



WARRNAMBOOL MOUNTAIN BIKE CLUB

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NEWSLETTER: 2015 No. 3, August

Forthcoming dates for your diary:

Sunday 23 August: Crankhouse/Bicycle Centre Winter Series Round 3 (final round)

SUNDAY 23 AUGUST (after Winter Series final round): ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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1. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Warrnambool Mountain Bike Club's Annual General Meeting will be held at the Thunder Point clubrooms on Sunday 23 August, following conclusion of the third and final round of the Crankhouse/Bicycle Centre Winter Series event (AGM commencing around 2.00 to 2.30 pm).

Please forward any nominations for the committee to Brett Easton (email president@wmtbc.com.au). If you are newer to the club and interested, please have a chat with any of our existing committee members about what is involved.

2. THUNDER POINT TRAIL AUDIT REPORT PROCESS

The Warrnambool Mountain Bike Club has engaged *Dirt Art* to conduct a trail audit and assessment at Thunder Point. After signing a five year licence for access to Thunder Point, the next stage for the club involves development of a sustainable plan for the track facility.

Dirt Art is a team of well recognised specialist consultants, designers and construction experts involved in the design, construction and management of innovative and sustainable

mountain bike trails and facilities. The trail audit process for Thunder Point undertaken by *Dirt Art* has been based around the following strategic objectives:

- Provide a safe and sustainable trail network suitable for both recreation and events;
- Provide a framework and recommendations to empower and facilitate the Warrnambool Mountain Bike Club to assume ongoing management and development of the trail network;
- Provide cost-effective, feasible trail concepts and designs, which offer conditions suitable for world-class trail;
- Develop a suite of trail experiences that offer a genuine point of difference, and an attraction to visiting trail users; and
- Formalise a trail network suitable for a wide variety of events.

As part of the track audit process, Simon French from *Dirt Art* conducted a trail building workshop and working bee at Thunder Point on Sunday 26 July. If you have been riding at Thunder Point, you will probably have seen one of the outcomes of the workshop: the nice new berm on the right hand veer after the downhill before heading up to 'Foxhole'.

An initial draft report from the trail audit process has been received by the club from *Dirt Art* for review and comment. We look forward to having a formal launch of the report when it is finalised.

In terms of the audit, the club acknowledges the huge support provided by Raj and Bronwyn Patel from the Best Western Warrnambool Olde Maritime Motor Inn (www.oldemaritime.com.au). They have provided, to date, three night's free accommodation for Simon French from *Dirt Art* when he was attending Warrnambool for purposes of the trail audit. This assistance has been greatly appreciated, as this would have been an expense to be incurred by the club otherwise.

3. GREEN ARMY UPDATE

The Green Army have smashed out some heavy infestations of woody weeds over the last eight weeks, with heaps more still to go. August will see a lot more work in 'Boxthorn Alley' and the 'Big Loop'. The Green Army suggest we call it "previously known as Boxthorn Alley"! As a result of their work, Bligh Vegetation Management removed 12 truck loads of boxthorn waste, with an estimated 12 loads still to remove.

The following shows before and after photos of just one area where work has been undertaken:

Before:**After:**

The next steps for the Green Army involve rabbit fumigation, revegetating the areas cleared with native plants and improving the track surfaces, subject to Council approvals. If you happen to see the Green Army at work through the week, stop and say thanks!

Stay tuned to the website and Facebook pages for information about upcoming weed pulls and tree planting days.

4. CLUB EVENTS

It's been a busy period over June and July, with the TP180 and two rounds of the Winter Series being held. Details are as follows:

TP180 (5 July)

The TP180 has now been run and won, with approximately 65 riders entering for the event. Riding conditions were perfect on the day, reinforcing the decision to change the timing of the event from (potentially hot and dusty) January to July when the Thunder Point track rides much better with a bit of moisture.

The large number of committee and club members turning out on the day before to assist with setting up the track and facilities, one of the best turnouts ever, was appreciated and greatly helped the event run smoothly on the day.

Winning the event, and being the only rider to complete 10 laps of the approximately 6.5 km circuit, was Harrison Ernst. This was an extremely creditable performance, as Harrison had been forced to have a spell off the bike for a few months beforehand to deal with some knee soreness.

Second rider home was Gavin Piergrosse, with an ever improving James Coomber coming in third overall and first Under 17 Male.

Fourth and fifth overall were filled by Male Pair riders, Gavin Prentice and Darren Shiel (riding as *The Bool Boys*) and Dave and Paul Sagnol (*TSR*).

Sixth overall and third Open Male was Brett Trace, with Simon (Spud) Crispe finishing seventh overall. The *East End Boys* (Dale Beaton and Brendan Polack) took out eighth overall and third in Male Pairs.

Sabrina Ernst (yes, sister of the winner, Harrison Ernst) was the fastest female overall, as well as being the first Under 17 Female. Second female overall, and first Solo Female, was Debbie Rodgers, followed by Karen Crispe.

The Mixed Pairs class was taken out by husband and wife team Shaun and Kerry King (entered as *The Kingston Biscuits*). They were also in 13th position overall. Jane Wade and Peter Meddings (*Wheel Addiction*) were second in this class, with *The Replacements* (Amanda Sutton and Brett Easton) third.

Rounding out class positions, second and third behind James Coomber in Under 17 Males, were Jeremy Sagnol and Lachlan Stevens.

A big thank you to the TP180 major sponsors, Crankhouse and Bicycle Centre. Thanks also to other prize donors: Maddens Lawyers, Port Fairy Podiatry, Callaghan Motors, Country Life, Goodyear Autocare and Swintons Homemakers.

And, of course, thanks to everyone who made the event possible, especially Jeff Mutsaers as race director and all the riders without whom the event wouldn't have been the success it was.

With the TP180 done and dusted for 2015, the club is looking to making it a bigger and better event in 2016!

Crankhouse/Bicycle Centre Winter Series, Round 1 (21 June):

The weather gods were smiling for the first round of the Crankhouse/Bicycle Centre 2015 Winter Series, with a sunny and rain free day producing perfect riding conditions at Thunder Point. A course of approximately 2.5 kilometres, suitable for both experienced and less experienced riders, was laid out for the event.

Thirty-three riders faced the starter, with riders allocated to 11 teams. Each team comprised an A, B and C grade rider, with a seeding lap being used to allocate riders to teams. The attraction of this event format is the resulting social atmosphere, with riders able to relax and socialise between their riding stints.

The winning team comprised Jeremy Sagnol, Gerard Gleeson and Jon Lee. Second were Peter Meddings, Dave Beckman and Jeff Mutsaers, with Paul Carlin, Graeme Wines and Lachlan Hewlett coming in third.

Crankhouse/Bicycle Centre Winter Series, Round 2 (19 July):

The weather gods were again smiling for the second round of the Crankhouse/Bicycle Centre Winter Series, with a very cool morning followed by a rain free day.

Thirty-six riders entered for the second round, with thirteen of these not having ridden the first round. This means 46 individuals have entered the Winter Series to date, either riding both rounds or one of the two rounds.

The winning team on the day comprised Troy Boote, Dave Beckman and Kerry King. Second were Peter Meddings, John Jardine and Jon Lee.

Third place was taken out by Jeremy Anderson, Gerard Gleeson and Jane Wade, with a special mention going to Jeremy for riding the event on a cyclocross bike!

After two rounds, Dave Beckman and Jon Lee are tied for the lead on 46 points. Gerard Gleeson is in third place on 43 points, with Peter Meddings in fourth position only one point in arrears. As expected, it will come down to the third round, to be held on Sunday 23 August, for the winner and other place getters to be determined.

Committee Members:

President:	Brett Easton
Vice- President:	Russell Cairns
Secretary:	Jeff Mutsaers
Treasurer:	Graeme Wines
Committee:	Brian Dufty
	Leigh Dufty
	Jonathan Lee
	Gavin Prentice
	Mia Venema
	Jane Wade