



PO Box 481 Mansfield Vic 3724 Inc no A0043130L ABN: 73 859 107 537

Minutes of MMBCC Committee Meeting

Thursday 22nd October 2020 7pm Mansfield/Delatite Hotels

Present: Damian Grundy via Zoom, Bruce Halket, Judi Duke, Belinda Cipa, Janine Appleton, Alex Green, Kate Stonnill, Dave Empey, Elise Empey

Apologies: Shannon Rademaker

Item 1 AGM preparation.

Various matters re logistics for AGM were confirmed including use of outdoor venue set up at Delatite Hotel; technology requirements for WIFI and Zoom connection; Use and setup of Large screen TV, powered speaker and microphone availability; confirmation of number of members physically attending, Noted Nominations for Committee positions and Proxies received; Damian to deliver Presidents report via Zoom; Committee agreed Bruce to act as Chairperson given Damian's physical absence. Catering not to be offered by Club.

Junior Rider Representative Position identified as desirable but needs clarification of the role and more support from Executive Committee to ensure relevance and inclusion. Elise Empey accepted challenge to stand for election as Club Junior Rider Representative as nominated by A.Green, Seconded B.Halket.

Item 2 Major Events

- 1 – MMBCC to host Tour of Mansfield – 13/14 March 2021,
- 2 - Proposal put forward 20th October that MMBCC host Victorian Downhill Series at new Mansfield Venue – 13/14 March 2021
- 3A – Proposal put forward 13th October that MMBCC host a new Mt.Buller Mountain Bike Lifestyle Event as per the Request for Proposal Requirements from MtBuller & Mt Stirling RMB on a solo Principal basis (i.e. 100%risk/reward) OR in conjunction/partnership with a new RMB appointed Licensed Commercial Operator (shared ?% risk/reward basis). The proposal would include hosting the Gravity Enduro Event.

Despite the uncertainty of Major Events being able to be held under the cloud of Covid-19 conditions and restrictions the Committee felt it important to meet to consider its options with regard to being potentially involved in three major events all scheduled for March 2021. The Committee became aware of Proposal 3A on 13th October and Proposal 2 on 20th October.

A required response deadline of 30th October 2020 to participate in Proposal 3A was noted.

Major Event 1 Tour of Mansfield

The Committee confirmed that the Club has previously considered and agreed that hosting the VRS Event is a positive, profitable and feasible event for the Club to pursue. The proposed date is 13/14th March 2021.

(Noted: This date avoids a clash with “LeTape” ride at Kiama NSW scheduled for 20/21 March 2021 but does clash with National MTB Championship event in Maydena, Tasmania which has been rescheduled to 8-14 March 2021)

Action Agreed : Bruce Halket to confirm 13/14th March 2021 as most suitable and available date for Tour of Mansfield to be run with AusCycling Victorian Road Race Series Authority as soon as practical.

Major Event 2 – DownHill Series Event Proposal

Tabled: - Proposal received from Shannon Rademaker that the Club proposes to the Victorian DownHill Series Committee that its re-schedule the Date, Venue and Host for Round 3 of its DownHill Series Event from 6/7th March 2021 at Mt.Buller to 13/14th March 2021 at Mansfield. Hosting would change from a previous RMB Bike Buller/Rapid Ascent Festival with MMBCC involved as partner hosting to MMBCC solely hosting the DownHill Series Event coinciding with a Freeride MTB Festival that Shannon’s company All Terrain Cycles is hosting on this date and venue.

The Committee noted the following in considering its decision to decline to accept this proposal at this time:-

1. The clash of dates (13/14 March) of the Tour of Mansfield and Tasmanian National Championships on the same weekend could seriously over stretch volunteer availability and all other Club resources. Noted was that the Tasmanian MTB Nationals Event would mean several MMBCC Road MTB and Downhill Committee Members and their families (including Empeys, Greens, Appletons, Dobsons) who have considerable experience with assisting with Major Event logistics may not be available.

2. No details of the proposed Mansfield Venue and course were made available for the Committee to review at the meeting.
3. The Committee considered that evidence of a pilot event on the proposed Mansfield course should be conducted and reviewed to prove out the course and management logistics before any further decision could be made on the proposal.

Action Required: Secretary to advise Shannon of Committee concerns and advise motion to accept Proposal was not passed.

Major Event 3 – Mt.Buller & Mt.Stirling Mountain Bike Lifestyle Festival

Tabled:- Proposal from Mt Buller Mt Stirling Resort Management Board (RMB) for staging MTB Lifestyle Event to be held 6/7/8th March 2021. Closing Date and time for response Proposals as per Requirements – 30th October 2020. 5pm

Tabled :- Email from Shannon Rademaker re support for MMBCC solo or with Partner hosting the new proposed MTB festival at Mt Buller including ebike concept suggestion for “Festival Side” activities

The RMB Request for a Proposal received by Shannon Rademaker and forwarded to Committee Members on 13th October 2020 was considered a priority to discuss as, should there be interest, a response from the Club is required by no later than 30th October 2020. In essence, the Request for a Proposal is an invitation for a suitability qualified organisation to obtain an RMB Commercial Operator’s License to stage a new Mountain bike and Lifestyle event at Mt Buller and Mt Stirling specifically over the Labour Day long weekend of 6-8th March 2021. The Event held previously on this long weekend at Mt Buller incorporated one part of the five-part Victorian Downhill Series and has had the unique drawcard element of chairlift service for riders and bikes.

By way of background to the Committee discussions on this matter an article published in the Mansfield Courier insert “High Country Alive” AFL Grand Final Weekend, 2020 contained the following relevant and enlightening information.

Adventure sport event management company Rapid Ascent had previously been awarded the Operator’s License and had successfully staged the Bike Buller Festival on this long weekend date for the past 13 years. As organisers of the Bike Buller Festival which incorporates one of the five gazetted Victorian DownHill Series Events, Rapid Ascent announced that they will not be proceeding with the famed event in 2021. The principle reason for the events closure was a recent Worksafe ruling that has disallowed usage of the Northside Express chairlift to carry a rider and a bike in its current configuration. According to Sam Maffett, Event Manager, “the Worksafe ruling has meant that the most popular races conducted over the weekend can no longer be conducted in a successful nor viable way”. The chairlift was a unique aspect to Mt Buller’s trail infrastructure and provided the only opportunity to ride a chairlift with your bike in Victoria. They considered the cost to replace the chairlift with shuttle busses and bike trailers would mean considerable changes to the race format and costs, making them unviable. The ABOM Downhill race attracted 210 riders who caught the lift up to seven times each. The most competitive event, the Gravity

Enduro attracted 356 riders in 2020, and involved riders catching the lift up to three times each during the event.

Mt Buller and Mt Stirling RMB, through the Request for Proposals process are now seeking alternate viable proposals to stage a MTB Event that will utilise the extensive trail network (without chairlift facilities) to generate a continuum estimated direct economic impact to the region of \$1.3 million (based on stats of 600 riders and another 1100 spectators in 2020).

The Committee discussed this change in circumstances and the new Event hosting opportunity at Mt.Buller including the potential demand, feasibility and competition for hosting downhill and other events at Mt Buller (without the benefit of chairlift facilities).

Committee Members all agreed with the expressed opinions that the Club's association with Mt. Buller was valuable, and that it would be desirable to consolidate this further and for the long term. Members expressed concern that if it "walked away from Bike Buller", that other Clubs would take over and hence diminish opportunities for Club activities and fund raising.

The meeting concluded with the Committee not having sufficient meeting time available to fully develop or evaluate concepts to a satisfactory level of detail to be in a position to propose a motion be voted on to determine an absolute outcome as to whether or not it would prepare or authorise the preparation of documents to present in the form of a full written response to the Request for Proposals Requirements which might give rise to the Club being committed to hosting a full Mountain biking Lifestyle Event or for it to apply to be awarded a Commercial Operators License as per the Request.

The Committee did however consider and agree that further consultation should be sort with Bike Buller at this stage, to express our interest in further exploring the opportunity to host a Gravity Enduro Ride as the feature in any new Bike Buller proposed Lifestyle Event at Mt.Buller on 6/7th March 2021 - as :-

1. This event may be conducted with sufficient participant numbers on a smaller Event scale and consequently less subject to Covid-19 restrictions or cancellation risks,
2. This scale of commitment is considered manageable given MMBC's existing knowledge of the course, short set up time and minimum traffic and marshalling requirements,
3. Offer of support received from Shannon Rademaker, and potential industry contacts,
4. MMBC Manpower could principally be led by personnel from the Club's MTB and Victorian DownHill Mt Buller Sub-Committees (Dave Empey, Kate Stonnill, Ben Annear, Alex Green, Mel Green, Damian Grundy, Shannon Rademaker and Clarissa Leatham) and with support from the wider Club membership as the dates do not clash with the Clubs Tour of Mansfield Event (albeit a week later) or Tasmanian MTB Nationals.

Action Authorised : Delegated Dave Empey to contact Ben Annear to express and discuss Club's interest and provide feedback to Committee asap.

Noted was that the Club's AGM is to be held on Monday 26th October 2020, and therefore that such Major Event decisions will need to be addressed by the new Committee elected.

Item 3 - Sponsorship

The Committee was informed of sponsorship opportunities received by the Club for the Tour of Mansfield. A motion moved by the Tour Director that the Committee accept the offer from Alliance to be the naming rights sponsor of the Mansfield Tour was passed.

The Committee passed a motion moved by B. Halket and seconded B.Cipa that the Club considers sponsorship opportunities offered by other local businesses for other Major Events and Club Functions.

Item 4 – Simon Gerrans coming to town

Rumour that Simon Gerrans might be visiting Mansfield in November with potential opportunity to organise a Club function with him as guest of honour.
This item was not discussed due to meeting time constraints.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm