

# November 2021 NEWSLETTER

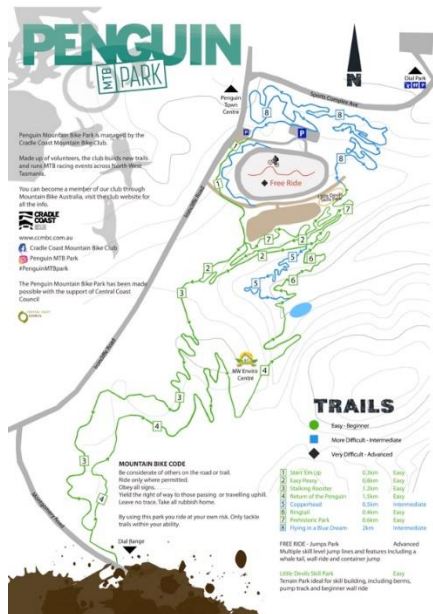


## A President's Perspective:

Chris Fletcher

Hi folks,

There's plenty to like about the remainder of Spring and our (usually glorious) Summer. Drier trails and longer twilights for after-work rides to mention a couple of biggies. With restrictions on travel lifting, I've no doubt Penguin will be a must-do destination for a heap of mainland and intra-state riders. 'Iron Tor' continues to be (rightly) talked up as "awesome" and "the best trail in the state" by visiting riders. The main street of Penguin could well take on a distinctively Derbyish look as mountain-bike-laden cars jockey for parking outside the dinking and eating holes. Bring it on!



The new Committee has set several goals for the Club in the next 12 months, all of them designed to have the Club play a more dynamic role in the community. Newly established sub-committees will have responsibilities of pursuing further funding to continue to improve our trail network and facilities, increasing riding opportunities and events on the coast, increasing membership, and engaging better with the Penguin business community to achieve common goals. If any of these has appeal to you, then please join a sub-committee – there's lots of work to be done and there's always room for fresh ideas.

Speaking of events, next year is the 10th anniversary of the creation of the Penguin Mountain Bike Park. More detail will come to light in the next newsletter but suffice to say that

there will be a mighty celebration of all things mountain biking. Again, if you think you could contribute to the organising committee's efforts, please let us know. It's going to go off!

As a result of the recently completed Penguin Mountain Bike Park Master Plan, the Club now has a very clear indication of what the development priorities are for our much loved 'hub'.

It is timely that we are expecting before Christmas, \$25,000 of promised funding which will go directly towards renovations to the Park. Some work will be contracted out, however there is always a need for volunteer effort to keep the trails and built structures in tip-top condition. Keep an eye out for working-bee callouts, the organisers and local riders will love you for it!

So how can you get more closely involved in Club activities and decision making? Drop along to a Club meeting. They are usually held on the second Tuesday of each month starting 7.00pm at Oz Rock Inn. Please contact us or check Facebook for meeting confirmation and see you there.

## Our AGM

Craig Kerr

The Club held its Annual General Meeting in September and our new executive are:

- President – Chris Fletcher
- Vice President – Anne Langham
- Treasurer – Emma Lee
- Secretary and Newsletter Editor – Craig Kerr

In addition to the above, our committee members are Jake Lee, Martin Owens, Steve Crocker, Ivan Markota, Harry Badcock, Chris Clarke, Chris Stredwick and Damon Griggs.

To improve our efficiencies and flexibility, we have decided to create the following 4 sub-committees:

- Community Engagement
- Trail Network and Penguin MTB Park
- Events
- Strategic projects

The Club has lots on and the new committee is with great anticipation looking forward to 2021/22.



## “Get Outdoors Tasmania” Weekend

Chris Stredwick

The Club has supported the great work from the people behind the Get Outdoors Tasmania organization for a few years now, and this year it was a whole weekend event instead of just the one day, as in previous years. We decided to offer three free events over the October 9 – 10 weekend, with a social ride on the Saturday, and on the Sunday, a kid’s beginner skills session in the morning and an adult’s beginner skills session in the afternoon.

The Saturday social ride was held in Railton on the Wild Mersey trails. We had a good turnout of 10 riders that were keen to explore the trails. The group left the Goliath Park trail head and proceeded up the Teleport trail, on to Sheffield Way and into the Badgers Range. We all had a quick blast down Super Hornet before meeting at the Quarry trail node to see how everyone was feeling. With everyone still keen to go, we rode up the long but gentle climb of Pony Up to the start of Woodhooker and Gnarvana. The



group then descended Woodhooker down to the lush, tree fern lined banks of Redwater Creek before making the picturesque climb up the Ewoks trail, through the ferny evergreen forest floor of the Douglas Fir and Coastal Redwood plantation and the fallen leaves of the European Beech forest. After a break at the Redwater Creek car park we then rode the gentle downhill run back to Railton via the section of old rail trail, now named the Railton Rattler. In the end, it was a quite enjoyable 22km loop and we are keen to hold a few more social rides like this in the future.



On the Sunday morning we had several kids keen and ready to learn some new skills at the Penguin Mountain Bike Park. Local club member Jordan Taylor was the coach for the day and Jordan also coaches with Rideo Mountain Biking (<https://rideomountainbiking.com/>). The kids started off with basic bike checks followed by some current skills assessments. Jordan then coached the kids on basic cornering, braking whilst always ensuring good body position and most of all, keeping it fun.

We had a BBQ lunch provided by the club after the kids were done with their session, and after a few sausages the adults had their turn. Jordan once again went through the basics with the group and added some small obstacle skills and finishing with a lap around the trails. We hope that all participants will now be able to put those skills they learnt to good use on the trails and have more confidence when stepping up the trail difficulty.

We look forward to hosting a Get Outdoors Tasmania event next year and seeing all the other outdoor offerings increase. It's a great initiative, and an awesome way to promote getting out into the amazing outdoor landscape we have in Tasmania.

## Supporting the Club

Emma Lee

Cradle Coast Mountain Bike Club strives to maintain, improve and extend our trail network. Our trails are maintained by volunteers and key partnership organisations and the club welcomes any help from our local community and club members to maintain the high standard of trails we all love to ride!

You will soon see QR codes as shown below, on the totem poles and signs in the trail network at the Penguin Mountain Bike Park. Scan the QR code and you will be directed to our website where you can choose to become a member or make a donation to the club. No donation is too small!

If you're not already a club member, WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN?

- Club membership is only \$10 and no need to join AusCycling. You can be a member of more than one MTB club!
- Membership dollars will go towards things like equipment, equipment hire and contractors to maintain, improve and develop trails
- The club caters for all ages & skill levels
- The club promotes a fun atmosphere at events of all types
- Learn Trail maintenance skills
- Be part of an active & friendly sporting community
- Don't ride?? It does not matter... Join the Club, support a non-profit organization, volunteer if you wish at our events or open days, learn new skills such as trail building, marshalling, meet new people, join the MTB family & have some fun!



**ENCOURAGE YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN!**

**[CLICK HERE TO BECOME A MEMBER OR DONATE TO CRADLE COAST MTB CLUB](#)**

**If you are a local business owner and would be happy to display the QR code at your premises the club would love your support.**



At the Club's November meeting, the Penguin Mountain Bike Park Master Plan was formally adopted as the guide to developments in the Park over the next 5 years. Strategically it's an important document as it is shaped by stakeholder consultation and gives the Club a clear direction to keep the Park relevant and appealing to Tasmanian and interstate mountain bikers.

The process involved focusing the participants' attention on four key areas of Park operation:



1. the Park trails – approximately 7km of 'single track'
2. the Park general – the facilities including vegetation, parking, access, seating and shelter
3. the 'free-ride' area
4. the skills development area – the Little Devil's Skills Park.

Strong themes to emerge include,

- Through relentless rider pressure over almost 10 years, most of the early trails developed are now in need of a make-over. This includes the 'free-ride' area, the Little Devil's Skills Park tracks and the tracks on the northern side of the Park.
- The 'free-ride' area the area - the largest portion of capital investment in the Park, has in recent times become overgrown to the extent that some lines cannot now be ridden. It is strongly recommended that the Club consult an environment landscape specialist to assist in drawing up a plan to allow this area to operate as it was intended.
- The continued development of a progression of trails and skills elements for junior and novice riders in the Little Devils area.
- A major focus is needed on weed and vegetation management in the Park, to curb weed infestation and protect the native vegetation.
- Better vehicle access to the Club's shed, Little Devil's and top parking areas while maintaining the large open space adjacent to the shed which is much prized by those conducting skills clinics.
- The development of the shed as a facility to better serve riders at the Park. Possibly providing refreshments, bike repair, first aid, bike hire, trail advice and merchandise sales and a wash down station.

- Toilet, picnic tables, seating, shade areas and better observation areas in the vicinity of the Little Devil's Skills Park.
- The trail network requires an 'audit' to determine each trail's purpose and then ensure the trail delivers on the purpose. For example, the 'Stalking Rooster' climb is too steep to be rated 'green' and as such is not appealing to novice riders. The audit would also help identify where underutilised spaces may exist providing opportunities for lengthening existing trails or creating new ones. Armed with these specific suggestions for future Park development, the Committee can now set about seeking funding to make them happen.
- Better engage with the Club's key stake holders including the North West Environment Centre, TasWater and the Central Coast Council to ensure MOU conditions are being adhered to and promises honoured.

The Club would like to thank those who contributed to the consultation meetings in May and June. Without your generous contributions the project would not have got off the ground.

The complete Master Plan document can be found on the Club's website, <http://www.ccmbc.com.au> or its Facebook page.



## New Trail Information

Ivan Markota

Here's the heads-up that preliminary investigative work is currently underway for the Club to build a new 430 m long blue flow trail connecting the bottom of the Iron Tor trail to the top of the Monty Loop. More details will follow once the trail is mapped, and approvals sought.

Also, we are currently looking at repairing the troublesome long straight at the end of the Monty Loop. This will involve an excavator, culverts, turnpiking (drainage) and remodelling of the jumps.

## Working with the PWS, NWECC and CCC

Craig Kerr

The Club meets twice a year with the Parks and Wildlife Service, who are managers of the Dial Reserve, to evaluate and discuss the condition of our trails such as the Montgomery Loop and Iron Tor. We also meet regularly with our neighbours at the North West Environment Centre, who generously let us have trails on their property, and we both lease our land from the Central Coast Council. The Club has also recently met with the General Manager of the CCC (Sandra Ayton) and we have a follow up



meeting in December. We hope to develop a sound collaborative relationship with the Council to assist us in moving forward with facilities maintenance and future developments.

## Tas Gravity Enduro Series

Craig Kerr

This season's Tas Gravity Enduro Series commenced on 13/14th of November with the State Championships at Maydena held in chilly, wet and often muddy conditions. Saturday started with a Challenge race and this was followed by Stage 1 (or the Queen Stage) of the championships. It was then an early start on Sunday, especially with rain, snow and single digit temperatures



forecast. The five remaining stages ran smoothly on Sunday morning, and an additional Pro Stage was available for elite riders. Well done to all riders who participated in often challenging conditions and to the volunteers who supported the event. Also, well done to Doug Miller and Danny King for each year organizing the Enduro Series. The remaining rounds will be exciting,

with new trails at George Town (15/16 Jan) and Queenstown (5/6 Feb) and reasonably new trails at Wild Mersey (5/6 March). It is then finally the legendary last round at Derby (2/3 April), which all riders look forward to. Further information is available at <http://www.tasgravityenduro.com.au/>



## Penguin Christmas Parade

Chris Stredwick

We are putting a Club float in the Penguin Christmas parade on Friday 3rd of December. We will meet up in Penguin at 6pm for the parade start at 7pm. If anyone is interested in joining us with some decorated bikes or would like to help, please contact Chris Stredwick (0427537404) as we will love to have you on board.



## CCMBC Riding Tops and T-Shirts

Craig Kerr

At our last meeting we explored the possibility of a Club riding top and/or T-shirt. Investigative work and preliminary graphic design input are currently underway. Further details to follow!

## CCMBC Website



We are steadily upgrading our web presence and Emma has recently added a Gallery of photos covering Iron Tor, Dial Range, Montgomery Loop and Penguin MTB Park trails. <http://www.ccmbs.com.au/gallery/>

## Feedback and Contact

Please email the club with any feedback at [club@ccmbc.com.au](mailto:club@ccmbc.com.au) or to unsubscribe from our newsletter distribution list. Newsletter subscription is available from our website and our postal address is PO Box 458, Penguin 7316

Our webpage is <http://www.ccmbs.com.au/> , here you can find lots of information covering; trails, contacts, events, donations, membership, newsletters etc.