



# Swan Region Snapshot

No: 2

## Focus on Perth Hills District

### No old goats here

Community enjoyment of park facilities and services

**W**hat does one do with an old Agricultural Research Station with a specific interest in GOATS?

It was obvious to the Perth Hills District that one creates a mountain bike facility.

*The Goat Farm* has quickly become the centre of mountain biking in the State and the name is now part of the jargon of the serious mountain biker. The site is close to Great Eastern Highway.

### Combining work with play

Integration of knowledge

A range of DEC staff have been instrumental in this project: each with a secret love of mountain biking. DEC landscape architect, Nathan Greenhill, and Rod Annear, previous PVS Coordinator of Perth Hills District, were delighted to combine their professional work and knowledge from their biking pursuits. DEC Design Studio team members, Shaun Bunting and Gil Field, have developed an edgy sign with a suitable touch of daring, obsession, sense of competition and humour.



### Major community involvement

Health and enjoyment

Probably the most impressive aspect of the project is the high level of community involvement. Clinton Hull, Project Manager and self-confessed cycling devotee, has overseen the project. DEC has worked in consultation with the major community organizations: WA Mountain Bike Association; Perth Mountain Bike Club and Cycling WA. DEC is responsible for the infrastructure, including timing sheds, toilets, shelter shed/communication centre, and for ensuring that the trails are built to the appropriate safety and construction standards. The associations work to build and maintain the trails. The test of community ownership is graffiti – there has been none since the new facilities have gone in!

Capital works has contributed \$350,000 and the community groups received further financial resources through Lotterywest. This grant enabled the associations and organized teams of volunteers to construct the many circuit grades.



Department of  
Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future 



### Fitness, fun and downhill run

BMX, downhill runs and cross country circuits ensure that all members of the community can participate. Although usually considered the province of males, many females are taking up the sport and all are reaping the benefits of outdoor activity in a relatively safe environment – for what can be an extreme sport.

It is hoped that future development will include a skills development area for those who wish to join this thriving special interest community: tiny jumps for the 4-5 year olds and larger ones for adults wishing to hone their skills.



The information and education boards which have remained graffiti –free.

### Sustainability spinoffs

Ensuring the future of our forests

Fun aside – there has been a crucial sustainability outcome from this work. Illegal mountain bike tracks and structures in the forest have reduced as people are incorporated into the various associations and individual users discover *The Goat Farm*.

As the site will be replanted with indigenous plants, the once denuded site will be more in keeping with the other parks in the area.

### Cycling on the Darling Scarp

Since 2004, seven other trails have been constructed in the Perth Hills Area. The 20 km Kalamunda Circuit, Carinyah Circuit, Langford park, Forsyth's Mill, Turner Hill, Marrinup and the South shore Trail. All of these facilities are testament to the collaboration between DEC, Lotterywest, local clubs and mountain bike groups.

### 227 kms and 20,000 adventurers

The Munda Biddi trail continues to provide great experiences for school groups, individuals and off-road cycling groups. As with *The Goat Farm*, Perth Hills District manages the infrastructure of their 227kms whilst the Munda Biddi Trail Foundation ensures the basic maintenance of the trail through their vigorous volunteers. On the down side, and as one would expect, this intense use of the trail has caused erosion and degradation of the track itself. It is planned that resources for maintenance and upgrading will be applied for from capital works.



A view of the new car park where the recent plantings promise shade and a sense that the tracks are in native forest.

### Thinking you will give it a go?

Choose your challenge:

- **Dugite Bite** (the easy one)
- **Gravel Rash** (speaks for itself)
- **Blue Cruising**
- **Cannon Ball**
- **Ball Breaker**
- **A-Kline** (named after Joey Kline from the International Mountain Bike Association who design the circuit – very difficult)
- **Push Up Trail** is the one required to get you back to the top (sigh!).



Department of  
**Environment and Conservation**

Our environment, our future

