

Land manager updates

Implementation of Greater Hobart Mountain Bike Master Plan

August 2012

Hobart City Council (HCC)

Immediate works

- **Knocklofty Reserve Summit Loop/Greencorp track.** Some re-routes and upgrades to occur later in the year.
- **lower Pipeline Track** between Ferntree and Waterworks to be multi-use. Simple project but has had some delays whilst heritage issues are being resolved.
- Planning works have progressed on **converting a number of tracks to multi-use in Wellington Park** including: **Lower Radfords** (i.e. short section from bottom of Radfords to Bracken Lane Fire Trail); **Middle Track** (section between Radfords and Reservoir Trail); and the unnamed track that runs behind houses from **Bracken Lane to Fern Tree Park**. The background work has been completed including a risk assessment and design details for the varying methods that will be employed on-ground to manage speed of bike riders on multi use tracks. A Wellington Park works permit is now being pursued.
- **Domain.** The full Joggers Loop will be opened to bikes. New signage is required for this. Yet to commence.
- **Huon Rd to Waterworks.** Existing trail from near HCC depot on Huon Road that runs down to the Waterworks Reserve will be opened to bikes. Work to provide for this connection has not commenced yet.

Planning works

- **Chalet Downhill Track.** HCC noted that planning of this trail is progressing and is a priority over the next 12 months. The track is proposed to run from the Chalet to Junction Cabin. Due to some heritage issues the plan is no longer to upgrade Hunters Track for mtb, but to instead investigate a new purpose built downhill trail from the Chalet to Junction Cabin (leaving Hunters Track as is for walkers). This is

seen as a good result as rather than trying to retro-fit an existing track to make good for MTB riders, it will instead focus on a track designed specifically for DH bikers.

- **Tip Top / Slides.** HCC noted this route/upgrade is also being planned as a priority, with a substantial need for re-routing and rebuilding required. Due to the presence of an endangered orchid that has previously been discovered nearby HCC is required to wait until February to undertake the vegetation survey (when the orchid is in flower and can be identified). Detailed route marking and planning work will then follow.
- **Track volunteer engagement process/register** is being established at HCC. This will set out a register for the coordination of volunteer resources for both designing and building tracks. This will follow a similar model as the Bushcare volunteer register. A new staff member has recently started at HCC in this area who will be setting this up.
- **Cascade Track closures.** HCC is aware of the recent track closures by Cascades, and is also aware of the strategic importance of some of these routes/connections. HCC is aiming to progressively pursue options for providing access to some of these linkages, or providing alternative connections, during the planning phases of related projects (e.g. the Chalet downhill track).

Kingborough Council (KC)

Immediate works

- **Kingborough Mountain Bike Park.** Stage 1 of the project is basically finished which includes Dirt Jumps and 3km of trails in 3 separate but connected loops. These trails include technical trail features including drop offs and wall ride. The Dirt jumps have been informally opened and have had quite a bit of use. The trails are still too wet to be finalised and opened but should be opened in spring. The Pump Track is half built and will be completed also in spring once the weather is drier. Riders are reminded to please stay off the trails until they are officially opened – they need a chance to be finalised and to set during dry weather – usage of the trails at the moment will result in track damage, water logging and further delays.

Planning works

- **Hobart to Dover Regional Trail.** Work is continuing between HCC and KC to achieve shared trails between Mt Nelson and Kingston across the ridge line. There is also early work being done to try and get linkages through from Ridgeway to Mt Nelson and also from Ridgeway through to the Regional Trail (ridge trails). This project includes land owner negotiations to extend the trail between the Kingborough Sports Centre and Margate which will link to Margate Rivulet trails and Nierinna Creek/Kaoota Tramway. These negotiations continue.

Clarence City Council (CCC)

Immediate works

- **Geilston Creek track** from De Bomfords lane through the East Derwent Highway was recently completed. This will connect the **Pilchers Hill circuit track** from De Bomfords Lane up to Pilchers Hill (beginners loop) that is planned to be undertaken later this year.
- **Rosny Hill loop** – connecting missing links of the circuit are planned to be undertaken in late spring.
- **Seven Mile Beach track upgrade** – Council will be taking on a license agreement for the section of this track which is Crown Land. The upgrade will then occur this financial year and will include an upgrade of the access point between the track and beach.
- **Tangara Trail.** As noted below, naming of tracks and signage is a priority and will commence this financial year.

Planning works

- **Tangara Trail.** CCC noted that the Tangara Trail Management Plan has been endorsed by Council.

The priority will now be the naming of tracks and signage as well as fencing off wider sections of the track to ensure there is a sufficient gateway for signage.

- **Mays beach to Cremorne** – this is a longer term priority as there is one block which is not Crown land and Council will need to secure this, which will take some time.

- The **Greater Hobart Mountain Bike Master Plan** was formally endorsed by CCC in August.

Glenorchy City Council (GCC)

Immediate works

- **North South Track upgrades** in the bike park area have been completed and are now open.
- **Care Taker Program – Glenorchy Mountain Bike Park.** Funding has been secured for the care taker program to run in 2012-13. It was noted that with the major capital works (and machinery based work) being recently completed at the park it is now well-positioned to set up a program for more general maintenance works with the riding community under the guidance of the care taker program.

Planning works

- Flora and fauna surveys have been completed for the proposed **alternative (moderate) downhill track at the bike park** with no issues arising. Heritage survey about to commence.
- Preliminary planning/proposal being developed for proposed **Big Bend –Knights Creek upgrades**

Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS)

Planning works

- PWS is developing a Mountain Bike Policy for PWS managed lands. Draft prepared but stalled due to resource issues.
- Local PWS staff are preparing Management Statements for two reserves (Sung Tiers Nature Recreation Area & Meehan Range Nature Recreation Area). The planning process has a recreational use focus and involves consideration of the GHMBMP regarding mountain bike opportunities. The statement when finalised will designate mountain bike trails and formalise their use.
- Clarence Mountain Bike Park Association through the Meehan Range Trail Care Group are entering into a Partnership Agreement with PWS regarding trail

maintenance within the Belbins Road section of Meehan Range NRA. Until the management statement is finalised it will be limited to specific existing trails only.

Wellington Park Management Trust (WPMT)

Planning works

- The Trust has released the Draft Wellington Park Management Plan for public review and comment. The draft Plan reaffirms the importance of recreation activities within the Park, and provides a Mountain Biking Overlay in the Glenorchy area to recognise mountain bike use of this area.
- The Trust is also facilitating a feasibility study into a multi-day recreational track from Hobart through to the Snowy Ranges. Mountain bikers are recognised as a key market for the track, and several riders have joined a reference group for the study.

Other Business

- **Greater Hobart Regional Trails Website** development is well advanced and is planned to have a November release. This is an external project being driven by the Derwent Estuary Program but with relevance to mtb. This is not an exhaustive list of all trails but rather a collection of approximately 60 trails (some walking, others multi-use and mtb) with a focus on the major, well-defined/ well-developed trails in the greater Hobart region.
- Brief discussion around the **West Wellington multi-day recreation trail** feasibility study that is being funded by the Australian Government (forest industry re-structure funding). The first meeting for the Working Group was held in early August. Has been confirmed that the study will be looking at options for a multi-use trail and not just walking.