

May 2022

NEWSLETTER



A President's Perspective:

Chris Fletcher

Hi all, and I hope you're enjoying your late autumn riding.

Despite the cooling weather, I've never known a time when the Club has so much going on. The Club's core function is providing better mountain biking experiences for locals and mountain bike tourists. At a time when other mountain bike hubs are being developed around the State or are already going gangbusters, Penguin mountain biking has been flying under the radar. The 'Park' and the Dial Range Trail network have evolved over the last ten years



through a ground up development approach. Without the Club's determination to develop what currently attracts as many as 30,000 rider visitations a year, there would be nothing but a few fire trails in the Dial available for mountain bikers. I flagged in the last issue that the Club had begun a sponsorship drive, with the money raised to go directly into developing the Park into an even better destination particularly for family groups.

I am proud to report that we have been received very encouraging commitments of support from local businesses all keen to support the Club's agenda of continued development of the Park and riding activity in general. If they're not experiencing it yet, these businesses clearly see the economic benefit ahead that mountain biking has demonstrated to bring to small communities. In the next issue we'll be introducing our sponsors and I urge you all to support them as they are supporting us.

Plans for several large events later this year continues. The Tassie Masters event in October will showcase both Wild Mersey and the Penguin trail networks. Committee Chair, Craig Kerr, reports plans are well advanced. November 18 to 20 will see the Quad Crown Series come to the North West Coast and again the Dial Range will be used by the best XC riders in the country. While not a Club conducted event, the pressure will be on to have the Iron Tor and Monty Loops in tip top condition for these elite riders.



And behind the scenes.....the trail maintenance gangs chip away at the 21 km of purpose built trails to ensure they remain safe to ride. Thanks to our awesome volunteer track gang. Without your generosity the trails would gradually deteriorate, and accidents would become more frequent. Get in touch if you can donate some time. No previous skill required.



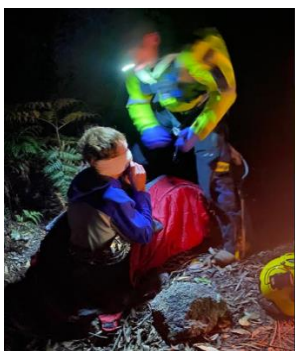
As this issue goes to print, work has commenced on the boggy last 300m of the Montgomery Loop. Elevating this notoriously boggy section and constructing better drainage will ensure it rides better through the wetter months. Huge thanks go out to local company Next Level Mountain Bike for the generous contribution made that has enabled this renovation to occur.

Up here in Katherine NT, it's as hot as hell and not really conducive to mountain biking. The trails are 'adventure style' with little elevation to work with, lots of rock and dust. Still, you work with what you've got all the time reflecting on our lush trails on the coast and that friendlier temperature. Enjoy the bumps..... Fletch

Because That's What Mountain Bikers Do!

Emma Lee

What do you do when a fellow shredder calls you just before dark to say he's had a stack up the top of the Iron Tor and emergency services have told him not to move? He's up there with 2 non-local riders and they're all freezing, waiting on a chopper to come to the rescue. Well, of course, Jake and I grabbed the head torches, bandages, a couple of sleeping bags and packed our back packs with jackets, gloves, beanies and Allen's Party Mix, and started the hard trek UP the Iron Tor trail in the dark! FYI, it actually looks really gnarly when you're walking up it. I'm quite impressed that I can actually ride down it!!



Nearly a one hour hike up and we're met with 3 guys all huddled together trying to keep each other warm, one of them covered in blood and looking a little worse for wear! Lucky it's dark because I'm not the best when it comes to the sight of blood. It was such a relief though to finally get there and give them clothes and sleeping bags to get warm. Long story short, the chopper came and took the injured rider and the four of us trekked back down the mountain and all ended safely.

It was a tough walk, especially when we had already ridden the Tor earlier in the day and we're not getting any younger! But that's just what we do, right? That's what the mountain

biking community do for each other. We had so many helpers when Jake broke his femur in 2020 and it's this type of comradery that makes us love the sport and the passion of the people that ride. Ride safely everyone and I hope you're healing well, Reuben.

Meeting with the Central Coast Council (CCC)



Recently the Club was provided an opportunity to present a workshop to the CCC. The Club was represented by Chris Fletcher and Craig Kerr, and with Marcelo Cardona present via Zoom. Overall, we thought that the presentation went well and that it was well received. We talked to the Council about the Club's existing trails, at the council-owned Penguin MTB Park, and our trails in the Dial Reserve. We provided details of the maintenance of our trails and our need for Council support if we are to upgrade our trails and to improve our basic facilities, and if we are to extend the Dial Range trail network. We also presented information on the MTB scene in Tasmania. This covered the many mountain biking venues available to us, most of which are council initiated, and the economic impact of these developments to their communities.

We would like to thank the CCC for the opportunity to make the presentation and we hope to develop a collaborative approach to the improvement of mountain biking facilities in the Central Coast region.

Tasmanian Masters Update

Ok folks, put these dates in your diary! They're going to be big!! The CCMBC is pleased to announce that we will be running 2 mountain bike events this October in conjunction with the Tasmanian Masters Games.



- A XC event at the Penguin Mountain Bike Park on Friday 21st October, and
- An Enduro event at Railton riding Wild Mersey trails on Sunday 23rd October.

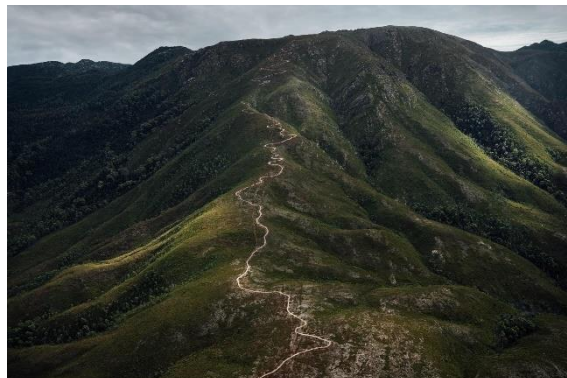
So, start training as both events will be a great lead-in to the 2022/23 riding season. Masters events are restricted to participants over 30 years of age and age groups will be 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69 and 70+. There will be female and male categories as well as an open Masters e-bike category. More details will be available soon and registration will be through the Tasmanian Masters Games website. All riders will need to be licensed with AusCycling. However, short-term licensing is available.

Heemskirk Range MTB Trail

Ivan Markota

The Heemskirk Trail is the next instalment for the ever-growing network of trails on the West Coast. This trail will be an extension of the very popular Oonah Hill Trail but with more spicy descents and an epic climb to the top of Mt. Heemskirk.

Next Level Mountain Bike (NLMB) crews are midway through this backcountry single track. Once completed there will be a new climbing trail starting from the carpark off Heemskirk Road (bottom of Oonah Hill). You will climb up to the start of the Oonah Hill descent and this is where your first decision is to be made.



Do I hit the fun-filled, fast-paced (green) Oonah Hill, or do I continue on the new action packed Heemskirk Range trails? If you decided to go down Oonah Hill, you won't be disappointed. But if you decide to continue, you are in for an epic day.

You will be greeted with a nice short flowy descent to take you into your first climb. You'll climb/traverse up to a lookout, this is a junction and your second decision! Do I take a left turn and head down a backcountry (blue) trail to Piney Creek or go straight ahead and tackle a (black) backcountry descent to Piney Creek?



I can't comment just yet on the blue descent as this one is not built. But I can tell you that you'll be in for a 16 km ride back to the carpark where you started from.

If you decide to commit yourself to a 30 km ride, strap in and go with the flow.

You will be greeted with a steep technical, tight corner, brake pad wearing, Wedge Tail Eagle viewing hell of a ride. This will bring you down to Piney Creek. They call it a creek but in the middle of summer, it had more water flowing down it than some rivers on the North West Coast – welcome to the Wild West.

Once you cross the Piney, you will enjoy a very relaxing flat peddle across to the climb, this climb (yet to be built) will take you meandering UP to the summit of Mount Heemskirk. From here the views are Bloody Awesome. You'll get mountains galore, ocean, sand dunes and even a lighthouse.

Once rested, eaten whatever snacks you've got, the next lot of black descents start. You thought the one before had spice, lookout someone has opened the pantry and took out the

chilli. More tight corners, rock rolls and drops, sneaky jumps (if you dare hit them), all while your butt is so close to the back wheel due to the steepness. What a ride this is.

Then you will meet up with your mates who couldn't handle the altitude, from the blue descent. From here you'll climb, traverse along back to Oonah Hill, to break it up, you'll take pleasure in the relief with a few descents. Don't drop your guard as there are some spicy bits that will sneak up on you. Once you've climbed back up to the hydro pole at the start of Oonah descent, the rest you know. As we all have smashed that descent multiple times.



Rest assured, the NLMB flair has been splashed everywhere on this stacked loop network. If you do go and tackle the Heemskirk trails, pack plenty to drink and eat, please go with a friend or better still a group, you are going to a remote area. If you're one of those special people, the trails are very e-bike friendly, us hard core analogue riders, will wait for you.

You will need to pick the day, as there is little to no shelter, 90% of the trail goes through button grass plains, and the other 10% is traversing across the top of Mt. Heemskirk, leaving you open to wind and sideways West Coast rain.

Once officially opened, Zeehan will be another epic destination and will complete an awesome weekend of riding on the West Coast - Queenstown, Sterling Valley, Oonah Hill.

Dial Trails Update - Working Bee, Signs and Burn Off



Many thanks to those who attended the pre-winter Dial Reserve working bee on the 24th April. We mainly focused on cleaning out the turnpike ditches and this will assist in keeping our trails rideable for longer over the wetter months. Special thanks go to Ivan for coordinating the working bee and for working with Parks to facilitate the overall maintenance of our Dial trails.

At the end of the first Monty descent, where riders turn left towards Iron Tor and the Monty Loop (Extension), we will soon be erecting a permanent sign to let riders know in advance if either Iron Tor or the Monty Loop (Extension) are closed. If the Extension is closed, then riders will be directed right, down the fire road, towards the commencement of the second Monty descent.

Tas Fire recently managed a controlled burn in the vicinity of the Monty Loop. Unfortunately, some of the berms on the second descent of the Monty Loop were damaged and Next Level Mountain Bike (NLMB) have been contracted by Parks to undertake remedial work. When this

work is completed, NLMB have generously offered to undertake repairs (without charge to the Club) of later sections of the Monty Loop which were damaged last winter. The Club would like to thank Marcello and his team for their support.

Giant Tas Gravity Enduro Series – Season Wrap

Danny King

What a great season we had. In these COVID times it is not easy for events to progress, but we had a pretty good run with no major challenges that we could not deal with.



This year we included the State Champs for the first time. The venue was Maydena. . . The weather was challenging to say the least but a great time was had by all, and everyone came out alive. Congratulations Tom Booth and Logan Barnett, our inaugural state champions 🙌



The venue's used this season for the series were Georgetown, Queenstown, Wild Mersey (Railton) and the finale, as always, at Blue Derby.

Blue Derby was a sad end of an era. Brooke and Sean from the Dorset Hotel are moving on after a 5-year stint restoring the hotel to its former glory.

Season 21/22 Highlights:

- 2 new venues in Georgetown and Queenstown
- Continued growth of Challenge Events. Peaking at 60 riders at Wild Mersey
- Inclusion of a Heckle stage at Derby. And it WENT OFF!! 🤪
- Continued growth of the youth categories – At Derby, of 170 riders in the main event, 85 we aged under19. The under 17 category was 36 strong.

Moving forward, as COVID restrictions ease (hopefully), it will be interesting to see how the events evolve. With new venue's coming onboard each year, we will need to alternate venues instead of visiting the same venues each year. A great position to be in as the Tassie MTB scene continues to expand and develop.



Penguin MTB Park and Iron Tor T-Shirts

Chris Stredwick

If you happen to have been following our club social media lately you would have seen our new Penguin Mountain Bike Park and Iron Tor T-Shirts.



We have wanted to do some club-based shirts for quite some time. We decided to kick things off with a T-Shirt with a broad appeal, so a “destination” theme was decided on. The two most well-known destinations that the club has been involved in creating is the Penguin MTB Park and the now iconic, Iron Tor trail. Both are well known to hundreds of mountain bike riders from around the country and we thought a T-Shirt is a great takeaway to remember your experience.

First off, we needed a design. Gadget's Signs and Murals were recommended, and Damian didn't disappoint and came up with great logos for both locations. The logo for the Penguin Park was inspired by the “Return to Sender” curved wall ride in the free ride area. It's a landmark that is the biggest feature in the park and a challenge for all

riders to conquer. Iron Tor is a trail that continues to gain national recognition for the solid but picturesque climb but most of all the brilliant and thrilling descent, the creation of Next Level Mountain Bike trail crew. The inspiration for the Iron Tor logo is that there's a skull carved into an end of log with a chainsaw by one of the trail builders and placed in the hollow of a tree limb that overhangs a rocky outcrop which the trail passes by. This outcrop became known as Skull Rock.



So, we have two logos but how to get them onto a T-Shirt? This is where Trail Project comes into the picture. Nat and Saxon are the two legends behind Trail Project, an enterprise that sells mountain bike clothing and puts a percentage of sales back into the mountain bike community by giving clubs and mountain bike organisations funds to aid construction and maintenance of trails around the state. With their help we got our logos onto some great quality T-Shirts and to give them a broader audience, we used the Trail Project website to sell them. Bonus is that 75% of profits go back to the club and that helps with keeping the Park and surrounding trails maintained.



Keep an eye out for future branded clothing that's in the pipeline and you can get yourself a T-Shirt of your own piece of a Tassie MTB icon, at trailproject.com.au

Derby Move

Brooke McDonald

There aren't too many mountain bikers in Tasmania who haven't either stayed, had a meal or enjoyed a cold beverage at The Dorset Hotel. Many thanks to Brooke and Sean for being such great hosts the last 5 years and thank you to Brooke for this article.

Sean and I moved to Derby with two of our three boys in October 2017. Sean and our sons are all keen mountain bikers and Sean had been watching with interest what was happening in Derby for quite a while.



He thought property would be cheap here (believe it or not, once upon a time it was!) and was looking at houses for sale when he saw the pub for sale.

Myself being a school teacher and Sean being a coal miner with an electrical background, buying a pub was never in our life plan. It took Sean a lot of months to convince me that this was a good idea. And for quite a long time after we bought it and

moved in, I still had my doubts. Our family and friends thought we were nuts!

We had bought a very run-down pub with nothing but the bar operating – no accommodation and no meals. At first it seemed that everything was falling apart or breaking down. We had 3 customers at the bar each day drinking 8 ounce beers from the one bar tap that was available. (Mountain bikers weren't game to come in as the previous owners did not want them in the pub!) We were taking only \$60/day over the bar some days and haemorrhaging money trying to get the kitchen up and running. We discovered all sorts of problems - for example, there was no grease trap and the French drains needed replacing (\$12 K plus) and there was no 3-phase power connected to the kitchen (hello \$13K!)



Tradies were really hard to get as everyone was buying up houses and renovating them into Airbnbs. We had to wait 3 months before we could get the managers flat renovated and move out of a pub room where we were sharing the bathrooms with guests.

There was a lot of pressure on us to get food up and running as there was nowhere in town to have an evening meal at the time. The only restaurant in town, The Hub, (selling wood fired pizzas) had been closed for months as it was in the process of being sold.

In February 2018, one of our first mountain bike groups to stay, a group of 26 from WA, requested meals and we somehow managed to feed them a roast one night and burgers and chips the next with very limited operational kitchen equipment. We also learned that our hot water system wasn't up to more than 3 hot showers! We couldn't believe it - the group were so appreciative of somewhere to sleep, hot meals and cold showers! Such was our introduction to the great people that mountain biking tourists are.



Danny and Doug from Tas Gravity Enduro Series asked us to feed 100 plus the same month for their presentation night. We said yes, not even really sure that we could, as the kitchen still wasn't ready. Sean had to attach and detach the combi oven for several days leading up to the event (around building parts of the kitchen) so that our cook could do all the accompaniments to a spit roast that a local guy had offered to do for us outside in the beer garden. Somehow, we pulled it off and have done the event

every year now for 5 years.

Finally, after 6 months we got permanent evening meals up and running in May 2018, in time for Mother's Day and it has been ridiculously busy ever since. In peak season our chefs cook for between 70 and 100 people every night for 5 months straight.

When we first moved to Derby, there were only 80 kms of trails. Within a year, there were 120 kms and it has grown every year since. Initially our biggest demographic was 40-50 year-old males in large groups. Now we host many more women and families as World Trail has continued to expand and improve the trails for a much more varied demographic. Every year there are new buildings and new businesses and there is still so much growth to happen in Derby. Derby has now hosted two World Enduro Series and is yet to host another, postponed due to Covid.



We love that so many people we have met as staff or customers of the pub have become part of the renovation process. One of the first group of people camping behind the pub happened to be roofers (Skyline Roofing) and ended up re-roofing the pub when we finally had enough money to do so. Another mountain biker we met staying here, ended up being a Heritage Building plaster restoration specialist (Sublime Plastering) and helped restore the lathe and plaster upstairs in exchange for food, beer and accommodation. Other locals like Chiefy from

Branxholm ended up helping Sean and our boys demolish the managers flat ready for renovating and also did a lot of the painting here. Our kitchen hand at the time, Mandy, also ended up painting during winter when there wasn't as much work in the kitchen. One of our first big group of customers, The Thrillseekers, ended up developing a construction company down here (Café Constructions) and renovated the bathrooms. Lots of locals we met in the bar ended up being our plumbers, builders, painters and electricians.

Our customers have been not only mountain bikers but also locals and we have enjoyed being part of fund-raising nights like Loz's head shave for the Alopecia Foundation, sponsoring the local netball club, hosting dinners and presentation nights for local netball and football clubs and the Lions Club and getting an 8-ball competition going again at the pub after a hiatus of nearly 20 years!



Running a pub was a steep learning curve for this teacher and coal miner. We didn't realise that running a pub also meant –

- Being a general store – we have supplied everything from milk, sugar, toilet paper, wood, firelighters and matches to toothbrushes, whilst also loaning our own bike shoes, helmets, bikes and bike parts to customers
- Being nurses – providing betadine, dressings, bandages, splints, ice and first aid to mountain biking tourists and locals!
- Being a tourist information centre – we are so often asked where to shop, camp, hike, swim, see wildlife and for directions to get there
- Being the local lost and found base – anything from lost car keys to drivers licences to credit cards to bike bits and pieces to dogs and even children! We are also the place that all airport baggage, bikes, surfboards etc destined for Derby (that don't turn up on the same flight as passengers) are delivered to!
- Being general messengers – if anyone wants to relay a message to someone in the town, they ring the pub! We once had an Airbnb owner living in Victoria ring us to track down their wood supplier as the guests were out of wood!

We have enjoyed the support of local Tasmanian mountain bikers as well as mainlanders and overseas groups who return yearly. Derby also has visitors that come for reasons other than

mountain biking, such as the Floating Sauna (the first in Australia) and grey nomads travelling up the East Coast to the beautiful Bay of Fires and beyond. We have a huge variety of customers here -anything from bikies to Hen's Parties and Buck's parties to 100th birthday parties to local netballers to mountain bikers, bike packers, back packers, tradies and itinerant workers, food and alcohol reps etc...The best part about owning a pub in a tourist town is that you meet new people every day



We felt very lucky to be in Tasmania during Covid. It ended up being the best place to own a business in Australia, as being an island, we had very few cases. We did have to shut down for three and a half months but found the state government and the electricity and water companies really supportive in the grants offered and the waiving of some fees and bills during this time. Once we did reopen it was only in small

steps as we were without mainland traffic for six months. But we didn't have to keep shutting down like many other parts of Australia and we had fewer restrictions than other states (very little need for mask wearing for example) Tasmanians were so supportive during these times and filled us up every night that we opened.

We have met some great people in this job and will miss the locals, our amazing staff who have become like family to us, and our loyal returning customers. But we are looking forward to a break from renovating, not working 7 days a week and devoting more time to family. The pub has been bought by a very experienced operator who has the energy to take the pub to the next level and we wish him and his team all the very best. We look forward to watching the next stage of The Dorset from afar.



This Easter we were treated to more than just Easter eggs, we got five new trails!

With Trailscapes continuing with the huge 3rd stage of the Wild Mersey Trails project, a busy summer culminated in the completion of some well awaited pieces of choice single track. The new additions added the final link to be able to return from the Sheffield trails via the highest point of the Badgers Range and on towards Railton. Something that before had to be done via the Railton Rattler rail trail.

The new trails start at the existing Woodhooker/Gnarvana junction but now there is a new option called Sweet Caroline that takes you up the north facing ridge that Woodhooker previously went around. It's a pretty solid climb and there's a couple of options to cut it short at the top but if you choose to continue the climb you will get onto Harden Up, it is the final push up to the existing Sheffield trails and will bring you out onto Blue Tongue that was opened late last year. From there you only have to climb a bit further to reach the first new descent option, Funky Chicken. It's a trail with a bit of everything, with some chunk up top,



followed by a flowy section then some old school double track blast. The alternative to this trail is to continue up Blue Tongue until you reach a T junction, if you take the right, you are onto Syked Out. It is a single black trail with plenty of rock, drops, off camber, a tree jump and a chunky rock garden. It's no pedal free flow trail, expect to work to keep trail speed, choose your lines carefully and get ready for a short uphill pinch but there's a spectacular lookout halfway along to allow your heart to descend from your mouth and you pulse to return to double digits. Continuing on, there's still plenty to keep you on your toes before

you join the lower portion of Funky Chicken. Still continuing the descent, Funky Chicken joins the final Easter present, 7 Shreds. This trail is serious fun, it's wide with multiple line choices with sneaky rocks, little kickers, big boosters, another rock garden and massive rollers. At the end of it all you return back to where you started, at the Woodhooker/Gnarvana junction, where you can do it all again, head back in the direction of Railton via Gnarvana or around to the Sheffield side by choosing Woodhooker.



But wait there's more! There is still a double black option off Syked Out to be completed. Three descents are earmarked from Kimberley's Lookout and the soon to be finished suspension bridge at the Latrobe Warrawee trails and to top it all off, a 10km adventure loop around the northernmost ridge of the Badgers range. With so many options, your biggest challenge is now, what are you going to ride, and have you packed enough legs?

CCMBC Office Bearers

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.