

## **19<sup>th</sup> May 2003 Meeting to Discuss draft BCC Mt Coot-tha Track Plan**

### **History**

Easter 2001, two years ago Ranger Kelli Messer talked to me in the forest. I became aware that ecological management of Mt Coot-tha Forest was important to the rangers. I also learnt that all MTBing on BCC reserves was illegal under the Local Laws. To make MTBing legal on designated tracks has been my mission ever since that day.

### **Previous reports**

Strategic Leisure produced a MTB Strategy in Aug 1997 – never implemented. Volume two assesses Gap Creek Reserve as a competition venue.

Using this information about who we were, when we ride, what we prefer, trail design, code of conduct, and also IMBA Trail Care Crew and lobbying ideas I wrote a submission to BCC in June 2001.

The Yarra Bend Park in Melbourne released a Trail Strategy and this had an influence on Michael Griffin who knew the area. This Yarra Bend Strategy recognized the importance of dirt tracks to MTBers and designated some of these narrow tracks for official MTB use.

Michael released the draft Management Plan for Mt Coot-tha in Dec 2001. We had two months to reply.

### **MP Extracts :**

Identify ecological and recreation values of Mt Coot-tha Forest and through proper stewardship, ensure these values are preserved and enhanced. Recognised the significant history of MTB use of Gap Creek Reserve.

Tony Scott (MTBA), Ray Pope, Alistair Byrom, Andrew Castleden, Brooke Fraser, John Harvey and I responded to the draft Plan. We have been involved in discussions with BCC since.

### **August 2002 Workshop Agreed objectives**

1. To identify and provide opportunities for MTBers to pursue this activity without compromising the Forest's natural values and visitor safety.
2. Clearly delineate areas where MTB riding is and is not permitted.
3. Through consultation develop a Code of Conduct.
4. Develop a mechanism for track maintenance.
5. Work towards finding venues and linkages between venues.
6. Set up a small working group to review the track network.

John Harvey, Alistair, Andrew, Ray, Rangers John and Kelli, planners Michael, Stacey and Janine.

### **Three on site visits by small working group looked at**

Roger's Circuit and track beside No. 9  
Deano's and Hot and Spicy  
Vietnam, Bronwyn's and Mega Awesome area.

### **Criteria for track selection and rationalization – not all tracks are on the map**

IMBA Building Better Trails eg average gradient ~10%  
Sustainable – can be fixed, is worth fixing.  
Forms a circuit.  
Walkers and MTBers kept separate.  
Protection of rare and endangered species.

### **Track Plan fairness**

14km MTB only

14km walkers only  
26km shared including horses

**Track Errors and Omissions**

Boscombe single track  
Roger's harder side of the circuit.  
Exits/entries to water hole

**Issues**

Payne Rd access at Moggill Rd and at Paten Rd  
Hot and Spicy and Original  
Jesus Track – Chapel Hill area