

# May 2025 NEWSLETTER



## A President's Perspective:

Chris Fletcher

The rains have started and we're rejoicing, unlike the unfortunates up north. Our hearts go out to them, their loss and devastation. Unlike northern Queensland (where I spent a week recently) the vegetation here looks pretty much the same year-round. We are fortunate to



experience seasons and with them a change in growth patterns and the look and feel of our bushland. It also heralds new challenges for our "trail fairies". Trail edge vegetation often gets a kick along with the rain and sags inward. The trails themselves come under erosion pressure. For the casual visitor rider, it appears that these are just well-built trails that offer year-round access. To the regulars, we know that these

trails are being constantly groomed and lovingly maintained. The trail fairies, always responding to an 'official' call-to-arms from a Club official, are just as likely to go to a carefully concealed rake and put in an hour of voluntary trail grooming.

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." Dr. Seuss

Last week I attended with two other committee members, Chris Stredwick and Craig Kerr, the Central Coast Council's Volunteer Week event. The evening was a celebration of the importance of volunteer work.....the stuff that makes our community work as well as it does. Guest speakers stressed the importance of volunteering and statistics from an increasing body of research on volunteering.

Rates of volunteering have been gradually declining from around one-third of adults in 2002 to around one-quarter in 2022. Nationally, a 38% decrease since 2014! Mel Blake, the CEO of Volunteering Tasmania, shared that a Tasmanian Volunteering Strategy was in process after a period of state-wide consultation. The 2023 'State of Volunteering Report' found that 332,100 Tasmanians (70 %) gave their time to volunteer activities during 2023; the average hours volunteered per volunteer was 22.4 hours per month; Tasmanians volunteered an impressive 89.4 million hours of their time in 2023; and 54.2 % of community members attribute the wellbeing of their community to volunteers.





The Club looks forward to aligning with the directions of the Strategy that will help our Club attract and hold volunteers. Volunteer roles with the Club are numerous from Committee (Club governance) contributions to event management, and of course the trail maintenance gang. Check out our website and/or Facebook page to see what's planned next. There are always works in the pipeline helping to keep Penguin on the Tassie MTB destination map.

Enjoy the bumps....

## Celebrating 10 Years of Blue Derby

Craig Kerr

From 10<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> April the Blue Derby Foundation, in conjunction with Dorset Council, marked the 10-year anniversary of the Blue Derby Mountain Bike trails. The celebration involved those who were key in Derby's creation as well as those who are now prominent in its future.

The anniversary celebrations included the official opening of a new trail, which was funded by the Shimano Trail Born initiative and constructed by World Trail. The Blue Derby Foundation organised an event village, festivities, a black-tie dinner, live music, guided rides and for MTB legend Sam Hill to be in attendance.



Thank you to Taylor Clyne Smith of Blue Derby Foundation for the following article and photos.



What a summer it has been in Derby, a bumper one according to Tourism Tasmania. Rounded out with our 10-year Anniversary event which saw the town come to life with 35 individual events across four days from April 10-13. From good old billycart racing bringing the street

to life, to our inaugural Music Festival, a revival of the Derby River Duck Race, Enduro JAM events and so much more, the vibes across the community were contagious.



Statistically we welcomed just over 3,500 people to our patch that weekend, 15 percent of those interstate travellers and a further 10 percent international travellers. Accommodation occupancy was full with all 76 of Derby's short term accommodation providers booked out and sleeping around 400 people directly in our 1km stretch. Both riverside camping sites were buzzing with families and

local businesses recorded some of their best days on the books.

There were lots of learnings for our team, but we are pleased to have the framework in place now to streamline the process for the future.

## Relay Ride for Life 2025

Adrian Beard

A small but mighty crew pulled together to pump out 24 hrs of non-stop laps around a 0.8km circuit at the Cradle Coast Mountain Bike Club in support of the Relay for Life over the weekend of March 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup>. Starting at lunchtime on Saturday the crew managed to ride just over 300 km during the allocated time. A big shout out to Joseph (and family), Brendan, Hayley, Craig and Adrian (apologies if I've forgotten anyone) for keeping the wheels rolling throughout the day and into the wee dark hours. Thanks to all our generous sponsors we were able to raise \$588.84 for the Cancer Council which helps support cancer patients, fund research and prevention and education programs. Please keep the weekend of May 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> next year free to do it all again. The more the merrier!



## CCMBC Skills Clinics

Chris Stredwick



It's been a busy start to the year regarding skills clinics. We have provided a total of 4 skills clinics, with 2 adult sessions, a kid's day and a women's specific clinic. Our lead coach Harvey Lee, who has previously been a coach for Rideo, is now holding coaching clinics on his own. Harvey is also an accomplished rider having previously raced the Enduro World Series in Australia and Europe and has been the Tas Enduro Series

leader the past few years.

The Club subsidised these first clinics to help make them more affordable, especially for the juniors. The skills sessions focused on teaching correct body position with a focus on the "attack position" as well as braking and cornering skills. The sessions were well attended, and we will look at holding more after winter.



## Tas Gravity Enduro Series

Doug Miller

The 2024/25 season of the Tas Gravity Enduro Series is in the books, and what a time it has been. More racing than ever, incredible growth in the sport and of the most wonderful family and community atmosphere, which has made it one of our favourites to date.

The final round in Derby once again brought together our biggest field for the year. We returned to a Saturday race and made the most of the weekend with LOT 40 turning on an incredible party with live music, delectable food and no shortage of drinks to choose from.



On Sunday, we opened up the St Luke's Challenge and got a huge turn out with racers who usually only ride in the main even joining in the fun. The format even allowed for a volunteer category so that the hard-working volly team could get amongst the race action too.

The 2024/25 Enduro Rounds were:

WR - October 5/6<sup>th</sup> - Derby (Women's Only Round)

R1 - November 16/17<sup>th</sup> - Tippogoree Hills, George Town

R2 - January 18/19<sup>th</sup> - Queenstown

R3 - March 1/2<sup>nd</sup> - Hobart (State Enduro Championships)

R4- March 22/23<sup>rd</sup> - Maydena Bike Park

R5 - May 3/4<sup>th</sup> - Blue Derby



Local winning legends  
Jake, Emma. Martin and  
Chris



In total we had 975 race entries across the season, with a heap more at other events that we've been involved in, including Enduro Jam, The Clover Hill Classic, State Downhill Champs and The Devils Cardigan. Our social media presence has grown steadily throughout the season, as has our YouTube channel. As we move toward the next season, we are looking at ways to continue this growth to get more exposure for the brand.

Thanks again for everyone's amazing support for the 2024/2025 season. We couldn't do it without you and your continued backing of our series means so much to us and to our racers. We've already got some amazing plans for 2025/2026 with some more events in the pipes, some fresh ideas and lots and lots of fun. Stay tuned!

## Toilet Block and Carpark

Craig Kerr

While progress has been a little slower than we would have liked, it's great news that the long-awaited Montgomery Carpark toilet block is nearly complete, and work on the carpark should commence soon, along with boot and bike washes. There are also plans for a pathway from Sports Complex Road to the Montgomery Carpark in the Ironcliffe Road improvement works, and work on this project is currently underway. We thank the Central Coast Council for facilitating these improvements.



## Hey Buddy

Craig Kerr



A big shout out to Hey Buddy for raising \$250 for the Club in their coffee bean guessing contest and in addition providing a generous prize for the 2 winners. Fundraising for the Club goes a long way towards assisting us to maintain the Penguin MTB Park and to run things such as our recent subsidised skills clinics. Please support the businesses that support our Club. You can find Hey Buddy at 35 Queen Street in West Ulverstone.

## Citizen of the Year - Chris Fletcher

Craig Kerr

The CCMBC would like to congratulate Chris for winning this award and thanks the Central Coast Council for sharing the following descriptor with us.

Chris Fletcher was recently awarded the 2025 Australia Day Citizen of the Year for the Central Coast, recognising his leadership and achievements in promoting health and wellbeing through active living and community engagement. A resident of the Central Coast for over 35 years, Chris is well-known as an educator and for his involvement in mountain biking, yachting, and various community leadership roles, particular in the health and wellbeing space.



As Commodore of the Leven Yacht Club and Secretary/President of the Cradle Coast Mountain Bike Club, Chris has led innovative initiatives, becoming a role model to all ages. His work with the Penguin Mountain Bike Precinct helped put mountain biking on the tourist map. He's also volunteered countless hours mentoring school leavers and bringing initiatives like Try Skills, Cruisin' the Coast Trio Bike, and Live at the Wharf to encourage active lifestyles and improve community health.



Currently, Chris fosters networking and communication across local groups through his involvement with the Central Connect Leadership Roundtable. He recently championed the Cruisin' the Coast Trio Bike, training pilots to help those unable to ride bikes stay active and connected to the community.

A quiet achiever, Chris prefers to lead without fanfare and when the time is right, he provides mentorship to then step aside to allow others to lead. Chris, supported by his family and close friends, mentioned his gratitude to the great people and places of the Central Coast that make it possible to live here and thrive.

## Devils Cardigan

In the fifth year of the Devils Cardigan, the event joined the UCI qualifying round and ran a month earlier than usual to suit the global gravel bike series calendar, on May 10. A total of 368 gravel minions took up the challenge, numbers were down around 100 entrants on the previous year, likely due to the date change but stoke was through the roof!

The Cardigan is known for being a hard race up big hills, a real personal challenge for competitors through the beautiful North-East countryside. The Men's Elite winner was Brendan Johnston and Women's Elite was Talia Appleton. The event is locked into the global qualifying series for the next two years with potential to extend. The 2026 UCI Gravel World Championships and G7 Festival of Gravel will be held in the Southwest of Western Australia from October 3<sup>rd</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>.

## Blue Derby Foundation



## Penguin MTB Park Working Bee and Trails Report

Chris Stredwick



In April we had a working bee to mainly give the Little Devils Terrain Park a good clean up. The area is super popular, especially with little kids, and it was getting a bit overgrown and needed a good go over with saws and brush cutter. The results speak for themselves, and it should be fine and safe to ride for the rest of the year. A big thank you to Craig, Ron, Stephen, Chris, Noel and Rick for their time and efforts as many hands make light work.

All the Penguin and Dial trails are riding great, albeit quite dry. Thanks again to our volunteers that regularly rake and prune the trails to keep them clear and rolling sweet. Furthermore, the Iron Tor climb has just had a blow down to clear all the leaf litter from the trail surface and drains, to keep it as dry as possible when the winter rains do finally arrive.

## Montgomery Trailhead Structure

Chris Stredwick

Today (31<sup>st</sup> May) was a momentous day when we finally got to install the Montgomery trailhead structure at the start of the Montgomery Loop MTB trail, and Myrtle Creek walking track. Later this week Parks and Wildlife will install an interpretation panel with a trail map of both MTB and walking trails. The structure was paid for by the Cradle Coast MTB Club, with the design and metalwork done by Chris Stredwick and the timber work by Shem Dutson.





## Penguin MTB Park Developments

Chris Fletcher

The Club is in the process of rolling out a detailed Penguin Mountain Bike Park staged design and costing plan. We have commenced conversations with Next Level Mountain Bike to follow up on the Club's Landscape Master Plan completed in 2023. This Master Plan for the Park provided broad recommendations on a new layout for the Park and made recommendations on a staged implementation. We are determined to be well positioned for any future funding opportunity by having a detailed and costed plan for our Park upgrades.



## Club Sponsorship

Craig Kerr

The Club is embarking on the fourth year of its sponsorship program and invitation letters have been forwarded to each of our existing sponsors. Many thanks go to the following businesses for their much-appreciated support in providing mountain biking opportunities for you and we in turn encourage you to support them:



- Lane's IGA Penguin (Gold)
- Core Exploration (Gold)
- Next Level Mountain Bike (Gold)
- TasNetworks (Gold)
- Ulverstone Cycles (Gold)
- Penguin Beer Co (Silver)
- Patrick St Clinic (Bronze)
- Hey Buddy

Please get in touch with Secretary, Craig Kerr ([craigkerr210@gmail.com](mailto:craigkerr210@gmail.com)) or President, Chris Fletcher ([cfletche@iinet.net.au](mailto:cfletche@iinet.net.au)) if you are interested in supporting us and we will forward you sponsorship details.

## Trail Running Events

Chris Stredwick

There are two planned trail running events that will be held on the MTB trails later this year. PCCCT are hosting a run that will start in Dial Park and go up into the MTB Park trails between 9:30 am and 11:00 am on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August. The Northwest Trail Running Series (NWTRS) are also holding a trail running event on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August, starting and finishing at the Gnomon Farm and they will use the Ironcliffe



**Michael & Zac**  
Event Directors

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Ridge trail and the Iron Tor descent/Monty Loop trails. This race will be run quite late, and it will be at least 6 pm before runners are on the trails, so it shouldn't affect most riders. The trails affected will be closed for bikes during both the PCCCT and NWTRS events while the runners are on the trails.

## CCMBC Office Bearers

<b>President</b>	Chris Fletcher
<b>Vice President</b>	Chris Stredwick
<b>Treasurer</b>	Emma Lee
<b>Secretary and Newsletter Editor</b>	Craig Kerr

## 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 free and 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, photos, merchandise, newsletters etc.