

Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland

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Submitter Comments:

I am the current Vice-President of our local MTB club, RATS Cycling Club. In my role with the club, we have seen the steady decline in volunteer engagement over the past few years in line with all other sectors that rely on volunteers. We rely on volunteers to facilitate many of our activities; including Trail Care, Race Hosting and Management, Social Rides, and Coaching Services. As a club with over 500 members, one might expect that we would have a large pool of volunteers to meet our needs. However, we almost always end up with the same dozen or so people doing almost all of the work. In addition to my role with our club, I am involved in many other Trail Care activities in the area: with Logan City council via their LCTA programs in Cornubia and Spring Hill; Redland City council via our own programs and those of our neighbouring club, Mt Cotton Riders Alliance; local private bike parks, Boomerang Farm and Kooralbyn. Each of these struggle with the same issue: volunteer engagement. Efforts to increase engagement and/or to survey reasons for the lack of engagement have proven largely fruitless. At our club, we have even tried financial inducements - e.g. free club and AusCycling membership - but this has not improved uptake. Most people are generally "too busy". But they still find time to ride? While not universally valid, I do think that "busy culture" has contributed to the decline.