

# MTB News

Newsletter of the  
Queensland Mountain Bike  
Forum  
June, 2007



## Queensland Mountain Bike Forum - 12 months on

### Humble Beginnings

On 31<sup>st</sup> May 2006 a group of individuals with an interest in mountain biking met to discuss the concept of a Queensland Mountain Bike Forum and possible Terms of Reference. The first meeting of the Queensland Mountain Bike Forum was held in August 2006 with over 40 people representing a wide and varied range of organisations attending. State and local governments were represented along with bicycle retailers, cycle tourism operators, clubs and associations with interests in mountain biking.

Issues identified by workshop participants focussed on the following areas or needs (with some overlap between different issues):

- Liability
- Research
- Access
- Supply / Demand
- "Standards" - including policies, track standards, Codes of Conduct, etc
- Track Management / Maintenance
- Communication and Education (including advocacy, profile)
- Risk Management
- Funding for track construction and maintenance

At the initial meeting of the Queensland Mountain Bike Forum, draft Terms of Reference were presented and agreed upon:

### Queensland Mountain Bike Forum Terms of Reference

The Forum seeks to:

- assist communication between stakeholders with interests in the management of mountain bike (MTB) riding in Queensland
- assist with the resolution of issues related to the provision and management of MTB riding in Queensland
- develop a functional partnership between relevant stakeholders
- provide advice on the planning and management of MTB riding on public and private land
- collect, collate, analyse and distribute existing information that is necessary to support decision making about the provision and management of MTB riding in Queensland
- research new information that is necessary to support decision making about the provision and management of MTB riding in Queensland
- identify resources required to develop and implement solutions to issues.

Expressions of Interest for involvement in the Forum's Steering Committee were taken at the August Forum meeting. Additional individuals have been invited to become part of the Steering Committee since August 2006 (eg. a representative from Forestry Plantations Queensland) because of what they can contribute to the resolution of issues and information sharing. There is no formal structure or nomination process and the Forum is not incorporated. The Forum (and the Steering Committee) is a conduit for information sharing and resolution of problems, and does not have a decision making role or any management

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or regulatory mandate. Individual agencies (eg. a State or local government or a club) may use the Forum as a source of advice and act accordingly.



## Solid Foundations

The Steering Committee has met six times since August 2006 in an attempt to address each of the broad issues identified at the August 2006 Forum meeting to determine appropriate short-term and possible long-term actions. As a consequence:

- the Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation (QORF) has 'populated' a mountain biking section on its website with as much information as can be accessed and made public, including Powerpoint presentations, research articles, Trails Plans, Management Plans, etc. (refer [http://www.outdoorsqueensland.com.au/01\\_cms/details.asp?ID=727](http://www.outdoorsqueensland.com.au/01_cms/details.asp?ID=727))
- riders have been encouraged to complete a survey regarding their riding habits to assist in the collation of data
- data has been prepared on track maintenance costs per linear metre (for different types of track)
- a suggestion to include a dedicated mountain biking stream (incorporating input from International Mountain Bicycling Association, or IMBA) into the March 2008 National Tracks and Trails Conference has been taken on board, with inclusion of discussion about MTB Track Standards prior to and during the Conference (refer [www.tracksandtrails.org.au](http://www.tracksandtrails.org.au))

## Queensland Mountain Bike Forum Steering Committee

- Kathy Kingsford, Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation (QORF)
- Gillian Duncan, Mountain Bike Australia
- Kendrick Benson, Redland Shire Council
- Michael Griffin, Brisbane City Council
- Chris Maierhofer, Brisbane City Council
- Dave Batt, Office of Urban Management
- Josh Bosschieter, EPA / QPWS
- Greg Applin, Neezy Pty Ltd
- Brett Waring, EPA / QPWS
- Stefanie Myers, EPA / QPWS
- Lee-Ann Raddatz, Forestry Plantations Qld
- Justin Lee, EPA / QPWS

Topics discussed by the Steering Committee include:

- Policy and Operational Procedures of several land managers with respect to mountain biking (to ensure consistency, where possible)
- Case Study Example: Mechanisms to enable Cairns Mountain Bike Club to continue to use a Conservation Park (EPA estate) for cross country, downhill and mountain cross riding events with EPA using a *Section 34 Authority to Occupy*
- Case Study Example: MOU between IMBA and the Forestry Commission in England
- Australasian Cycle Tourism Conference - various topics including economic value of MTB
- BCC Review of Management Arrangements for MTB riding in Brisbane
- QPWS "Top Recreation Activities" information webpages
- Forestry Plantations Qld Visitor Management in Plantations
- Tracks and Trails Conference 2008 - suggestions for topics and speakers
- Method(s) to collect comprehensive data (with detailed attributes) from local government and riders on sites/areas currently used by mountain bikers to establish an inventory
- Information about the *SEQ Outdoor Recreation Strategy Discussion Paper*: (<http://www.oum.qld.gov.au/?id=36>) and

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the release of \$8.8million to be allocated for the development of 3 regional recreation trails and the implications of these initiatives for mountain biking ([http://www.outdoorsqueensland.com.au/01\\_cms/details.asp?ID=923](http://www.outdoorsqueensland.com.au/01_cms/details.asp?ID=923))

- Update on the preparation of the Spicer's Gap Conservation Plan in which loops suitable for mountain biking are being considered
- Case Study Example: Forestry Plantations Queensland (FPQ) process to formalise the use of an 'illegal' downhill track in the Beerburrum area with an *Occupation Permit* which would entitle a club to build, use and maintain a downhill facility.
- Establishment of MTB Orienteering Club by Orienteering Queensland.

The Steering Committee has also reviewed the membership of the Steering Committee and mechanisms for inviting new members and communicating with the broader mountain biking community.

## The Road Ahead

The Steering Committee has a busy schedule of activities planned for the next 6 months. Initiatives will include:

- A trail construction workshop for volunteers
- Development of a Queensland Mountain Bike Strategy to clearly define the issues and the ways in which they could/should be resolved
- Launch of the Queensland Mountain Bike Strategy possibly in November in association with a 'Come and Try' day for politicians.

Finally, the 5<sup>th</sup> biennial National Tracks and Trails Conference will be held on the Sunshine Coast from 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> March 2008 with a dedicated MTB stream. There will also be a pre-conference trail construction workshop presented by Joey Klein from IMBA, sponsored by Mountain Bike Australia.



## Need More Information?

Contact the Forum Administrator, Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation (QORF) by:  
Tel: 07 3369 9455 or Em: [info@qorf.org.au](mailto:info@qorf.org.au)

For additional mountain biking resources, visit the Queensland Mountain Bike Forum Website by clicking on: [http://www.qorf.org.au/01\\_cms/details.asp?ID=725](http://www.qorf.org.au/01_cms/details.asp?ID=725)