

MCTA Inc Press Release – Sutherland Shire Mountain Bike Community Says Thanks

December 14th 2024 marked the final trail care day which would be led by Mill Creek Trail Association Inc (MCTA Inc) Director, Dan Greenwood at the Mill Creek Mountain Bike Trail network.

Mr Greenwood, from Yarrawarrah, following his return to Australia from overseas work in Mountain Bike Trail construction over 10 years ago, joined the Mountain Bike community in Lucas Heights in establishing together with Sutherland Shire Council, the Mill Creek trail network within the Lucas Heights Conservation Area.

With an established background and continuing relevant industry employment in trail construction, Mr Greenwood quickly became a key community representative, and soon after, the key driving force behind improvements to the Mill Creek network, one of a handful of sanctioned mountain bike trail networks in Sydney.

The network, developed initially via many years of environmental restoration, basic maintenance and trail rationalisation/closures, also developed alongside a relationship of trust with Sutherland Shire Council, and both matured to a level which allowed Mr Greenwood's trail building creativity to flourish.

'Black Hawk Down', a descending trail beginning near Heathcote Road, was designed and built by Mr Greenwood and volunteers, and marked the first ever new, and importantly, sanctioned mountain bike trail for Sutherland Shire in 2016.

The re-shaping and refreshing of an old fire trail / four-wheel drive track within the Lucas Heights Conservation Area, into a beginner suitable air-flow jump trail "Hit The Turps" in 2018 still remains as Mr Greenwood's most popular work. Jumping, particularly for recreational mountain bikers, was at that time in 2018, limited to purpose built bike parks typically located in ski destinations around the world, or restricted to those with more 'thrill-seeking' personalities. Thanks to "Hit the Turps" and Mr Greenwood's vision, jumping is now enjoyed by a huge demographic of the mountain bike community.

More recently, Mr Greenwood founded Mill Creek Trail Association Inc in 2011, and with support from it's members, and sponsor donations from Specialized Bicycles, the club has been able to expand the Mill Creek network to offer beginner development trails such as "Whipper Snapper" and a further jump trail "Acacia Missed It".

"It's been an absolute privilege to be part of everything at Mill Creek. My goal has always been to build a community around mountain biking and advocate for more trails across the Shire" Mr Greenwood said. In a Facebook post penned on the club's page, Mr Greenwood detailed the difficulty making the decision to step away from a role that "has been a big part of my life for over a decade" and highlighted some of the difficulties of the role such as dealing with multiple stakeholders and land managers, as well as dealing with broken or significantly delayed promises, seemingly inherent in Sydney based mountain bike infrastructure provision. "However, it's time for me to focus on other things Thank you to everyone who has been part of this journey. The future

of Mountain Biking in the Shire is bright, and I'm excited to see what's next" Mr Greenwood continued.

The community, including fellow MCTA Inc Director Sean Hill, were glowing in their praise for Mr Greenwood's dedication, volunteering and results. "In a city where legal MTB access to singletrack is lagging behind the rest of the state and country we are lucky to have had someone like Dan", Mr Hill said. "For more than 10 years Dan has devoted a huge chunk of his own time both on the ground and behind the scenes to help build and expand the trail network on what was originally a parcel of land meant to be part of a "mega tip" ... It has grown into the valuable community asset we all get to enjoy today ... Thank you for everything you've done to get Mill Creek, and Mountain Biking in the Sutherland Shire where it is today" Mr Hill continued.

Similar sentiments were echoed by numerous community comments thanking Mr Greenwood for his "vision and persistence, and the countless volunteer hours you have given to make it happen", and recognising "Mill Creek is a milestone in Sydney's MTB history. Great work to get us here".

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SH', is positioned above the name Sean Hill.

Sean Hill

Director - Spokesperson

MCTA Inc

23rd December 2024