

GCTA President's Report for the AGM 19th March 2007

The year 2006 was largely 'business as usual'. Book sales of Where to MTB in SEQ 2nd edition continue quite strongly with another 1000 copies sold. The GCTA bank account is healthy with \$16,500 in the bank. The 3rd edition is in the pipeline and I plan to print 4000 copies which will deplete the reserves by \$10,000. I applied for two grants; one for a Honda Power Carrier and the second for a trailer to transport it. Both grants were not successful in the first round, but were passed on to the second round.

Trail care is a significant force in the Daisy Hill region with Stonehenge and Wil's Run completed last year. Jurassic was redesigned at Bunyaville, as well as Carnage, showing best practice sustainable design. At Gap Creek, Gap Cycling Club transformed Bronwyns with huge rock berms, rock armouring, a timber bridge and timber North Shore exit. We finished Coaster and most of Rogers Circuit with volunteer labour and Chris contracted Roadie Rob to redesign Steps Track. Nick Byrne drew up a magnificent 14m bridge for Rogers and took off a week from work to build it. GCTA contributed \$1100 for the timber. Darren 'Cooch' Boman and Gillian assisted. The sum total of all this work has created a very popular circuit of about 6.3km in 'Roger's corner'.

Some media coverage during 2006 put MTB on the political agenda of BCC. Stateline filmed trail care on March 25, and eventually on Friday 2nd June aired 7 minutes about the need for DH tracks in Brisbane and trail care achievements at Mt Coot-tha. While the Stateline report was well balanced, BCC Councilors have politicized the issues and I believe will support whoever has the most votes for them. So in 2007-8 it's time to play their game. Let's encourage MTB riders to vote for BCC political candidates who support MTB access.

GCTA nominated Chris 'Oppy' Maierhofer for the Lord Mayor's Award which he proudly received with Roadie Rob looking on. The Lord Mayor subsequently called for a review of MTB research undertaken by BCC to date. This report is yet to see the light of day as green groups are campaigning against its contents even though the review has not even been released.

The Qld Outdoor Recreation Federation (QORF) initiated the QLD MTB Forum which has a high powered steering committee looking at MTB management issues throughout SEQ and beyond. Key people involved in MTB are on this committee. QORF now hosts MTB resources on their website.

During February, GCTA went live on the internet; www.gcta.asn.au has been born. Check out the PowerPoint presentations delivered by Gillian at various conferences over the last few years.

Very recently a proposal by GCTA for DH tracks near Caboolture has been delivered to QPWS and Forestry Plantations Qld (DPI gone private enterprise.) All indications point to two DH tracks being approved on FPQ land. This project will be handed to the Bushrangers MTB Club and to Jeremy Petersen and Tom Corbett to carry out.

Despite opposition we continue to ride, help look after our tracks and get just a little bit more success for MTB access.

Congratulations on being part for these achievements and thank you.

Gillian Duncan
President – Gap Creek Trails Alliance