



# ST HELENS MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS

## Public Information Session - Wrap up

On Wednesday 26 June, with the help of Kingthing Marketing, we held a Public Information Session on the St Helens Mountain Bike Trails at Tidal Waters, St Helens. While we were expecting the evening to be well attended, we were ecstatic to see more than 130 people attend from curious community members to enthusiastic business owners! We believe that this is a great indication of how much interest there is in this project and how many people recognise the opportunity that this will bring to our region.

### **A big thank you to all those who took the time to attend!**

The two hour session covered some general information about the trails; where construction is at as well as our vision for the trails. (Some of this info was in our last newsletter so we won't repeat ourselves, but if you missed it you can download the newsletter [here](#)).

## Boggy Creek Boardwalk and crossing

As those living in the St Helens area will have noticed, we have now started construction of the Boggy Creek boardwalk opposite the St Helens Point Turn-off.

The boardwalk is part of the St Helens Mountain Bike Trails Town link which will be a two directional multi-user trail allowing riders and pedestrians to walk or ride from St Helens to the Trailhead at Flagstaff and vice versa.

We discuss in more detail on the next page the lengths that we went to ensure environmental sustainability which included reporting and recommendations in the Boggy Creek area. We also worked closely with State Growth around traffic management for the boardwalk. As this section of road is owned by the Department of State Growth, they are ultimately responsible for deciding traffic management for the area. Their Traffic Engineer, after examining the area, developed the plan for the cross over from Boggy Creek to Lions Park so users of the trail can continue riding or walking around the Georges Bay Multi-user track all the way in to St Helens.

The traffic plan for the cross over includes an island so pedestrians and riders can cross into the centre and wait before continuing across the road. We have also ensured that the board walk ends in a deck area large enough to

Kingthing, the marketing and branding gurus, introduced information specific to businesses which covered things like:

- Who are these mountain bikers?
- What do they want? and
- What do they look like? – This involved a fun dress up session! Thanks To Ruth and Alison from East Coast Regional Tourism for being such good sports!

Saving the best to last, at the end of the evening we gave out some Industry Toolkits which covered nearly everything discussed at the meeting as well as information on the visual brand and links to plenty of useful information. You can download a copy of the [Industry Tool kit here](#), and if you would like to check out the full presentation you can download that [here](#).

allow several riders and bikes to stop. Other factors that the Traffic Engineer looked at include site lines, speed and safety.



Construction of the Boggy Creek Board walk is well underway

## St Helens MTB Trails - an environmental benchmark

The natural environment here on the east coast is truly unique and beautiful and one of the main reasons why people live and visit the area. This is why it was so important to us at Break O'Day Council (BODC) to be a leader in best practice environmental reporting and management.

We want visitors to our trails to have a truly unique east coast experience which is as much about our beautiful surroundings as it is the pure, unadulterated stoke.

Before we even looked at a shovel, we undertook comprehensive environmental and aboriginal heritage reports. These were undertaken by independent agencies, both considered to be the best in their respective fields in the state; Eco-Tas and Cultural Heritage Australia. These reports and their recommendations were followed to the letter, in some cases we went above and beyond to ensure minimal impact on the environment.

We were determined to be MTB world leaders in environmental management and we have now established benchmarks for other agencies building trails; we have already started sharing these models with others.

One of these best practice examples is our development of an Eagle Management Plan. Due to the number of both white bellied sea eagles and wedge tail eagles in the area

of the trails, we worked with the Parks and Wildlife Service as well as Tasmanian Raptor specialist, Nick Mooney to map eagle nests and come up with the first Mountain Bike Trail Eagle Management Plan in the nation, maybe even the world.

"We consider ourselves very blessed to have so many of these amazing birds of prey in our area and we consider both the sea eagle and the wedge tail to be icons of our region."

"We hope that by doing all we can to protect the nests and habitats of the eagles as well as educating visitors about the eagles, will not only help their protection but will encourage a love and appreciation of these magnificent creatures", Mayor Mick Tucker said.

Another example of a nation first in MTB management is BODC's development of a bike washdown facility that not only allows mountain bikers to wash their bikes but will also contain a herbicide that will stop the spread of weeds and diseases on the trails. BODC's Trail Project manager has been working on this with West Australian Walpole warrior Gary Muir, Parks and Wildlife Service Tasmania as well as Natural Resource Management South to ensure best practice.

## MTB Success stories

### Nelson Mountain Bike Club



A not-for-profit organisation run by volunteers, the Nelson MTB Club aims to:

- Foster and strengthen positive relationships with land-owners, local authorities and other stakeholders.
- Support the development and maintenance of high quality mountain bike trails and infrastructure that caters for all levels of riders.
- Have a positive effect on Nelson's natural environment.
- Encourage and support mountain bike events in Nelson (racing, working bees, social etc).
- Be a positive voice for mountain biking in Nelson.

The group manages a website, [www.nelsonmtb.club](http://www.nelsonmtb.club) as well as a number of activities aimed at promoting not just the trails but also what other things there are to do in the region as well as trail working bees.

The club is also responsible for donations which go towards maintaining and developing the trails.

