second Tuesday of each month at Oz Rock Inn, Ulverstone. However, please check Facebook or via email for confirmation of this beforehand.

Feedback and Contact

Please email the club with any feedback at club@ccmbc.com.au or to unsubscribe from our newsletter list. Our postal address is PO Box 458, Penguin 7316.

