



Surf Coast Mountain Bike Club

2019 - 2020 Annual Report

Hi Everyone,

Welcome to the Surf Coast Mountain Bike Club's inaugural annual report.

The Surf Coast Mountain Bike Club (SCMTB) was formed in September 2018. We are an active and welcoming club where mountain bikers of all ages, genders and abilities can gather socially to participate and enjoy events. We are proud of our achievements and the hard work of our many volunteers. The SCMTB committee consists of a number of passionate trail users who share a vision to further the quality and quantity of trails on the Surf Coast.

Our primary goals reflect the origins of the club, with our Mission Statement being:

To act as a trail advocacy and maintenance group and to liaise with the various land managers in order to retain a varied and interesting trail network in the area. When and where permission is granted, we will endeavour to keep the network well maintained and sustainable for the enjoyment and safety of users. We will favourably promote MTB riding as a healthy, environmentally responsible pastime that carries significant local economic benefits.

Our secondary goals are determined by our members and acted upon by our committee. These goals will evolve over time. We aim to offer social rides and other social activities, to develop local events including races and skills sessions and to support the younger members of our club through child and youth specific events. Our aim is also to offer support to riders across a wide range of mountain biking disciplines.

The Surf Coast MTB community is full of energetic and engaged riders.

With our members' support we believe the club will continue to deliver great outcomes for trail users, the wider community and the environment.

If you would like to be involved in any aspect of the club please contact us at

admin@surfcoastmtb.com.au



REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE

SCMTB has been in existence for just over 18 months now and the committee believes we have achieved a lot in that short time. We would like to thank our members and the wider trail user community for their support and contributions thus far.

The club was formed from a nucleus of the Surf Coast Trail Group (SCTG) who had been advocating for the formalisation of local trails for over six years. SCTG formed from a group of passionate local riders when a 2012 Parks Vic audit of the unsanctioned Eumeralla MTB trail network looked like it could result in a large number of those MTB trails being closed in the absence of a formal local user support group. SCTG, initially an independent group, became a subcommittee of Geelong Mountain Bike Club (GMBC) in 2014. A well deserved thank you to GMBC for their support of the SCTG and the SCMTB over many years. Thank you also to all of those who have assisted over the years and to those who came before us and paved the way. These include Surf Coast Cycling Club, Anglesea Bike Park Committee of Management, Surf Coast Trail Runners and the many independent members of the MTB community who have been advocating for our trails as far back as the early 2000's.

Our initial eighteen months has seen many highlights and thrown up a few challenges. Covid 19 has meant some social rides and events have had to be cancelled or diminished in size but in turn our trails have seen an upsurge in use. It has been amazing to see so many new riders and especially families out on the trails. During Covid the club has still been able to facilitate some riding and social offerings dependent on the regulations at that time.



The committee is pleased to have been in a strong enough financial position to waive the club fee component of MTBA membership during Covid and to waive it ongoing for junior riders. It is only a small gesture but we hope it shows that we understand that many have been affected both financially and socially during this pandemic.

Some highlights of our first eighteen months were our 2019 Xmas party with over 100 people and a mountain biking Santa in attendance, our kids' social rides becoming more regular, skills clinics being offered to both younger and older riders, our first race being planned for 2021 and a logo, website and merchandise being developed. We have also developed a range of documents that will assist the club to be better governed into the future. The financial support we have received from a range of businesses and individuals has been amazing. A big thank you to everyone who contributed in this way and also to everyone who assisted with making all of the above possible.

Our other major area of interest for the club, apart from gathering riders together in a social setting, is advocating for and maintaining our local trails. Our first eighteen months has seen an upsurge in the number and scope of our working bees. They now happen monthly and we have achieved great outcomes for trail sustainability in that time. We also completed our first major trail works project with the realignment of a section of the popular grasstrees trail. Awesome work from all our volunteers involved with our working bee team.

We have liaised with and will continue to work with all stakeholders in an attempt to complete the Anglesea Trails Concept Plan. This plan will be the foundation stone for future planning of trails in our area. We are hoping for some level of new trail development and for the formalisation of many of the unsanctioned trails throughout the area.

We have developed a philanthropy arm of the club and are very excited about how we can support a range of riders both locally and across the globe through the disbursement of these funds.



One thing the committee would like to do this year is to gain a better understanding of the needs and desires of both the club members and the wider local MTB community. Currently we estimate that approximately 10-20% of local riders are members of the club. Whilst there is no expectation of all local riders becoming members, we believe that for the good of the sport and of the local trails, we should attempt to reach out and help to educate all trail users about what is being done behind the scenes to ensure our trails are maintained, kept open and possibly formalised into the future. We would love every rider to be an advocate for our local trails.

The committee is excited about the coming year with many events and happenings in the pipeline. Our first race will be on us before we know it, many more social rides and skills clinics are planned, especially those focussing on women and young riders. We will be working to develop support for gravity riders through social rides and skills clinics.

Some of the challenges we face over the coming year will be to work through the changes currently taking place as our sport's governing body changes from Mountain Bike Australia to AusCycling. With the continued growth of the sport, especially during the past six months, we know we will face an ever increasing challenge to keep our trails sustainable into the future. We feel confident that with great support from our members these challenges will be overcome.

We are also looking forward to the continued growth of our volunteer workforce. Whether it is marshalling at a race, assisting at a social event, helping at a working bee or leading a social ride, it's all really worthwhile, can be done by anyone and is much appreciated by all. So thank you to all our current and future volunteers.

Finally, a huge thank-you to all club members for your wonderful support and encouragement over the last eighteen months.

Surf Coast MTB Committee

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

TRAIL ADVOCACY

Our club has continued the important trail advocacy work of the SCTG. Currently the only formal trails in our area are the trails branching out from Hurst Road (Eumeralla trail network) and the Currawong Falls loop in Aireys Inlet.

Our main focus over our first 18 months has been to continue to work on the Anglesea Trails Concept Plan. This project was initiated by the SCTG and is facilitated and partly funded by the Surf Coast Shire (SCS). SCS have been really supportive of both the plan and the sport in general. The plan is being developed by trail consultants, World Trail. Parks Victoria (PV) and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) are the main land managers on which the trails are situated.

This plan will allow a series of loops to be ridden from Bells Beach to Aireys Inlet. It utilises current trails and also has some new trails planned. This work has taken considerable time and effort and is still a long way from seeing results on the ground. We have found PV and DELWP as large bureaucracies to have some processes in place that make it hard to move forward at a pace that the club and many local riders would hope for. Despite this, we will continue to work with SCS, PV, DELWP and other stakeholders to ensure that the concept plan is completed. Without a plan in place it will be difficult to ensure that the growing demand for quality MTB trails is met into the future.

The work that will come from this plan will be staged. The club is hoping that formalising some of our favourite trails that are still unsanctioned such as those above the Anglesea Bike Park will be one of the early outcomes once the plan is completed.

The trail advocacy team has also been working on other projects including:

- Installation of posts and signage at Eumeralla trails.
- Working on a trail naming process with conservation groups, PV and traditional owners
- Working with land managers with a view to some trails being built within the old coal mine. We have met with representatives from the Eden Project and with Alcoa.
- Working to expand car parking at Hurst Road and in other locations.
- Working with Vic Roads and Eumeralla Scout Camp Committee of Management with a view to formalisation of trails on land managed by them.
- Working with the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee to build a better understanding of riders needs and to build better relationships between riders and other Surf Coast Walk users.

WORKING BEES

The working bee subcommittee has been able to complete many tasks in the last 18 months. Parks Victoria (PV) has now given the club permission to run our own working bees without PV staff being in attendance. This is a huge step forward and allows us to plan our works without relying on PV staff's limited availability on weekends.

We are now having working bees once a month with a wide variety of work being undertaken. Some heavy machinery has been used at times and other tasks have been completed with only hand tools.



Works undertaken have been primarily associated with remediation of degraded sections of trail by building features that assist with draining water off the trails. We have also completed corridor clearing for rider safety.

Our biggest undertaking was the realignment of the first section of the grasstrees trail. The original trail was closed by PV. The closure plan allowed for the use of an old fire trail as a MTB trail. These works were undertaken by local contractors who were also riders and the works were funded by a crowd funding project initiated by the club. Funds were also received

through a Landcare grant facilitated by the Corangamite Catchment Authority. Over \$13000 was raised through these two processes. Whilst the works were restricted by PV's assertion of a slower trail being needed and the inability to encroach on land outside of the old fire trail easement, the club are proud of the end result of the work.

In the first 18 months of the club we have had seven working bees. A great effort despite the cessation of all events during some stages of Covid.

We are always on the lookout for more working bee volunteers and hope that all riders understand the benefits of these works in ensuring our trails remain sustainable for others into the future.

SOCIAL RIDES AND SKILLS CLINICS

This has been a huge growth area within the club. Whilst Covid has seen a halt to some of our rides, we have still been able to run a wide variety of rides catering to different abilities, genders, disciplines and abilities.



We started a program of rides for people under 18 and also ran a number of rides specifically for young riders interested in the gravity style of riding. We have held women's specific rides, gravel rides and adventure rides (a mix of gravel and MTB). Currently we are looking for any members who may wish to help with leading or assisting on a social ride.

We also ran a coaching course to get a number of our members trained to lead rides and skills clinics. We have

now held three skills clinics including one specifically for under 18's. We also have a number of coaches and are planning to expand this area of offering from the club over the coming year. A number of our members have also undertaken training in first aid so they are better prepared when they lead social rides.

GRANTS

This area has been one of our success stories from our first 18 months. We have been able to raise much needed funds for a number of different projects. We are continually on the lookout for any upcoming grants and have developed a wish list of projects to help focus our grant applications to where we believe they are most needed.

Our largest grant received was \$5000 from the Bendigo Bank Community Enterprise to assist with the cost of purchasing and fitting out a trailer to be used for working bees and other events.

Other grants received have been:

- \$750 from the State Government to assist with young athlete's travel costs.
- \$2000 from the Surf Coast Shire for a coaching course and first aid course for ride leaders and coaches.
- \$3000 from the Surf Coast Shire to assist with planning for our first race in 2021.
- \$500 from Ashbury Estate Community Fund to pay for first aid courses.
- \$2818 from Vic Health to purchase three mountain bikes, first aid kits, backpacks and supplies for social ride leaders.
- \$2869 from Landcare to assist with payment for building of new trail within the Eumeralla Trail Network.
- \$11000 from a crowd funding project to assist with payment for building of new trail within the Eumeralla Trail Network.
- Funds have also been raised from collection tins placed at local bike shops.

PHILANTHROPY

The club has been lucky enough to have been in a position to receive approximately \$3000 to be used for charity/ philanthropy purposes. This money is set aside in a separate club account.

The club now has a philanthropy plan in place. This plan allows for ongoing funding of the Masaka Cycle Club located in Uganda. We also have in place a process where we supply bikes to some young local people who may otherwise not be able to own a bike.

Our plan also allows for funding of coaching for young local riders looking to expand their skills.

MERCHANDISE

The club has introduced a range of merchandise with our locally designed logo. We put this in place to get the club's name and logo out into the community and also so that members can show their allegiance through the wearing of club clothing. We will continue to expand our range of merchandise options.

The merchandise is sold through local bike shops and directly through the club.



Our range and numbers of items sold:

- Hoodies - 80
- T Shirts - 100
- XC Jerseys - 20
- Enduro Jerseys (Long & short sleeve) - 40
- Caps - 80
- Beanies - 40



EVENTS



The first 18 months saw the club run a number of events. Our first event prior to the club's inception was a social gathering of upwards of 100 people at the RACV resort. From the support shown on that night the decision was made to form the club.

Sadly, due to Covid, we have had to limit our events and had to cancel our first planned race. We had planned to hold a round of the Shifty Fifty race series in the 2020 winter. This has now been postponed until 2021.

Events held have been:

- The club launch at the Anglesea Bike Park
- 2019 Xmas party at the Anglesea Bike Park
- Women's film night fundraiser

All events were a success and were well attended



MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION

Our marketing and communication team is always looking for avenues to get information out to our members and the greater trail community. We are currently utilising a range of communication forums including our website, Facebook, Instagram, emails and occasional newspaper articles.

ENVIRONMENT

Our environment team are our area of expertise for advice about environmental issues that may arise through trail use, management and maintenance. They form an important part of the club given many of the local trails are within the Great Otway National Park. They also perform a range of other roles including liaising with local conservation groups, assisting with advice on documents and promoting environmental awareness amongst trail users. During this past 18 months the environment team have also assisted with advice and input on a number of grant applications.

FIRST AID

Our first aid officer has done a great job in ensuring that where needed our first aid training is relevant and up to date. They have also purchased supplies and ensured that our first aid kits are fully supplied. The role also involves training and advice on a variety of first aid issues.

CHILD SAFETY OFFICER

We have completed all required Child Safe Policies and Procedures to ensure that we comply with relevant regulation. Our child safety officer ensures that the club's Child Safety Policies and Procedures are up to date, understood and adhered to at all times.

FINANCE REPORT (JULY 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020)

The 2020 SCMTB year has been challenging but exciting for the club. The Club's funds were diligently managed. A coordinated team effort by the Board. The club's finances are managed with continued consideration of the Club's regulatory compliance as well as short & long-term future.

There continues to be asset purchases, primarily related to the club starting from scratch. There are wants and needs coming from all directions. We are happy to report that one of the club's primary objectives are the trails themselves. No money went wanting to keep the network well maintained and sustainable for the enjoyment and safety of users.

As mentioned in the report above, significant sponsorship income and the crowd funding was the savior for the year of Covid 19.

The Club's financial records have continued in QuickBooks accounting software. Also implemented this year has been online storage within QuickBooks of key items such as documents substantiating Club income & expenditure and an asset register for the Club's plant & equipment. This has reduced the requirement for cumbersome storage of hard copies of tax invoices while still maintaining transparency. The cost of the software was minimal and will give greater transparency now and for many years to come.

As has been mentioned above, the Club unanimously voted to remove the portion of the MTBA Fee (now AusCycling) that the Club receives when people sign up to become a MTBA member. This was a gesture by the club to assist many who may have been affected by Covid 19.

We continue to bank with Bendigo bank who have been a great support of our club and this relationship is set to continue. It has been a great platform for us to manage the club's finances. The major spending this year has been the merchandise. Over time, this spend will come back to us. If you have read this far into this boring part of our annual report and you do not own some of our merchandise, please get on board and buy some.

We will continue to work hard in the coming year to try to gain further grants. The reintroduction of the now AusCycling Club Fees, along with Merchandise sales and the upcoming Shift Fifty, should result in our finances taking an upward swing to a Net gain.

Balances:

Opening balance September 2018 (rolled over from SCTG bank account)	\$2,484.00
Closing balance June 30, 2020	\$8,181.99

July 2019-June 2020 P&L

Profit and Loss

July 2019 - June 2020

	Total
INCOME	
Functions Income	607.55
Grants & Donations Rec'd	16,401.33
Membership fee rec'd	3,660.88
Sale of Merchandise	7,979.20
Sponsorship's Income Rec'd	500.00
Total Income	29,148.96
GROSS PROFIT	29,148.96
OTHER INCOME(LOSS)	
Interest income	19.91
Total Other Income(Loss)	19.91
EXPENSES	
Advertising and marketing	3,555.96
Affiliation Fees	1,625.00
Day Licence	70.00
Donation made	200.00
Equipment Expenses	89.25
First Aid & Medical	1,059.01
Functions Expenses	43.95
IT and other computer expense	156.90
Merchandise Purchases	9,510.23
Motor vehicle expenses	190.00
Postage & shipping	49.38
Printing, stationery & supplies	26.98
Repairs and maintenance	238.60
Trail Building	13,834.95
Venue Hire	250.00
Working Bee Expenses	372.20
Total Expenses	31,272.41
NET EARNINGS	A\$ -2,103.54

Surf Coast Mountain Bike Club Committee
November, 2020