



Welcome to the start of the spring / summer season. If you've been lucky enough to ride the Hanmer trails recently you'll have seen that they've held up well over the winter period and are riding brilliantly. As usual a lot of this is due to the hard work of the Council "gardeners" (thanks Graeme and team!) for the ongoing trimming, clearing and filling holes that our trails need to keep them pristine. But we also can't forget our own band of volunteers, led by Mike Lawrence, who are continually realigning corners, improving lines and making the tracks ride better. And when they're not tending to existing trails, they're out there building new trails ... which is pretty much the focus of this newsletter.

TOMBSTONE TRAIL

After 4 years of hard yakka, Steve and Jono have just put the finishing touches on this trail and it's now open for all to enjoy their hard work. Signage is up (entrance from the top of Yankee Zephyr uphill) so go enjoy.

At 3.7km length, Tombstone is an **ADVANCED** single-track trail with 165m of climbing made easy by 25 switchbacks followed by 220m of exciting descent. You'll grin at the flow of twists, turns, and drops. They've even thought of the more timid of us by putting in some chicken-routes over the more advanced drop-offs, and picnic tables at Jane's camp and Rusty's Landing to stop and catch your breath (but officially to enjoy the views!). And those views are stunning – particularly at the top point of around 700m. The trail joins in with Joliffe Saddle trail near the Waterfall carpark so you can tie it in with Detox and Mach One to make an extended loop back to the village.

See below for details of the "official" opening of this trail – the inaugural "Tombstone Trail" race.



ADDICTION TRAIL



And coming into life at the same time is Mike Lawrence and crew's trail off the top of Jollies Pass Road (just north of the pass). At a total length of 5.2km, this starts off with an **INTERMEDIATE** climb before turning into full-on **EXPERT** downhill, running into Detox Trail which allows a more relaxed return to the village to calm the nerves. With an elevation close to 1000m at the top this is not for the faint-hearted, but provides riders with an awesome back-country black diamond experience within striking distance of Hanmer township. The views are worth the climb alone!

DECEMBER 6 – TOMBSTONE RACE / OFFICIAL OPENING

Mark it on your calendars now – December 6th is THE date to come and enjoy the new trails. We're super excited that Hanmer Events will be running the inaugural Tombstone MTB Race to welcome our newest trail into the Hanmer network. There'll be a long course (35km) and short course (17.5km) incorporating Tombstone and several other iconic trails, and for those less adventurous a more modest 7.5km course incorporating Swamp & Swoop trails. Check out the details at <https://www.hanmerevents.co.nz/tombstonemt看> and get your entries in.

Hanmer Springs Mountain Bike Club

NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2020



It's already attracting a lot of interest. Word on the street is that Anton Cooper, fresh from his European professional circuit, is keen to come along on the 6th to set a lap record – now that's a great reason to enter the race and rub shoulders with the elite!

On the same day we hope to have a recreational ride for those families wanting to check out the Hanmer Heritage Forest's latest track, Southern Cross, as well as showing off the club's grading park and washdown areas. The aim is to get a Canterbury identity to join the ride – a good opportunity for autographs and selfies for the kids!

GRADING & SKILLS PARK

If you're uncertain as to whether Tombstone or Addiction (or for that matter any of our other trails) are within your riding ability, don't forget that the club recently built the Grading Trails behind the old DOC centre on Jollies Pass Road. Check out the Beginners / Intermediate / Advanced and Expert lines to see which level you're at before heading out into the forest.



While there you'll notice that the next stage is nearing completion. Thanks to the hard work of Steve Halligan and helpers the Skills Park is taking shape. We're grateful to DOC for allowing us to site this on their land, and the Track Network Group for assisting in funding and governance.



Just like the Grading Trails this will give all riders the ability to test their skills on a variety of obstacles. We're hopeful of getting this completed over summer, so in the meantime – LOOK BUT DON'T RIDE!! We'll let you know once its all up and ready for business on our Facebook page.

AND LASTLY DON'T FORGET YOUR MEMBERSHIP SUBS!

If you're receiving this newsletter it means that you've either already joined for this year (thanks for dipping into your pockets to support the club's activities), or you were a paid-up member last year who's forgotten to renew your membership. Please note if you fall into that second category, if you don't renew your membership this'll be the last newsletter you'll get, so please join up and help the club help you.



To renew your membership please visit the website www.hanmermtb.nz & go to 'Membership & Donations'. Its quick to do and payment can be made by credit card, PayPal or internet banking.

As you'll see above there's plenty new trails to keep you occupied on your bike. If you can't make it to the Tombstone Trail race on December 6th, no worries – the club's trails are open year-round for your enjoyment. To keep up to date with any trail changes or news, follow us on Facebook or check out website (www.hanmermtb.org.nz) or alternatively www.hanmertrails.nz or www.trailforks.com. Happy riding!!!



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