

## LAND MANAGERS UPDATES

### IMPLEMENTATION OF GREATER HOBART MOUNTAIN BIKE MASTER PLAN

SEPTEMBER 2013

Hobart City Council (HCC)

#### *Immediate works*

- **Knocklofty Reserve Summit Loop** – works will be complete by the end of the month.
- **Huon Rd to Waterworks** – implementing a few slow down points and signage. Will undertake works after completion of Knocklofty Summit Loop.
- **Radfords Track** – HCC will shortly be submitting the second permit application to WPMT to undertake works which will tighten up some sections and help passively manage straight-line speed on this trail as well as works to improve drainage. HCC are hoping to start work in December 2013 (after Mark Webber Challenge is completed, which is utilising the track).

#### *Planning works*

- **Tip Top Track** – Route planning and vegetation survey has been completed. Lower half requires significant construction and a DA. Upper half is mostly upgrades and can be pursued in the nearer term with support from volunteers, however no budget is yet to be secured for costs associated with gravel, stone and supervision.
- **Strickland Falls link** – pending budget outcomes for 2014-15 and a Work Permit from the WPMT, HCC is hoping to pursue the missing link between Rivulet Track to Middle Island Fire Trail.
- **Chalet Downhill Track**. Planning works are currently on hold whilst a number of heritage challenges are clarified with the WPMT. HCC are cautious in wanting to have these matters clarified before continuing to invest, in case any of them are show-stoppers to the trail proceeding.
- **Middle Track (Radfords Track to Reservoir Trail)** - pending budget outcomes for 2014-15 and a Work Permit from the WPMT, HCC is hoping to undertake works which will tighten up some sections and help passively manage straight-line speed on this trail as well as works to improve drainage.
- **Fern Tree Park to Pillinger Drive** - pending budget outcomes for 2014-15 and a Work Permit from the WPMT, HCC is hoping to undertake works which will tighten up some sections and help passively manage straight-line speed on this trail as well as works to improve drainage.

- **S56** - pending budget outcomes for 2014-15, HCC is hoping to undertake work to repair and formalise this track.

#### Kingborough Council (KC)

- Council was not able to secure Council funding in the next capital works budget for further stage 2 works at the **Mountain Bike Park**. There have been minor signage changes at the park including the installation of a 'main' park sign which identifies all of the features , their difficulty, length etc
- Council was unsuccessful in a recent application for funding for the Regional Trail (**D'entrecasteaux Trail** – Hobart to Dover) through the Forestry Industry agreement.
- Council has (with the help of Great Rides Funding) had a market demand and social economic impact assessment completed by TRC Tourism for the Regional Trail (**D'entrecasteaux Trail** – Hobart to Dover).

#### Clarence City Council (CCC)

##### *Immediate works*

- **Tangara Trail**. Focus is on continuing the signage works for the Tangara Trail. Signage in the Acton section of the trail is almost complete and feedback has been positive. Mortimer Bay car park has recently been upgraded.
- **Meehan Range** – a Management Statement is currently being undertaken by PWS to formalise mountain bike usage in the Meehan. Currently MTB riding is not technically a "permitted activity" in the reserve, even though it has been informally allowed. The management statement will incorporate all recreational uses of the Meehan Range.
- **Clarence MTB Park** – council is in the process of gaining a license to take over management of the park from PWS.

##### *Planning works*

- **Tangara Trail**. Investigating the possibility of extending the southern end of the Mortimer Bay track.
- **Meehan Range** – preliminary investigations into planning a long distance cross country route that links the reserves.

## Glenorchy City Council (GCC)

### *Immediate works*

- **Glenorchy MTB Park – maps and signage**– in the process of developing a detailed trail map and signage plan for the park. The maps will be undertaken by a consultant and be isometric to show terrain etc. (in the style of a 3D ski-map). This will incorporate the promotion of three suggested riding loops – beginner, intermediate and challenger. This work will be undertaken over the next 2 months. The maps will also be available electronically.
- **GMBP – entrance**. Also investigating options to improve the entrance to the bike park and Wellington Park at Tolosa. The Tolosa Park Master Plan under development may recommend alterations.
- **GMBP – reference group**. GCC is looking to establish a broad reference group to provide input, feedback and support to the management of the park. Interested people can leave their details with Hannah - [HSadler@gcc.tas.gov.au](mailto:HSadler@gcc.tas.gov.au)

## Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS)

### *Immediate works*

- **Meehan Range** – see Clarence Council section for update on Management Statement for Meehan Range Nature Recreation Area; and planning works for extended cross country route.

## Wellington Park Management Trust (WPMT)

- **Ongoing monitoring of shared use and walking tracks** – Wellington Park Ranger indicated no unauthorised mountain bike access infringements over this period. However did note evidence of tree removal at the entrance to Lower Radfords (Bracken Lane link), which appears to have been done to detour the steps.

### *Planning works*

- **West Wellington Multi Day Track** – TRC Tourism has submitted a draft report and is working with the steering committee to finalise over the coming month. Mountain biking continues to be recognised as a key market for the proposed route(s).
- **Wellington Park Management Plan** – independent review of public submissions and WPMT response being undertaken.
- **HCC Works Permit request to convert a number of tracks in Wellington Park to multi-use**. As was reported previously, a works permit request submitted by HCC to

WPMT to convert several tracks to multi-use was rejected by WPMT until it has undertaken a social values study of these tracks.

These trails include: **Lower Radfords** (Radfords Track to Bracken Lane Fire Trail connection), **Middle Track** (between Reservoir Trail and Radfords Track) and the unnamed track that runs behind houses from **Bracken Lane to Fern Tree Park**. These were chosen as the first to request as they were seen as “easy win” projects unlikely to cause issues. HCC completed a risk assessment and design details for managing speed and multi-use on the trails that was included in the request.

WPMT have since confirmed that they are unable to commence a social values study and are still not able to provide a timeframe for when this might occur. WPMT also indicated the social values study would need to be undertaken for all tracks in the park rather than just the three in question – which will delay the process further. Clarification is required on the scope of this study, the process involved and the timeframe. There was general concern that these delays are inhibiting progress on the GH MTB plan and are raising concerns amongst riders in the community on why some of these projects are not progressing. The committee also expressed concern about creating a negative public image in not being able to provide information on the process and timeframe for progressing high priority actions in the GH MTB plan. Noting it is over a year since the requests and the accompanying risk assessment and design details were submitted to the WPMT by the HCC.

#### Other Business

- Clint updated the group on the **Hobart Groomers** volunteer work in Clarence MTB Park. The volunteer group has received several days of tuition and training by Dirt Art and MTN Trails. Recently around 20 volunteers assisted in the Clarence MTB Park and further work will be carried out in the Belbins road area (re-routing Stringybark Gully Trail) this weekend. Discussions are in progress for extending this work into the Glenorchy area.
- Luke highlighted the potential flow-on effects arising from the large NE MTB project that has recently received funding in terms of the projected high visitor numbers to the State to undertake mountain bike riding experiences.
- SRT reminded the group about the opportunities for funding support for implementing trail works from the GH MTB plan from the Trails and Bikeways Grant Program at SRT.
- There was also a brief discussion about the Greater Hobart Trails Website, which was recently released and promotes a number of MTB rides in the region.

<http://www.greaterhobarttrails.com.au/>