

## **SURFCOAST TRAIL GROUP NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2014**



Welcome to the second newsletter of the Surf Coast Trail Group and welcome to those who have joined us since our first newsletter. If you missed that, it would be worth reading for the background to the group so that the updates make sense. Simply follow the link at the end of this newsletter.

### **Surf Coast Trail Group Update**

We recently met with Geelong Mountain Bike Club (GMBC) to discuss a formal arrangement with them whereby we operate as a sub committee of the club. Most of our committee are already GMBC members. This would have several advantages; we'd be covered by the club's insurance whilst undertaking any trail work, we could apply for funding grants as we'd be an incorporated group and we could draw on the wealth of knowledge and experience that GMBC has in regard to negotiating with land managers, most notably with Parks Victoria. We hope that this arrangement can be finalised early in the new year.

### **Parks Victoria Trail Audit Update**

We are still awaiting the outcome of this audit that will make recommendations in regard to what the trail network at Eumeralla may look like in the future. The report will hopefully be available early in the new year but it's hard to get a definitive time line on this. We hope this will be a positive outcome for trail users and that it will allow us to begin trail work in conjunction with Parks, to make the network more sustainable, safer and more enjoyable for all users.

### **Scout Camp Trail Update**

Many of you are aware that a large section of the local trail network passes through the Eumeralla Scout Camp which is not under the jurisdiction of Parks Victoria. In recent months we had discussions with the camp managers which resulted in our group undertaking some redirection and waterproofing of some trails. This work met with a positive response from riders and scout camp managers.

We recently submitted a formal proposal to camp management with a view to doing more work in the camp. The focus of this work will be to redirect riders from areas of the camp most frequented by scouts and school groups and also to turn boggy areas into more sustainable trails. We are currently awaiting a reply.

### **International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) Workshop**

Five members of the trail group along with over twenty MTB enthusiasts from all over the state recently attended an IMBA trail building workshop held in Anglesea and at the You Yangs. Covering both theory and practice, we built berms and rollers, put in some corrals and even built a small rock garden from scratch. It was amazing how much could be achieved in a short time with forward planning, some learned skills and plenty of hands on deck.

A real eye opener on the course were the many discussions that were had around legality of trails, strategic planning (or lack of it) at a government level and liability for clubs and land managers around trail use. It appears riders really need to become a united voice if we are to have a positive influence on decision makers in regard to building of venues to enjoy our sport.

A big thank you for this event goes to the Geelong Mountain Bike Club, Parks Victoria and IMBA.

### **Do you ride alone?**



“Lone Worker Lite” app by South East Water Corporation– this free app could save your life. Once started, it monitors your movement. If there is no significant movement within a set time you determine (eg 10 mins), it sends an SMS to up to 3 of your contacts alerting them to your inactivity and gives your GPS co-ordinates. A warning alarm sounds prior to sending allowing you time to click ok and cancel it if you are ok.

### **Profile of the Surfcoast Trail Group Committee – Brett Coleman**



I’m new to the mountain biking scene having been a distance runner for over 20 yrs. A near death experience on my 12 year old mountain bike whilst cross training in Anglesea in late January 2013, actually led me to take up the sport. I was electrocuted by a fallen live power line and spent a month in the Alfred Hospital Burns Unit. Once out I could ride, but I couldn’t run. I bought a new mountain bike and was immediately hooked! I felt my recovery was complete when I managed to conquer the recent Anglesea Surfcoast 100km event that had us ride through the site of my electrocution 5 times!

I love the Anglesea trail network, both for riding and running and when I heard about this group, its background and its aims, I was keen to be involved. I’m better behind the scenes answering emails and helping to write newsletters than I am behind a shovel – thus my nomination by the group to be the first to submit my profile!

I’m asked about the story of my electrocution frequently. For those interested, the first part can be found [HERE](#).

## **What you can do to help keep our trail network open?**

Please help us to extend our voice!

- Like our [Facebook Page](#).
- Get friends to sign up to our monthly email update database [here](#).
- Forward this newsletter to interested friends.

## **Next Issue**

We expect the next issue will be out in February.

We'll aim to include:

- Further updates with regards to the structure of the group and any further word from Parks Vic & the Eumeralla Scout Camp.
- Another profile or two of some of our committee members.

If you have any enquiries please email us.

We would love to hear from you so please shoot through any feedback or questions to [surfcoasttrailgroup@gmail.com](mailto:surfcoasttrailgroup@gmail.com) and we'll get back to you as soon as possible.

Enjoy the summer, stay safe and we'll see you on the trails

Surfcoast Trail Group

## **Newsletter Archive**

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