

## **Cradle Coast Authority to review regions**

### **“Recreational Trails”**

The Cradle Coast Authority has commissioned a review of recreational trails throughout the Cradle Coast Region and is now seeking applications from interested persons to fill the position of project officer to oversee this review.

Multi-use trails are generally accepted as being those recreational trails suitable for any combination of walking, cycling, horse riding, and other compatible recreational uses.

The aim of the project is to develop a strategy for the development and management of an integrated network of multi-use trails network for the region, in partnership with the community, land managers, local councils, and other key stakeholders.

Nic Deka, Outdoor Recreation Consultant for the Office of Sport and Recreation, endorsed the project “A properly devised and managed multi-use trail network can provide a wide range of social and economic benefits. Good trails will increase the recreational opportunities for local communities and tourists and generate increased economic activity and health benefits to the individuals using them.”

Mr. Deka said that the Cradle Coast Region of Tasmania had a great range of tracks suitable for walking, mountain biking, and other recreational uses. “Some of these trails are managed by highly committed and dedicated local community or interest groups, and others by government agencies, but overall there is little coordination of development and maintenance. It is important to have a strategy that can coordinate future development, support community interest and effort, and create links so that we end up with a well connected and properly maintained trail network.”

Cradle Coast Authority Regional Tourism Manager Ian Waller was enthusiastic in his support for this project, highlighting the findings of the Tasmanian Visitor Survey 2000/01 which indicated that 51.6% of the 272,000 holiday visitors to Tasmania undertook a bush walk of less than two hours, 28.8% undertook walks of between 2 and 8 hrs and 5.7% did overnight walks.

9,000 visitors to Tasmania in the same period rode a bicycle or mountain bike, this figure increased by 38% from 1996/97.

“These figures alone highlight the potential of this market sector to our region and this strategy will provide the direction and incentive for us to work with our partners and key stakeholders to develop these trails and to ensure we are meeting the needs of this growing market” Mr. Waller said.

Applications for this position close on the 17<sup>th</sup> of January with the project completion planned for June 2003.

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