

March 2022 NEWSLETTER

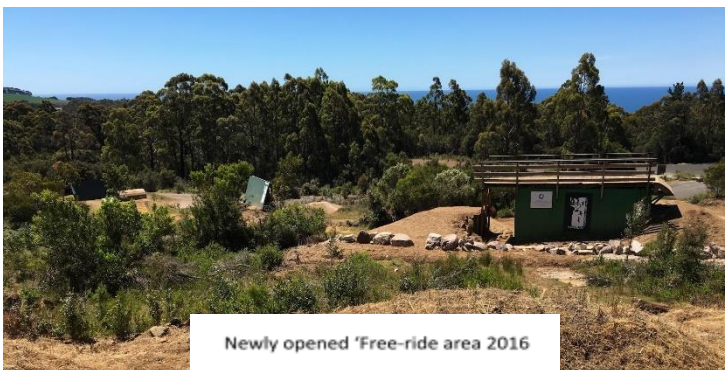


A President's Perspective:

Chris Fletcher

Hi all, and I hope you've been enjoying your summer's riding.

The Club's home base, the Penguin Mountain Bike Park (PMBP) has served mountain bikers well in the last 5 years. However, it is now screaming out for a significant overhaul. As many as 15,000 riders a year have over this time had the expected impacts on the trails. The relentless pressure of weeds and fresh growth, particularly in the free-ride area, mean it is looking quite chaotic and not providing the quality 'gravity experience' it provided when first opened in 2016.



The Club's 2021 PMBP Master Plan details the challenges, opportunities and priorities that the Club has to keep the Park the premier mountain bike hub on the coast. Notably, its geographic centrality, easy access, natural setting and ample space for further development of the family and novice rider area are features. Furthermore, the Little Devil's skills

area continues to be popular with junior riders, despite basic infrastructure. Feedback from mountain bikers informing the Master Plan points to the need for better shelter, outside tables and chairs, toilets, more diverse riding challenges and a more extensive novice trail network to ensure the Park continues to provide for family and novice riders over the next 5 years.

The Club has begun investigating funding options to enable an upgrade of the Little Devil's area to proceed. In the lead up to the 2022 Federal election, we will be making representations to both the major parties to fund the project. As well, we will be endeavouring to gain Local and State Government financial commitments to the Park's development.



In the meantime, our hard-working volunteer group will maintain the existing trails and keep the weeds at bay. The late February working bees in the Free-ride area made a big difference to this space. Thanks to the volunteer group that contributed. Also, I'd like to acknowledge Stefan Delitzsch's

contributions to weed control in and adjacent to the Park. His relentless war on weeds (gorse in particular) over recent years has assisted the Club enormously.

At the Club's February Committee meeting, a proposal to Club Sponsors was fine-tuned. Throughout February and March approaches will be made to local businesses with invites to



financially support the Club to keep the Park a 'Tier 1' regional recreational hub. It goes without saying, that whenever the Park continues to attract 15,000+ visitations a year, the local business community will be benefitting. It has to be said, that the Club has built the Park from scratch since opening in 2012 with very little funding assistance. Unlike most other Tasmanian mountain bike destinations, there has been no on-going local government financial commitment, despite our trails attracting more participation than almost all other recreational precincts in the municipality.

Looking well forward, the Club has plenty to plan around and an exciting 2022 ahead. In particular, October should be an action-packed month with the Tassie Masters Games, Get Outdoors Tasmania and the Penguin Mountain Bike Park's 10th birthday celebration to engage mountain bikers from across the country. All are in the early stages of planning and

will be given plenty of attention by committee members in the next few months. More to come in the next edition....

Enjoy the bumps, Fletch.

Australia Day Social Ride

Chris Stredwick

On Australia Day this year we decided to hold a social ride and explore the Wild Mersey trails. We met at the Goliath Park trail head at 9am, 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 and then set off 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, Coastal Redwood plantation and the fallen leaves of the European Beech Forest. After a bit of a break at the Redwater Creek car park we checked to see how everyone was going, and we all still had a bit of climbing left in our legs, so we headed towards



Sheffield on the Railton Rattler until we got to the gates of the Sheffield trails entrance. From there we rode up the Up Start trail, up to the lookout where we had views over Sheffield and the surrounding countryside. We then climbed the very last bit and turned downwards to return on the super fun Gold Rush descent and back to where we started the climb. From there it was a gentle downhill run all the way back to Railton via the Railton Rattler. After we got back to Railton we had clocked up an enjoyable 27km ride.

Many thanks to those that came along, and we will have to do another one soon!

ROAM Cycles

Lance Agnew

CCMBC member, Lance Agnew, is a passionate and experienced mountain bike rider and bike mechanic and has his own mobile MTB business. Lance can be contacted via his website www.roamcycles.com.au

ROAM Cycles was born on passion. I created the business to follow a dream I have always had in the bicycle industry, to give me more work/life balance, more flexibility and family time to enjoy my kids growing up. I got the idea from a large franchise in the USA and decided with the boom in the bicycle industry that now would be the perfect time to step out of my comfort zone and follow my dreams, create my own business and to do what I love to do, fix bikes. Starting out as



a professional bicycle mechanic in 2007 in New Zealand I have seen a major progression in the industry and have worked with some amazing people/riders within New Zealand and Australia. Having a love for racing and riding the more gravity side of the sport has seen me continue to race, create a small race team of local riders and to create a junior development squad to help young riders with a passion. The most recent developments

within the business have included me attaining AusCycling intermediate MTB instructor certification and focusing on a more personal development approach of 1:1, instead of large groups. Also, being able to ride with and see where the rider may need development and what they do well, and to give the rider maximum value for money. I also started bicycle mechanic workshops in 2021 to give riders the knowledge to diagnose and repair their own bikes, and these courses have been in high demand. The past 3 years have been an amazing journey and I can't wait to see what the future holds. Tasmania is now home for me, my wife and 3 kids. We absolutely love it here and would not want to be anywhere else. 🙌

Trail Maintenance and Working Bees

The Club are currently focusing on tidying up the Free-ride area in the MTB Park. Late last year we had the invasive weed *mignonette* professionally sprayed and we have recently started Monday evening working bees to remove it. The Monday 5 pm working bees have worked well, and many thanks go to Streda for organizing them and to team Jake, Shem, Crock and Craig for their efforts. Also, thanks go to Ivan, Crock and Craig for their recent efforts in repairing and repainting the wallride at the western end of the Free-ride area. Finally, if anyone would like to assist with our working bees, then please contact the Club. Working bees are always advertised on Facebook.



Queenstown's MTB Renaissance



Round 2 of the Tas Gravity Enduro Series was held early February on Queenstown's recently opened mountain bike trails. The weekend ran very well, 135 riders and their support crew were in town, and everyone enjoyed clear blue skies and temperatures in the mid-20s. But for many, an added bonus was being there to witness a MTB renaissance in Queenstown. At times it was even Derby-like, with all shape and size of vehicles loaded to the max with mountain bikes, riders and gear, young dreadlocked riders gracefully performing a mono and the Paragon Theatre chock-a-block full of hungry patrons enjoying food, music, videos and drinks. Well done to Danny King

and Doug Miller for organizing the event, RoamWild for shuttling riders up Mt Owen (not once but twice) and to the Linda Café crew for their lovely curries, burgers and desserts. Also well done to the West Coast MTB Club for their efforts in supporting the event and their contributions towards developing a MTB community on the West Coast.

However there's more, as there were effectively two MTB events in Queenstown during the one week! In the preceding week, the inaugural Trans Tasmania Enduro www.transenduromtb.com chose Queenstown as Day 3 of their 5-day event. Days 1 and 2 were riding at Maydena, Day 3 at Queenstown and Days 4 and 5 at Derby. The Trans Enduro MTB event started in 2015 with Trans NZ, then in 2016 Trans BC in Canada, and now Trans Tas in 2022. "Trans" events aren't for

everyone. The organizers aim to attract experienced national and international riders and push them to the maximum over 5 or 6 days of serious riding, and with no practice runs!

Jake's Bike Review: Zerode Katipo

Jake Lee

If you haven't heard of the bike company Zerode, don't worry, you're not alone! I'm a self-confessed bike nerd, and for a long time I've always thought there's got to be a better option to propel a mountain bike than the traditional cassette, chain, and derailleur setup. Zerode are based in New Zealand and started producing gearbox driven high pivot downhill mountain bikes back in 2011. They now exclusively make gearbox driven long travel mountain bikes and the company's ethos is to create a better riding experience. I have owned my Zerode Katipo for about 4 months and so far, I'm thoroughly impressed with both how this bike rides, and how little maintenance it requires. So, what are some of the pros and cons?



Pros:

1. The Pinion gearbox: 12 gears in a fully enclosed gearbox. It requires an oil change (60 ml of oil) every 10,000 km or every 12 months. You can shift through as many gears as you like almost instantly – no waiting for the chain to move across the cassette. You can also change gears when you're not pedalling. This is great when you get to the start of a climb in a big gear and quickly need to "dump" a heap of gears to climb out.

2. The grip shifter: This bike comes with a 12-speed grip shifter. This can seem like a 'backwards step' because as mountain bikers we are used to trigger shifters. The grip shifter allows you to instantly change up or down as many gears as you like in one flick of the wrist, and you don't need to be pedalling.



3. The light and stiff rear wheel: No cassette, no derailleur, and a single speed rear hub result in a lighter rear wheel. A light and stiff rear wheel also means your rear suspension is more reactive or sensitive to bumps and changes in the terrain. The rear suspension performance is possibly my favourite thing about this bike.

4. Low maintenance: The gearbox requires an oil change (60 ml of oil) every 10,000 kilometres or every 12 months – whichever comes first. The belt drive requires a light spray of silicone every few weeks, and when it's dirty you can simply hose off the dirt and grit. There is also no derailleur to bend or break.

5. The silence: Replacing the traditional chain with a belt drive means no chain slap. This bike is unbelievably quiet even when riding through rough and rocky terrain.



Cons:

1. Down shifting: Shifting to an easier gear requires you to have no pressure going through the cranks. This means you either have to briefly pause pedalling or keep turning your legs but have no pressure going through the gearbox. This is not a big deal as you get used to how the gearbox changes gears pretty quickly, AND you are able to keep the power down when shifting to a harder gear.
2. Weight: The addition of the gearbox does add some weight. However, this weight is placed low, between your feet, and having less weight on the rear wheel actually improves the bike's suspension performance.
3. Price: Gearbox driven bikes are still in their infancy and are not cheap to buy, however they are cheap to maintain.
4. Lack of frame sizes. Currently Zerode only make the Katipo in large (475mm reach) and extra-large (505mm reach) frame sizes. Zerode make a 27.5 inch wheel version and mixed wheel version (called the Taniwha and Taniwha Mulet) in three frame sizes (M, L, and XL).
5. No local dealer: Currently you can only get these bikes sent out from New Zealand.

Some essential specs:

- Wheel size: 29 inch
- Rear travel: 160mm
- Fork travel: 170mm
- Head angle: 63.5 degrees
- Drivetrain: Pinion C-line 12 speed gearbox with Gates belt drive
- Frame: Carbon fibre with internal routing, size XL (505mm reach)
- Rear hub: 142mm single speed



So, is it worth it? I think so. I am in love with this bike. In my opinion, the pros far outweigh the cons. It's not for everyone, but I think gearbox driven bikes will become a lot more prevalent in the not-too-distant future.

New Trails in Derby

While Derby hasn't had any new trails built since 2019, it is expected that World Trail (who are one of the largest and most experienced MTB trail companies in the world) will be working on



everything from a new green flow trail, to having something ready for when the Enduro World Series (EWS) hopefully returns next year. The new airflow trail is to be named Hazy Days in honour of local identity, Jefferey Hayes, who sadly passed away in 2020. Hazy Days will start in the same spot as Air Ya Garn and run to its left, until the shuttle road crossing. In addition, a new blue hand-cut trail will start at Black Stump and run along upper Long Shadows and Upper Flickety Sticks. The council depot is also getting demolished and will re-emerge as a car park, and the shuttle pickups will be moved to the smaller lot directly at the trailhead.

(Information in this article has been accessed from flowmountainbike.com)

Rider Tops

We are currently undertaking planning for a Club riding top and an Iron Tor t-shirt. We've had several logos professionally designed and we hope to soon have tops and t-shirts available for sale via our website.



Tasmanian Masters Games

Polish your bike, lube your chain and start training as the CCMBC have signed a Memorandum of



Understanding with the Tasmanian Masters Games to run event(s) at the upcoming games, 20 – 23 October 2022. We've formed an organizing committee and while it's early days, we hope to run both a Cross Country and Gravity Enduro event at two venues on the NW Coast. There will be age divisions and

to be eligible for Masters events, participants need to be 30 years or older. The Australian Masters Games were held on the NW Coast in 2017 and were a huge success.

CCMBC Office Bearers

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

Feedback and Contact

Please email the club with any feedback at 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.ccmbc.com.au/> , here you can find lots of information covering trails, contacts, events, donations, membership, newsletters etc.