

attention to numbers and we'll get nowhere as a loose collective of individuals. You can now join up to IMBA Australia to boost their numbers and assist the good work that they do towards securing trails, without having to join a race/event focused MTB club (go to [www.imba-au.com](http://www.imba-au.com)).

Beyond those things, we should all set a good example on the trail and avoid riding unauthorised trails, as we don't want to offer detractors any fuel for their anti-MTB arguments. So prepare your pens/computers and get ready for lots of letter writing, as Nic Bowman from IMBA Australia likes to say, 'The pen is mightier than the mattock'.



### » CASH FOR TRAILS

The Townsville Rockwheelers Mountain Bike Club has developed a long-term plan to invest the profits from their events in the building of sustainable MTB trails. Just recently, they directed around \$20,000 of the club's money into 3.5km of trail at Lake Ross and the recently formed Douglas Mountain Bike Reserve. This was the cumulative profits from a few years worth of Paluma Push and HotRock8 events.

The money was used to employ expert trail builder Adrian Marriner for the task. Adrian has worked with World Trail (Glen Jacobs) and built quality XC trails at Stromlo and Forrest—think of Marriners Run if you've been lucky enough to ride at Forrest in Victoria.

Townsville is a very rocky and unforgiving place for trail building. Thankfully Adrian is a magician with the mini-excavator and the cost of building has been around \$5 to \$7 per metre—far more attractive than the 'one man-hour per metre' that some trails have taken to build with hand tools!

Peter 'Mozzy' McLean, Rockwheelers Trail Access Co-ordinator said, "The days of busting a gut hand digging singletrack are long gone. What Adrian can do with his mini-excavator is simply incredible. We have had features built in that you would never contemplate even attempting by hand."

All the time spent running events is forgotten when you see the results that the profits can achieve. Club members volunteering at events are effectively building new singletrack without getting dirty and we'll be selling the idea to club members from now on. As long as there's money to be

made from MTB events, there will be new trails built in Townsville."

It's a pretty good deal for their mountain bikers and shows what a proactive club can achieve.

### » LAKE MOUNTAIN

Located above Marysville in Victoria, Lake Mountain Alpine Resort is keen to promote mountain biking as a summer activity. They currently have 30km of cross country ski trails open for mountain bike riders and work is underway with the start of their singletrack network. This will begin with a 1km beginners trail called 'Lenny's Loop' and a cross country race loop, with the aim of having around 15km of singletrack completed for the 'Granite Grind' event in February.

Long-term plans for the proposed 'Lake Mountain Alpine Resort Mountain Bike Trail Network' include over 140km of singletrack and 4WD trails. This should include an 'iconic ride' from Lake Mountain down to Marysville, which will provide over 20km of challenging cross country trail and close to 1,000 vertical metres in elevation loss. All trails will be graded for differing skill levels and built to IMBA standards.

It's good to see another venue getting behind mountain biking and well worth supporting this bushfire ravaged region. Lake Mountain is around two hours drive from Melbourne and you'll find more information on their progress at [www.lakemountainresort.com.au](http://www.lakemountainresort.com.au).



### » STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

Mountain bikers in the Mornington Peninsula area, about an hour south of Melbourne, have banded together to form a new club—the Red Hill Riders. Beyond the usual motivation of holding formalised events, the club aims to lobby their local council to secure the trails around Arthurs Seat and the Red Hill area. For more information and to get involved with the club, go to [www.redhillriders.com](http://www.redhillriders.com).

### » CORONET PEAK CLOSED

In the last issue of Mountain Biking Australia we featured Queenstown New Zealand as a mountain bike destination and Coronet Peak was one of the places mentioned within the article. Not long after we went to print,