

## **Hello Members and Friends of the Warrnambool Mountain Bike Club:**

As the 2013-14 Thunder Point racing season draws to a close I would like to update you on the club's progress and also share with you our plan for the year ahead.

Please see the below club news, it's been a while and has got a bit long. But there's so much good stuff going on, read on!

### **Thunder Point Access:**

As many of you will know the WMTBC access is currently a year by year license that we apply for and receive from council. The WMTBC has been a part of the South Warrnambool Crown Land Precinct Plan, alongside 3 other user groups, the Golf Club, Trotting Club and Small Bore Rifle club. This process has seen committee members meet with council officers regularly, present at a council meeting, meet with other user groups and also meet with IMBA AU and show them our Thunder Point tracks. This has been a long process and has seen the involvement of many committee members, special thanks goes to Gavin Prentice for his efforts as being the chair of the Access committee and being the go to man for council.

The process is drawing closer to the finish line, and looks set to see us receive a longer license period with a greater ability to manage and develop the Thunderpoint Trail network. Obviously enabling us greater security and confidence to continue our positive efforts at Thunder Point. Hopefully within the next few months we will be announcing the results of the process. Watch this space!!

### **Unauthorised/Illegal Trail Construction:**

Recently the club has become aware of unauthorised and illegal trail construction in the Thunder Point precinct. Such construction has the potential to jeopardise the success of WMTBC in receiving extended tenure at Thunder Point.

- Construction of new trails at Thunder Point is NOT part of our license agreement. We ask members to not participate in such activities and to discourage anyone they may find doing so.
- Please do not ride these trails, it only encourages illegal behaviour.

### **Trail Maintenance:**

- As part of our ongoing stewardship of the Thunder Point area the club is continually involved with the maintenance of our existing trails. There were several working bees in the lead up to the TP 180.
- In 2013 Brett Easton, Dave Sagnol, Tanya Faux, Barry Pike and Brendan Polack attended an IMBA trail construction and maintenance course at Anglesea and the You Yangs, learning the theory and practice that goes into creating sustainable trails for all involved. It was a great course and Thunder Point is already showing the benefits with several corners improved.
- WMTBC is in discussions with IMBA to run another course in the near future at Warrnambool. If this would interest you please have a chat with Brett Easton.
- Recently students the School for Student Leadership has assisted with Clean up Australia day and some work on woody weed removal. Thanks very much to the students and staff involved. If you have a group that would be interested in assisting with the maintenance of the area. Please get in touch with us!

## Club Memberships:

- All done through the [www.mtba.asn.au](http://www.mtba.asn.au) website. They are a rolling membership so expire at different times. Please keep yours current– it supports the club and more importantly insures you when you are racing!

## WMTBC Committee:

The WMTBC committee is as follows:

Club President: Brett Easton

Vice President: Russell Cairns

Secretary: Gavin Prentice

Treasurer: Graeme Wines

Committee: Mia Venema

Committee: Darren Harris

Committee: Dave Sagnol

In this small group there are two local business owners, two teachers, a professor, a systems manager and a business manager. What I am saying here is the WMTBC committee provides a fantastic opportunity for you to share your skills (and gain some new ones) with a variety of people whilst completing some very rewarding and challenging activities: such as website design and management, presenting to council, event planning and management, MTB skills instruction and coaching, cooking a BBQ, first aid, environmental revegetation and management and many more. All of this centres around riding a bike... it is a great way to put back into the community!

If being on the committee or assisting with specific event tasks sounds like you, please have a chat to one of us. We would love to have you on board!

## New Club Jerseys:

New club jerseys are not too far away, just finalising a supplier and design. Listen out.

In the meantime, grab a WMTBC Bottle, T shirt, Hoodie or Sticker so you can represent the club!

## Sponsorship:

Sponsorship makes life so much easier for the WMTBC.

Many thanks to Crankhouse and Bicycle Centre for being major sponsors of the club.

Thanks also go to Maddens Lawyers, the Flying Horse and Materia Brothers for their support for the TP 180.

And a big welcome to Natrad Warrnambool and The Last Coach for coming on board and showing their support.

We couldn't offer such great events and prizes without them, so please support our sponsors as often as you can. If you or someone you know would like to sponsor the club please contact Russell Cairns, Graeme Wines or Brett Easton. We would love to have further sponsors on board!

## Skills Development:

A true highlight of the 2013-14 season has been the development of the youngsters and young at heart that come along to Thursday nights, many have made the step to their first racing with Dirt Crits and the TP 180 and many are now doing things on the bike they simply did not think they could before. Congratulations to all and many thanks to the instructors who come down and share their knowledge, skills and time.

A quick look at the below calendar could leave you thinking that there will not be as many skills development sessions in the 2014-15 season. Think again. Yes skills nights will become fortnightly and one Sunday per month. But every other Thursday there will be a ride on for all skills and abilities. It is all about riding at the end of the day!

In May four of our instructors will be completing their AMBIA MTB Instructors qualification at Forrest with Norm and Jess Douglas of MTBSkills. The AMBIA qualification is the top qualification available in Australia. WMTBC is as committed as ever to developing the skills of everyone involved!

## 2014 Calendar:

Shortly the [www.wmtbc.com.au](http://www.wmtbc.com.au) will be updated with our refined calendar for 2014.

Things to note are:

### **Sunday Morning Skills:**

Second last Sunday of every month. Starting in April.

- Thunder Point 9–11 am. If you haven't been able to get along to Thursday night Skills, then come on down for a Sunday morning skills session. This will be followed by a BBQ.

### **Crankhouse and Bicycle Centre Tower Hill Winter Series:**

June, July and August: Second last Sunday of the month.

- Gut busting fun, three race series short course team's event at Tower Hill. Great fun for beginners and experienced riders. Stewie will be back with his famous Lamb Sandwiches too!

### **TP 180:**

- Will move to the new month of October for many reasons, one big one is the track is at its best then! More news to come!

### **Once a month Sunday Social rides to somewhere else:**

- Some of these are already sorted
- Many are free, if you have an adventure you would like to take people on, have a look and see where it can fit in!

### **Dirt Crits:**

- Will return in Term 4 on a monthly basis, and hopefully go year round. A few format ideas are being kicked around. If you have one, share it!

### **Skills Sessions:**

- Will return in term 4, fortnightly and also on the second last Sunday of the month.

### **Thursday Night Ride:**

- We have been inspired by the Forrest MTB club with their Thursday night 'Brew and Soda Crew' rides. These will formally begin in term 4. Will be great!

### **Training Rides:**

- Talk to club members. There are numerous training rides that occur throughout the week, for all levels of fitness, confidence and all distances.

## Dirt Crit Season Finale:

We hope to see you at the Dirt Crit Season Finale, Presentations and Toolbox chat:

### **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> Thunder Point Clubrooms**

See you there, the BBQ will be running!

On Behalf of the WMTBC Committee

See you on the Trails!

**Brett Easton**