

### **MCTA Inc Press Release – MCTA Inc and Specialized Team Up to Fix Rain Affected Trails**

On Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2022, volunteers organised by the Mill Creek Trail Association kept their fingers crossed that the current heavy rains would ease for long enough to conduct their monthly trail day in the Lucas Heights Conservation Area.

The 32 volunteers, supervised by Sutherland Shire Council's Bushcare team, were fuelled by donuts, croissants and merchandise generously gifted by Specialized Bicycles Australia under their 'Soil Searching' program. They managed to conduct drainage works and a near full re-surface to the popular 'Black Hawk Down' trail, the name a nod to the frequent flyovers from neighbouring Holsworthy's Military Zone.

The recent heavy rains have seen an unprecedented amount of runoff and erosion to the Mill Creek MTB Trail network and with conditions continuing, there will be more trail repairs to conduct next month.

The newly formed Mill Creek Trail Association are always looking for more members or volunteers to work on the trails, and are hoping to expand the volunteer trail care program into The Royal National Park, where many unofficial mountain biking trails have been built with poor alignments and unfortunate disregard for environmental concerns.

"Unfortunately, we're losing a lot of time in the current COVID inspired mountain bike boom, waiting for land managers to properly manage and provide for mountain biking. The NPWS are reviewing responses to their plan of management to formalise and maintain mountain bike trails in 'The Royal', but in the meantime these rains are causing more damage, and volunteers are not yet authorised to head in and remediate any of the trails and lessen environmental impacts." MCTA Inc club president Dan Greenwood said.

"It's a similar story at Mill Creek. Sutherland Shire Council had designed, approved and were supposedly ready to build a carpark and safe access to those trails in 2021. But it's not yet happened. Thankfully, we've had a visit and some help from newly elected Councillor Laura Cowell. She's helped out by ordering a report from council staff into the holdup, but she's still awaiting their reply. We're hoping to meet with Mayor Carmelo Pesce about this issue soon."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Greenwood", with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Dan Greenwood**

President / Director  
MCTA Inc  
7<sup>th</sup> March, 2022