

CASE STUDY

Gold Coast Mountain Bike Club



Background

Our trails in the Gold Coast suburb of Nerang had endured significant erosion due to extreme weather conditions, in addition to an increase in riders using our facilities. During this time, we were also facing some difficulties with our staff and maintaining relationships while managing processes and regulatory frameworks at our trail. What we needed was an opportunity to reset everything in our business and a focus on engaging volunteers in the facility again.

Why did you choose Blue Sky Trails?

We first became aware of Blue Sky Trails through the recommendation of the National Cycling Body - AusCycling. We were looking for a highly regarded trainer and Blue Sky Trails were recommended.

What was the value of the training?

As a club, we are so grateful for the training we received as it has helped our trails and all our stakeholders in a variety of ways.

As the President of the club, it was wonderful to re-engage different groups within the club, including volunteers, riders and land managers. The opportunity to come together as a group allowed us to set the foundations for positive and constructive relationships at the club, ultimately leading to better results for the club and all its members.

Through the training provided, our club has made commitment to the ongoing maintenance of our trails and the safety of its riders. A huge part of this has been upskilling the volunteers who, so generously, already give so much of their time to our club to assist in the construction of trails. Since completing the training with Blue Sky Trails, we have begun to involve our volunteers in the regulatory requirements associated with Mountain Bike Clubs in an effort to build up relationships, while giving back to the community which has given so much time and energy to our club.



What did you and the club enjoy about the training? How did the team respond to the different elements of the course?

The training provided by Blue Sky Trails was offered in a flexible manner which fit in with the busy schedule of our volunteers. We also modified the structure of the course to ensure it was relevant for our club and its facilities. Every trail is different and our trail at Nerang is no exception. Modifying the contents of the course allowed us

to get the most of this opportunity and answer any concerns we had. All of our staff, providers and volunteers walked away from the experience feeling seen, listened to and appreciated. Most importantly, everybody involved learnt something new.

Since completing the training, what benefits has your club and the trails experienced?

The training provided by Blue Sky Trails has assisted significantly in positively resetting the relationship between our club and the Land Managers. Since the training, we've been able to increase our on-ground trail care days from just one day per month to five days per month. **The training has meant that we can upskill some of our staff to trail care leaders.** This has been a relief to our land manager who has lifted pre-existing restrictions on riding. Because more of our staff are competent and confident in trail care, the **Land Managers are more confident in our ability to maintain the trails** and have allowed our crew on the ground as long as there is a trail care leader present.

By investing in this process and demonstrating our commitment to the trails, it's led to the establishment of a sense of stewardship for the park. Other riders are seeing the commitment we're putting into the trails and now, we are beginning to get feedback about the work we are doing and the stewardship that has been built.

Because of our commitment to training and working through issues our club was facing, **we have been more successful in securing grants for trailcare work** which has ultimately meant we can invest even further in our club.

Another positive has been that we have been able to positively contribute to the relationship between the club and the landowner.



Contact us today to start your sustainable trail training

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