

**From:** Jenny Lapham  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act Request  
**Date:** Friday, 7 August 2020 04:52:00 p.m.  
**Attachments:** [Response Mountain Bike Track Names Redacted.pdf](#)

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Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your request for the following information:

*All email communications between the Mayor Aaron Hawkins (or by someone on his behalf i.e. his PA) and any other DCC staff member relating to the "inappropriate" signage on Signal Hill cycle tracks.*

Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding to your request.

Attached is the information you requested, I advise that the details of the complainants have been redacted pursuant to sections 7(2)(a) and 7(2)(c)(i) of the LGOIMA in order to protect the privacy of persons and to ensure the supply of similar information in the future.

You have also asked for the following information:

*All email communications between the Mayor Aaron Hawkins (or someone on his behalf) and with Sue Bidrose (or her PA), staff in the Transport or Planning Departments or Jinty Mactavish.*

I advise that this information is currently being peer reviewed and will be supplied to you as soon as practicable next week.

As we have declined to provide some information, you are advised that you have the right to seek a review of the decision by the Office of the Ombudsman  
<https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/what-we-can-help>

Regards

Jennifer Lapham

**Governance Support Officer**

**Civic**

**P** 03 477 4000 | **E** [Jenny.Lapham@dcc.govt.nz](mailto:Jenny.Lapham@dcc.govt.nz)

Dunedin City Council, 50 The Octagon, Dunedin

PO Box 5045, Dunedin 9054

New Zealand

[www.dunedin.govt.nz](http://www.dunedin.govt.nz)

## Jenny Lapham

---

**From:** Monique Elleboode  
**Sent:** Thursday, 28 May 2020 09:58 a.m.  
**To:** Robert West  
**Subject:** FW: Acknowledgement from Mayor Hawkins' Office to [REDACTED] RE: Signal Hill Mountain Bike Park/track names

Bonjour Robert  
Is this something your team can have a look at? Or best to another team? Would you know?  
Thanks for taking the time to look at this.  
I look forward to your feedback on this.  
Many thanks  
Monique

---

**From:** Monique Elleboode <Monique.Elleboode@dcc.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 28 May 2020 9:57 a.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Mayor <mayor@oa.dcc.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Acknowledgement from Mayor Hawkins' Office to [REDACTED] RE: Signal Hill Mountain Bike Park/track names

Dear [REDACTED]

On behalf of Mayor Hawkins, thank you for your email.

Ka nui tēnei

Nāku noa, nā

Monique

Monique Elleboode  
Executive Assistant to the Mayor of Dunedin  
Taituarā Matua ki te Koromatua o Ōtepoti

Tau waea: 03 474 3855; 027 39 88 707 | Īmēra: [monique.elleboode@dcc.govt.nz](mailto:monique.elleboode@dcc.govt.nz)

Kaunihera ā-rohe o Ōtepoti/Dunedin City Council, 50 The Octagon, Ōtepoti/Dunedin  
PO Box 5045, Ōtepoti 9054  
Aotearoa  
[www.dunedin.govt.nz](http://www.dunedin.govt.nz)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 27 May 2020 8:15 p.m.  
**To:** Mayor <mayor@oa.dcc.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Signal Hill Mountain Bike Park

Dear Aaron

I live between [REDACTED] and have a great interest in the Signal Hill Mountain Bike Park. I am an avid cyclist, and think this is a wonderful place to ride. However, the tracks have names that shock me, shock my friends (male and female alike) and which I don't think are acceptable for a public park. I have brought this to the attention of DCC in the past, but I see there has been no change.

There are three very offensively-named tracks: Ginger Cougar, The Missus and The Mistress. Mountain biking communities tend to be very masculinist, but this is a step too far.

I hope you will take a look at this and find a way to change to these offensive names.

Many thanks!

Nāku, noa nā

[REDACTED]

**Jenny Lapham**

---

**From:** Robert West  
**Sent:** Friday, 29 May 2020 12:46 p.m.  
**To:** kristybooth [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Acknowledgement from Mayor Hawkins' Office - RE: Signal Hill Mountain Bike Park/track names

Hello Kristy – I tried calling you this morning, and have left a bit of a rambling message on your phone. I have received this complaint from the mayors office (as per below) and have removed any reference to the complainant as I do not have their permission at this stage to disclose their name.

It relates to the naming of some of the tracks on Signal Hill, and I know that it is something that we have discussed as part of our regular meetings in the past (due to previous complaints). Most recently from the meeting of 15/8/19 (excerpt from meeting minutes) -

*Track naming MBO committee feedback*

*Feedback taken to the committee. There will be a council naming policy in near future. Unsure of the timeline. Current names - MBO feel it should be left as is. Naming policy won't look at retrospective names. Possibly needs a bit more thought to frame it positively.*

I will ask Jess to put this down on the next MBO/DCC meeting agenda, but we will be pushing now to agree a timeline with MBO for renaming of track names where there is concern about them. The Policy team at DCC have been taking the lead in the development of a DCC Naming Policy for consideration by Council. I will be following up with them to see where they are at with that. However, that should not stop us from moving forward with a piece of work to look at the names, and I believe that this can be done in a way that is a win:win for both MBO and DCC.

Please do give me a call if you want to discuss, otherwise we will discuss further at the next meeting

Congratulations also on the increased funding from DCC for MBO as agreed at yesterday's Annual plan deliberations

Kind regards

Robert West  
GROUP MANAGER  
PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICES



P 03 477 4000 | DD 03 474 3695 | M 021 538826 | E robert.west@DCC.govt.nz  
Dunedin City Council, 50 The Octagon, Dunedin  
PO Box 5045, Dunedin 9054  
New Zealand  
[www.dunedin.govt.nz](http://www.dunedin.govt.nz)



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**From:** Monique Elleboode <[Monique.Elleboode@dcc.govt.nz](mailto:Monique.Elleboode@dcc.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 28 May 2020 9:57 a.m.  
**To:**

Cc: Mayor <[mayor@oa.dcc.govt.nz](mailto:mayor@oa.dcc.govt.nz)>

Subject: Acknowledgement from Mayor Hawkins' Office - RE: Signal Hill Mountain Bike Park/track names

Dear XXX

On behalf of Mayor Hawkins, thank you for your email.

Ka nui tēnei

Nāku noa, nā

Monique

Monique Elleboode

Executive Assistant to the Mayor of Dunedin

Taituarā Matua ki te Koromatua o Ōtepoti

Tau waea: 03 474 3855; 027 39 88 707 | Īmēra: [monique.elleboode@dcc.govt.nz](mailto:monique.elleboode@dcc.govt.nz)

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Aotearoa

[www.dunedin.govt.nz](http://www.dunedin.govt.nz)

---

From:

Sent: Wednesday, 27 May 2020 8:15 p.m.

To: Mayor <[mayor@oa.dcc.govt.nz](mailto:mayor@oa.dcc.govt.nz)>

Subject: Signal Hill Mountain Bike Park

Dear Aaron

I have a great interest in the Signal Hill Mountain Bike Park. I am an avid cyclist, and think this is a wonderful place to ride. However, the tracks have names that shock me, shock my friends (male and female alike) and which I don't think are acceptable for a public park. I have brought this to the attention of DCC in the past, but I see there has been no change.

There are three very offensively-named tracks: Ginger Cougar, The Missus and The Mistress. Mountain biking communities tend to be very masculinist, but this is a step too far.

I hope you will take a look at this and find a way to change to these offensive names.

Many thanks!

Nāku, noa nā

**From:** [Robert West](#)  
**To:** [Sandy Graham](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Acknowledgement from Mayor Hawkins' Office to [REDACTED] - RE: Signal Hill Mountain Bike Park/track names  
**Date:** Friday, 29 May 2020 12:59:00 p.m.  
**Attachments:** [Image001.jpg](#)  
[Image002.jpg](#)

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FYI

**From:** Robert West  
**Sent:** Friday, 29 May 2020 12:59 p.m.  
**T** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Aaron Hawkins <[Aaron.Hawkins@dcc.govt.nz](mailto:Aaron.Hawkins@dcc.govt.nz)>; Monique Elleboode <[Monique.Elleboode@dcc.govt.nz](mailto:Monique.Elleboode@dcc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** FW: Acknowledgement from Mayor Hawkins' Office to [REDACTED] - RE: Signal Hill Mountain Bike Park/track names

Kia ora [REDACTED] Mayor Hawkins' office has forwarded onto me your email of Thursday 28 May regarding concerns about the naming of tracks on the Signal Hill Mountain Bike Park.

I completely agree with you that the current names of some of the tracks are offensive, and thank you for raising this with us.

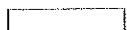
The matter is currently an agenda item on the regular Mountain Bike Otago (MBO) – DCC Parks and Recreation meetings that we hold. I hope that you will be reassured to hear that we are currently working with MBO to develop a joint work plan for Signal Hill to ensure MBO-DCC alignment, and the re-naming current tracks and the process for naming of new tracks is part of that work.

This may take a period of time to resolve, but you can expect to see these name changes in the near future.

Please do get back in touch with me if you have any further concerns or questions relating to this matter.

Kind regards

Robert West  
**GROUP MANAGER**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICES**



**P** 03 4774000 | **DD** 03 474 3695 | **M** 021 538826 | **E** [robert.west@DCC.govt.nz](mailto:robert.west@DCC.govt.nz)  
Dunedin City Council, 50 The Octagon, Dunedin  
PO Box 5045, Dunedin 9054  
New Zealand  
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**From:** Monique Elleboode <[Monique.Elleboode@dcc.govt.nz](mailto:Monique.Elleboode@dcc.govt.nz)>

**Sent:** Thursday, 28 May 2020 9:57 a.m.

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Mayor <[mayor@oa.dcc.govt.nz](mailto:mayor@oa.dcc.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** Acknowledgement from Mayor Hawkins' Office to [REDACTED] RE: Signal Hill Mountain Bike Park/track names

Dear [REDACTED]

On behalf of Mayor Hawkins, thank you for your email.

Ka nui tenei

Naku noa, na

Monique

Monique Elleboode

**Executive Assistant to the Mayor of Dunedin**

**Taituara Matua ki te Koromatua o Otepoti**

**Tau waea:** 03 474 3855; 027 39 88 707 | **Imera:** [monique.elleboode@dcc.govt.nz](mailto:monique.elleboode@dcc.govt.nz)

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**From** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wednesday, 27 May 2020 8:15 p.m.

**To:** Mayor <[mayor@oa.dcc.govt.nz](mailto:mayor@oa.dcc.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** Signal Hill Mountain Bike Park

Dear Aaron

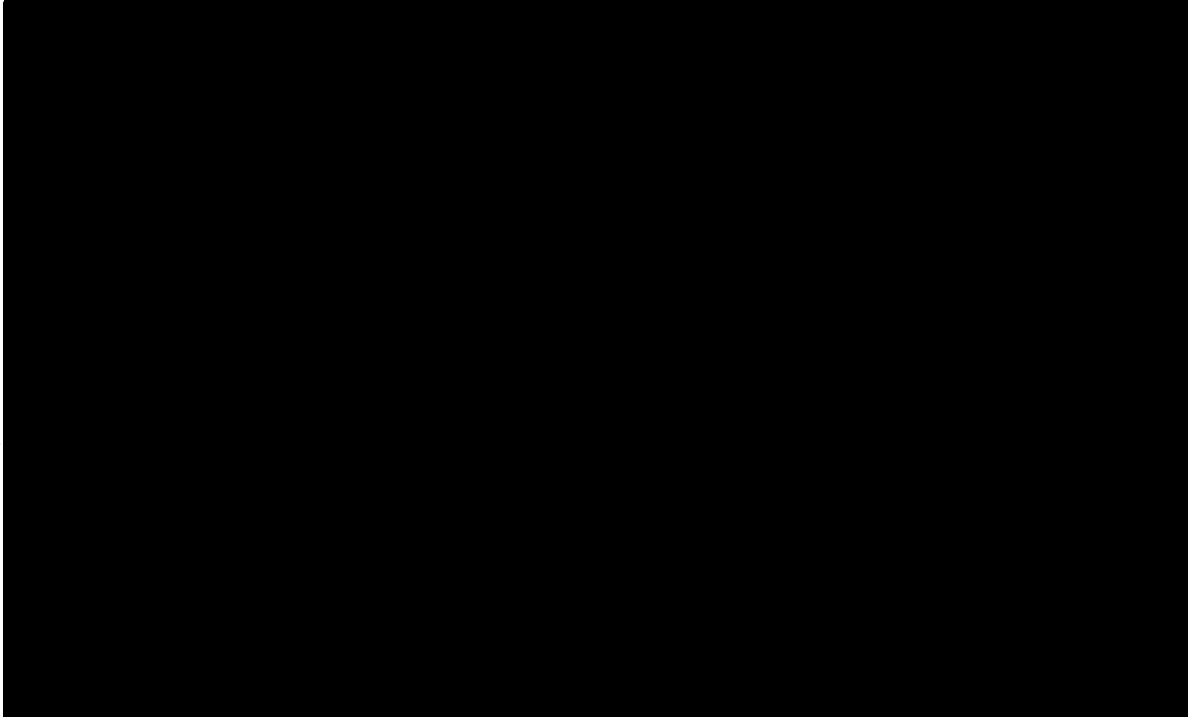
I live between [REDACTED] and have a great interest in the Signal Hill Mountain Bike Park. I am an avid cyclist, and think this is a wonderful place to ride. However, the tracks have names that shock me, shock my friends (male and female alike) and which I don't think are acceptable for a public park. I have brought this to the attention of DCC in the past, but I see there has been no change.

There are three very offensively-named tracks: Ginger Cougar, The Missus and The Mistress. Mountain biking communities tend to be very masculinist, but this is a step too far.

I hope you will take a look at this and find a way to change to these offensive names.

Many thanks!

Naku, noa na





## Jenny Lapham

---

**From:** Robert West  
**Sent:** Friday, 29 May 2020 01:26 p.m.  
**To:** Kristy Booth  
**Subject:** RE: FW: Acknowledgement from Mayor Hawkins' Office - RE: Signal Hill Mountain Bike Park/track names

I am free after 3pm if you want to call. Also happy for you to call next week – which ever is best for you – no panic

R

**From:** Kristy Booth <kristybooth [REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, 29 May 2020 1:04 p.m.  
**To:** Robert West <Robert.West@dcc.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Acknowledgement from Mayor Hawkins' Office - RE: Signal Hill Mountain Bike Park/track names

Thanks Robert,

I'm working out in Oceangrove no cell reception, I can call you after 3 if you like.

We have discussed these tracks in a past meeting with P&R and rational for names that was accepted and no names were changed.

This complaint reads exactly the same as the previous so probably the same person.

MBO is meeting next week, I'll table the track names are changed.

Yes, very exciting to hear of additional funds.

Regards Kristy

On Fri, 29 May 2020, 12:46 pm Robert West, <Robert.West@dcc.govt.nz> wrote:

Hello Kristy – I tried calling you this morning, and have left a bit of a rambling message on your phone. I have received this complaint from the mayors office (as per below) and have removed any reference to the complainant as I do not have their permission at this stage to disclose their name.

It relates to the naming of some of the tracks on Signal Hill, and I know that it is something that we have discussed as part of our regular meetings in the past (due to previous complaints). Most recently from the meeting of 15/8/19 (excerpt from meeting minutes) -

### *Track naming MBO committee feedback*

*Feedback taken to the committee. There will be a council naming policy in near future. Unsure of the timeline. Current names - MBO feel it should be left as is. Naming policy won't look at retrospective names. Possibly needs a bit more thought to frame it positively.*

I will ask Jess to put this down on the next MBO/DCC meeting agenda, but we will be pushing now to agree a timeline with MBO for renaming of track names where there is concern about them. The Policy team at DCC have been taking the lead in the development of a DCC Naming Policy for consideration by Council. I will be following up with them to see where they are at with that. However, that should not stop us from moving forward with a piece of work to look at the names, and I believe that this can be done in a way that is a win:win for both MBO and DCC.

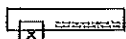
Please do give me a call if you want to discuss, otherwise we will discuss further at the next meeting

Congratulations also on the increased funding from DCC for MBO as agreed at yesterday's Annual plan deliberations

Kind regards

Robert West

**GROUP MANAGER  
PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICES**



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Dunedin City Council, 50 The Octagon, Dunedin

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New Zealand

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## Jenny Lapham

---

**From:** Robert West  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 2 June 2020 02:47 p.m.  
**To:** Kristy Booth  
**Subject:** Signal Hill Mountain Bike Park/track names

Kristy – many thanks to you positive response over the weekend about name changes of three tracks on Signal Hill, and for the proactive removal of signage.

As discussed, I am happy with the following proposed track names –

Ginger Cougar to Orange Roughy  
Mistress to Defrag

However, concerned about –

The Missus to Mrs M. we are concerned about gender based names and potential to misconstrue. I look forward to an alternative name proposal from you.

We are happy to agree some simple guidelines with MBO for future naming of tracks, and I have asked Jess and John to put together a draft for discussion with MBO. As the builder of the tracks, I am happy that MBO put forward names to us in future and that we agree with them prior to agreeing final naming.

Thanks

Robert

**From:** Robert West  
**To:** [REDACTED] Claire Swift  
**Subject:** RE: Track name changes on Signal Hill  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)  
[image002.png](#)

---

Dear [REDACTED] – many thanks for your email regarding Signal Hill track naming. We have had a positive response from them in relation to renaming 3 of the tracks. They were proactive over the weekend by removing all signage on these tracks, and we are talking about re-naming them. We will be agreeing guidelines for naming of new tracks with MBO in the near future to avoid future issues.

Hope that this reassures you and thanks for raising it with me

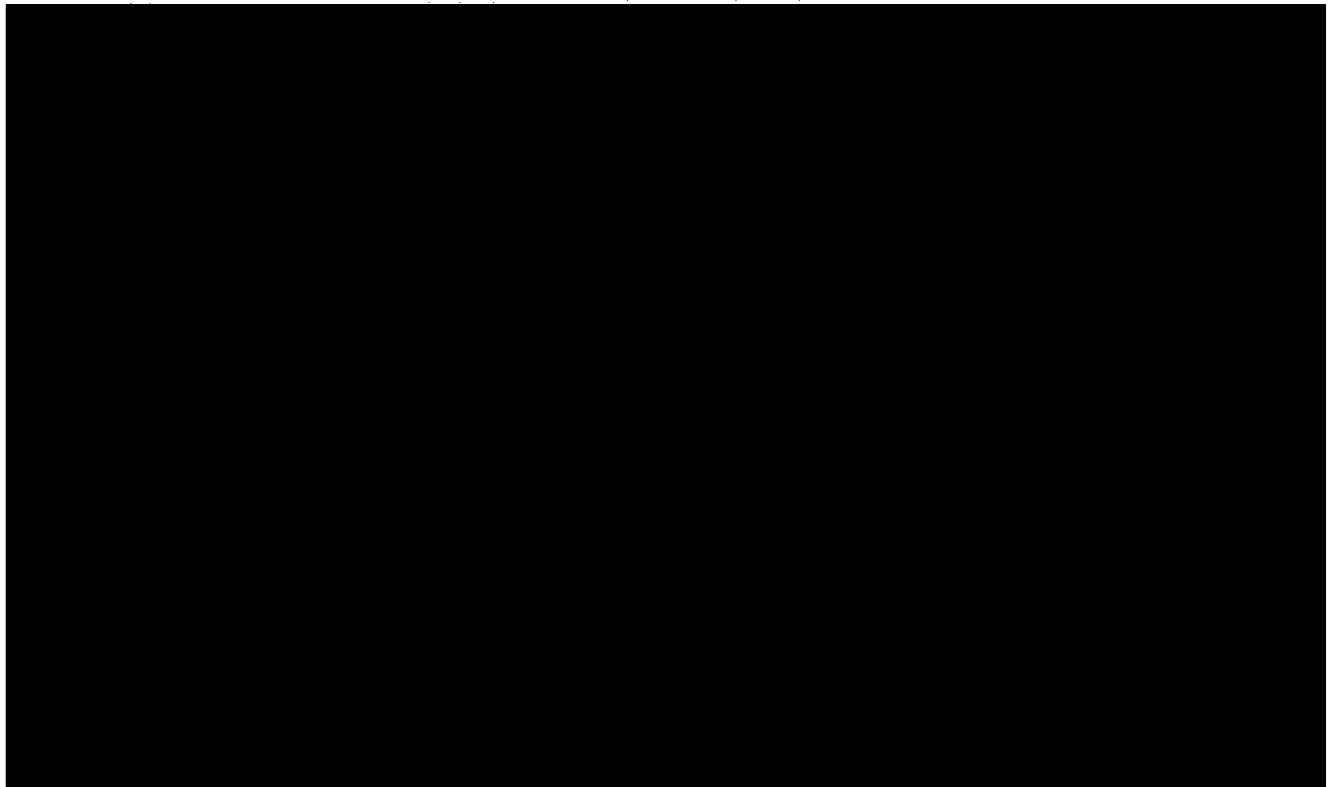
Robert West  
**GROUP MANAGER**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICES**

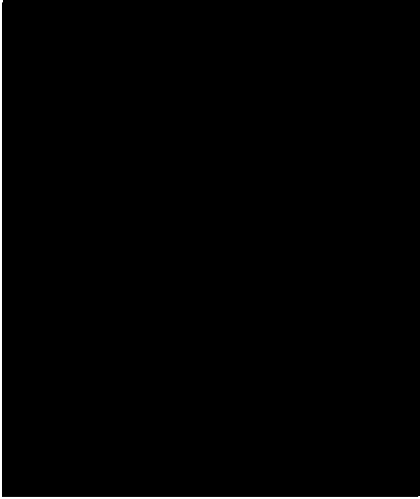


**P** 03 4774000 | **DD** 03 474 3695 | **M** 021 538826 | **E** [robert.west@DCC.govt.nz](mailto:robert.west@DCC.govt.nz)  
Dunedin City Council, 50 The Octagon, Dunedin  
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New Zealand  
[www.dunedin.govt.nz](http://www.dunedin.govt.nz)



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## Jenny Lapham

---

**From:** Andrea Jones  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 3 June 2020 02:29 p.m.  
**To:** Robert West  
**Cc:** Communications  
**Subject:** naming of Signal Hill tracks

Hi Rob

Final version below. I've got a meeting now – will send the response, attributed to you, to the ODT after that. Thanks for your help.

The DCC has received two complaints about the names of three Signal Hill mountain bike tracks - Ginger Cougar, The Missus and The Mistress. Staff agreed these names were inappropriate and raised this with Mountain Bike Otago. We are pleased MBO has agreed to make the changes and understand some of the signs have already been removed. Track signage costs have always been met by MBO. We are working with the group on guidelines for the future naming of tracks.

Cheers

Andrea Jones  
COMMUNICATIONS TEAM LEADER  
COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING  
P 03 477 4000 | DD 03 474 3433 | E [andrea.jones@dcc.govt.nz](mailto:andrea.jones@dcc.govt.nz)  
Dunedin City Council, 50 The Octagon, Dunedin  
PO Box 5045, Dunedin 9054  
New Zealand  
[www.dunedin.govt.nz](http://www.dunedin.govt.nz)

## Jenny Lapham

---

**From:** Andrea Jones  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 3 June 2020 04:08 p.m.  
**To:** Hamish McNeilly; Communications  
**Subject:** Signal Hill mountain bike track names

Hi Hamish

Here's the response we provided to the ODT.

The DCC has received two complaints about the names of three Signal Hill mountain bike tracks - Ginger Cougar, The Missus and The Mistress. Staff agreed these names were inappropriate and raised this with Mountain Bike Otago. We are pleased MBO has agreed to make the changes and understand some of the signs have already been removed. Track signage costs have always been met by MBO. We are working with the group on guidelines for the future naming of tracks.

Kind regards

Andrea Jones  
COMMUNICATIONS TEAM LEADER

**From:** Hamish McNeilly <hamish.mcneilly@stuff.co.nz>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 3 June 2020 3:42 p.m.  
**To:** Communications <comms@oa.dcc.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Fwd:

Afternoon,

I rang Robert West but I couldn't get him on the phone, I was after comment on the below picture.

My questions were:

1. Is it true someone has complained over these names?
2. Did the DCC ask Mountain Biking Otago to change the names, due to this complaint?
3. Has the council determined that these names are offensive?
4. Does the council stand by its decision?
5. Anything else you would like to add?

**Hamish McNeilly**  
Reporter

E [hamish.mcneilly@stuff.co.nz](mailto:hamish.mcneilly@stuff.co.nz) | M 027 458 4605  
8 Stafford St, Dunedin, 9016, New Zealand

**stuff**



Neighbourly



**THE PRESS**

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Hamish McNeilly <[hamish.mcNeilly@fairfaxmedia.co.nz](mailto:hamish.mcNeilly@fairfaxmedia.co.nz)>

Date: Wed, 3 Jun 2020 at 15:39

Subject:

To: <[hamish.mcneilly@stuff.co.nz](mailto:hamish.mcneilly@stuff.co.nz)>



It's a sad day, due to a complaint to the DCC I have been approached by MBO to rename "The Mrs" and "The Mistress ". To my knowledge there is another track involved.

With discussions on renaming the tracks Renaming is being agreed on with the approval of the DCC for The Mistress, however a proposed "Mrs M" (the inspiration behind building the track) has been rejected by the DCC.

So therefore I'm putting it out there for suggestions.

Cheers

(You'll note that I am reserved in my choice of words)



## Vivienne Harvey

---

**From:** Andrew Whiley  
**Sent:** 11 June 2020 3:37 PM  
**To:** Robert West; Sue Bidrose  
**Subject:** Mountain Bike Trails

Dear Robert and Sue,

I was just reading a local blog that I follow and I came across this..

>>> PS We understand the DCC is just doing its job in responding to complaints, but seriously – changing the name of mountain bike trails at Signal Hill? It's part of the culture of mountain biking in New Zealand to have curious names – they are part of the fabric of it all. And The Mrs? Of all trails you've picked on one that was actually built by a guy who finished work at 5pm, grabbed a shovel and disappeared into the forest at Signal Hill nearly every night for as long as I have known him. Mike gave up so much of his time and sweated over every aspect of The Mrs for one reason alone: so his lovely wife Sarah had a trail she could enjoy riding down from the top of the hill in a trail network that is predominantly steep and exhilarating downhill trails. Sarah and many 1000s of others (including me and my kids) have benefited all these years from such a well-designed and fun trail. People came from far and wide to ride The Mrs and, as it does in mountain biking culture in New Zealand, the story of the trail reached into every corner. Trailbuilders are among the finest people that exist on this planet and this slur against them is nothing short of embarrassing. Commonsense anyone? Surely we are reminded daily just how important that is to society. I just hope the DCC doesn't find out the name of the new wave Graham Carse has been surfing all summer ...

I understand the Mistress was also built by Mike for his wife (Sarah) and it's name came about because of the time he spent away from his wife that she joked he had a mistress! it turns out I actually know Mike and Sarah and Sarah is quite upset at how Mike's names for the tracks are being removed because of one complaint. (please tell me that this isn't over 1 complaint!!)

Can I please get some clarification around the Mrs and the Mistress track names and why these names cannot stand.

Regards  
Andrew

Kelly Taylor

---

**From:** Robert West  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 June 2020 02:38 p.m.  
**To:** Monique Elleboode; Sandy Graham; Vivienne Harvey  
**Subject:** Re: Letter of complaint re naming of bike tracks [#BA558D]

Monique might pay to check with viv and sandy first

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

----- Original message -----

**From:** Monique Elleboode <Monique.Elleboode@dcc.govt.nz>  
**Date:** 9/06/20 12:22 PM (GMT+12:00)  
**To:** Robert West <Robert.West@dcc.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** FW: Letter of complaint re naming of bike tracks [#BA558D]

Hi Robert

Today, I thought I'd forward this email to Cllrs, advising that you and Sandy are working on a response.

And, I'll also acknowledge [REDACTED] email, letting [REDACTED] know that a further response will be provided to [REDACTED] in due course.

Are you ok with all of that? And totally happy with your feedback if you had planned something different.

M

---

**From:** Sandy Graham <Sandy.Graham@dcc.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Monday, 8 June 2020 9:04 a.m.  
**To:** Robert West <Robert.West@dcc.govt.nz>; Vivienne Harvey <Vivienne.Harvey@dcc.govt.nz>; Monique Elleboode <Monique.Elleboode@dcc.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** Andrea Jones <Andrea.Jones@dcc.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** RE: Letter of complaint re naming of bike tracks [#BA558D]

Morning

Agreed

Sandy

---

**From:** Robert West <Robert.West@dcc.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Monday, 8 June 2020 8:34 a.m.  
**To:** Sandy Graham <Sandy.Graham@dcc.govt.nz>; Vivienne Harvey <Vivienne.Harvey@dcc.govt.nz>; Monique Elleboode <Monique.Elleboode@dcc.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** Andrea Jones <Andrea.Jones@dcc.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** FW: Letter of complaint re naming of bike tracks [#BA558D]

FYI – not sure if this has gone to Mayor and Councillors?

Sandy – I understand there is an ODT Editorial about this today and just had a phone caller this matter. Would be good to discuss approach and response as we head into the week

R

**From:** Customer Services <[customer.services@contactcentre.dcc.govt.nz](mailto:customer.services@contactcentre.dcc.govt.nz)>

**Sent:** Friday, 5 June 2020 1:51 p.m.

**To:** Nicole Everett <[Nicole.Everett@dcc.govt.nz](mailto:Nicole.Everett@dcc.govt.nz)>; Parks & Rec Escalations <[kbase.carscomplaints@oa.dcc.govt.nz](mailto:kbase.carscomplaints@oa.dcc.govt.nz)>

**Cc:** Robert West <[Robert.West@dcc.govt.nz](mailto:Robert.West@dcc.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** FW: Letter of complaint re naming of bike tracks [#BA558D]

Kia ora Nicole/Robert

This customer email below, (with attached letter), was received via the Dunedin City Council email/website for your attention and response.

Please let us know if there is anything further we can help with.

Thanks.

Marilyn Johnson

**Customer Services Officer**

**Customer Services Agency**

**P** 03 477 4000 | **E** [dcc@dcc.govt.nz](mailto:dcc@dcc.govt.nz)

Dunedin City Council, 50 The Octagon, Dunedin

PO Box 5045, Dunedin 9054

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, 5 June 2020 01:30:04 p.m.

**To:** [dcc@dcc.govt.nz](mailto:dcc@dcc.govt.nz)

**Subject:** Letter of complaint re naming of bike tracks

Hi,

Please see attached a letter of complaint regarding the renaming of the Signal Hill Mountain Bike tracks.

Any questions please don't hesitate to make contact. I look forward to your response.



## Kelly Taylor

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**From:** Robert West  
**Sent:** Monday, 8 June 2020 10:54 a.m.  
**To:** Sandy Graham; Andrea Jones  
**Subject:** FW: FW: Signal Hill Mountain Bike Park/track names  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg

FYI

**From:** Kristy Booth [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 8 June 2020 10:49 a.m.  
**To:** Robert West <Robert.West@dcc.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; Rachel Elder <Rachel.Elder@dcc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Signal Hill Mountain Bike Park/track names

Morning Robert,

The background behind snowflake express is:

Snowflake- no 2 snowflakes are identical making them unique much like the track builders wife, she's a unique lady to allow her husband so much free time to build tracks for her.

Express- adding the Express is for 2 reasons, the snowflake express is a train that when people ride it it bring much delight, much like this track. It also sits right beside moustache express.

So many things have a double meaning if you want to go looking for one, but there is nothing in this that's derogatory to either gender.

However once again we will offer further suggestions from the weekends discussions.

While Orange Roughy still pays tribute to the original track, we'd like to keep The Mrs and Mistress linked and hopefully still pay tribute to their original stories.

The following suggestions still contain names that have previously been declined that we ask you to reconsider.

Mrs M- (previously declined) direct reference to Mrs Muir who the track was built for. Signal has Maverick Mike and Tim's tracks that also reference to people.

Common ground- signals the partnership between the DCC and MBO in resolving the issue at hand.

Or

Other half- (previously declined) it's a common name used for ones partner and is gender neutral.

Better half- the second half of the track is actually better than the first half. It's also another reference to ones partner and is gender neutral.

I truly believe that renaming the tracks as quickly as possible will put the matter to rest.

Kristy

On Thu, 4 Jun 2020, 8:45 AM Robert West, <Robert.West@dcc.govt.nz> wrote:

Kristy – yes I saw the suggestion of Snowflake Express – that is not one we would consider

Robert



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**From:** Kristy Booth [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 4 June 2020 8:31 a.m.  
**To:** Robert West <[Robert.West@dcc.govt.nz](mailto:Robert.West@dcc.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Signal Hill Mountain Bike Park/track names



Thanks for this, what about the later suggestion Snowflake Express as this is the one we want.

To confirm that would be Orange Roughy, Defrag and Snowflake Express

I had expected that MBO would make a joint media statement with the DCC as this did not happen when the odt contacted at 4:50 last night we provided the following replies to their questions.

- What is your understanding of what happened? We were informed of a complaint and yes we removed the signage and are working through finding new names.
- Were you surprised to hear about the complaints? How did you feel about it? Disappointed for all those involved, we are volunteers now spending a significant amount of time club funds correcting one person's complaint.
- Do you get why the complainants may have found them inappropriate? The tracks in question have had these names from 7-10 years and in this time there has been no negative comments brought to our attention. No we don't find them inappropriate within the context of how their names came to be.
- What have MBO done already/what are your next steps with the signs? Signage in question has been removed, the committee is meeting tomorrow to confirm new names and to proceed with new signage.
- How much will changing the signs cost you? A considerable amount as it's not just 3 signs at the beginning of each of these tracks questions but other signage that contain their names elsewhere.

- Is there anything else you want to add or say? We look forward to seeing the DCC's naming policy in regards to gender related names for Dunedin in the future.

Regards Kristy

On Thu, 4 Jun 2020, 8:09 AM Robert West, <[Robert.West@dcc.govt.nz](mailto:Robert.West@dcc.govt.nz)> wrote:

Kristy – as promised I have reviewed the names put forward as per below

Also attached are the two media responses to the ODT and Stuff yesterday.

Thanks

Robert

Ginger Cougar to Orange Roughy – already agreed

Track Names for Signal Hill

<b>The MRS</b>	<b>The Mistress</b>
<del>Daily Grind</del>	Common Ground
Plan A	Plan B
<del>Wahini</del>	
<del>Sarah's Pere</del>	
Lockdown	
<del>Double Entendres</del>	
<del>The Minister</del>	
<del>Labour Lockdown</del>	
<del>Pooper Scooper</del>	
<del>Doggy Bag</del>	
<del>Assault and pepper</del>	
Gold digger	
<del>non-compliant</del>	
Hitchhiker	
Plus 1	<del>other 1/2</del>
PC	Defrag



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**From:** Kristy Booth [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 3 June 2020 7:50 a.m.  
**To:** Robert West <[Robert.West@dcc.govt.nz](mailto:Robert.West@dcc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Re: Signal Hill Mountain Bike Park/track names

Hi Robert,

The track building team was up on the old "The Mrs" last night and have come back with the following list, we're after guidance as to how far they can push their sense of humour's.

Attached is the list, if you wouldn't mind just crossing out anything that's not suitable. I've already removed a few that I'm pretty sure won't fly. You'll see that "The Mistress" has some suggestions too as there is some discussion about the 2 tracks should relate to each other.

Sorry to be a pain but hopefully we get this right for the future.

Kristy

On Tue, 2 Jun 2020 at 14:46, Robert West <[Robert.West@dcc.govt.nz](mailto:Robert.West@dcc.govt.nz)> wrote:

Kristy – many thanks to you positive response over the weekend about name changes of three tracks on Signal Hill, and for the proactive removal of signage.

As discussed, I am happy with the following proposed track names –

Ginger Cougar to Orange Roughy

Mistress to Defrag

However, concerned about –

The Missus to Mrs M. we are concerned about gender based names and potential to misconstrue. I look forward to an alternative name proposal from you.

We are happy to agree some simple guidelines with MBO for future naming of tracks, and I have asked Jess and John to put together a draft for discussion with MBO. As the builder of the tracks, I am happy that MBO put forward names to us in future and that we agree with them prior to agreeing final naming.

Thanks

Robert

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Kind Regards

Kristy Booth

President Mountain Biking Otago



----- Forwarded message -----

From: Andrea Jones <[Andrea.Jones@dcc.govt.nz](mailto:Andrea.Jones@dcc.govt.nz)>

To: Hamish McNeilly <[hamish.mcneilly@stuff.co.nz](mailto:hamish.mcneilly@stuff.co.nz)>, Communications <[comms@oa.dcc.govt.nz](mailto:comms@oa.dcc.govt.nz)>

Cc:

Bcc:  
Date: Wed, 3 Jun 2020 04:08:01 +0000  
Subject: Signal Hill mountain bike track names

Hi Hamish

Here's the response we provided to the ODT.

The DCC has received two complaints about the names of three Signal Hill mountain bike tracks - Ginger Cougar, The Missus and The Mistress. Staff agreed these names were inappropriate and raised this with Mountain Bike Otago. We are pleased MBO has agreed to make the changes and understand some of the signs have already been removed. Track signage costs have always been met by MBO.

We are working with the group on guidelines for the future naming of tracks.

Kind regards

Andrea Jones

**COMMUNICATIONS TEAM LEADER**

**From:** Hamish McNeilly <[hamish.mcneilly@stuff.co.nz](mailto:hamish.mcneilly@stuff.co.nz)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 3 June 2020 3:42 p.m.  
**To:** Communications <[comms@oa.dcc.govt.nz](mailto:comms@oa.dcc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Fwd:

Afternoon,

I rang Robert West but I couldn't get him on the phone, I was after comment on the below picture.

My questions were:

1. Is it true someone has complained over these names?
2. Did the DCC ask Mountain Biking Otago to change the names, due to this complaint?

3. Has the council determined that these names are offensive?

4. Does the council stand by its decision?

5. Anything else you would like to add?

**Hamish McNeilly**  
Reporter

E [hamish.mcneilly@stuff.co.nz](mailto:hamish.mcneilly@stuff.co.nz) | M 027 458 4605  
8 Stafford St, Dunedin, 9016, New Zealand

**stuff**



**Neighbourly**



**THE PRESS**

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Hamish McNeilly** <[hamish.mcneilly@fairfaxmedia.co.nz](mailto:hamish.mcneilly@fairfaxmedia.co.nz)>

Date: Wed, 3 Jun 2020 at 15:39

Subject:

To: <[hamish.mcneilly@stuff.co.nz](mailto:hamish.mcneilly@stuff.co.nz)>

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From: Andrea Jones <[Andrea.Jones@dcc.govt.nz](mailto:Andrea.Jones@dcc.govt.nz)>

To: Robert West <[Robert.West@dcc.govt.nz](mailto:Robert.West@dcc.govt.nz)>

Cc: Communications <[comms@oa.dcc.govt.nz](mailto:comms@oa.dcc.govt.nz)>

Bcc:  
Date: Wed, 3 Jun 2020 02:28:32 +0000  
Subject: naming of Signal Hill tracks

Hi Rob

Final version below. I've got a meeting now – will send the response, attributed to you, to the ODT after that.  
Thanks for your help.

The DCC has received two complaints about the names of three Signal Hill mountain bike tracks - Ginger Cougar, The Missus and The Mistress. Staff agreed these names were inappropriate and raised this with Mountain Bike Otago. We are pleased MBO has agreed to make the changes and understand some of the signs have already been removed. Track signage costs have always been met by MBO.

We are working with the group on guidelines for the future naming of tracks.

Cheers

Andrea Jones

**COMMUNICATIONS TEAM LEADER  
COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING**


**P** 03 477 4000 | **DD** 03 474 3433 | **E** [andrea.jones@dcc.govt.nz](mailto:andrea.jones@dcc.govt.nz)

Dunedin City Council, 50 The Octagon, Dunedin

PO Box 5045, Dunedin 9054

New Zealand

[www.dunedin.govt.nz](http://www.dunedin.govt.nz)



4<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Attention:

Arron Hawkins; Sue Bidrose; Sandy Graham, Robert West and Councillors;

Christine Garey, Sophie Barker, David Benson-Pope, Rachel Elder, Doug Hall, Carmen Houlahan, Marie Laufiso, Mike Lord, Jim O'Malley, Jules Radich, Chris Staynes, Lee Vandervis, Steve Walker, Andrew Whiley.

Re: Renaming of Signal Hill Mountain Bike Tracks

I am writing to express my concern over the Dunedin City Council's request to Mountain Bike Otago to rename the bike tracks 'The Mrs', 'The Mistress' and 'Ginger Cougar' due to only two complaints.

I am concerned that after years of these tracks being used by thousands and thousands of people that the council would react so quickly to only two negative complaints?

I understand these names were deemed to be offensive?

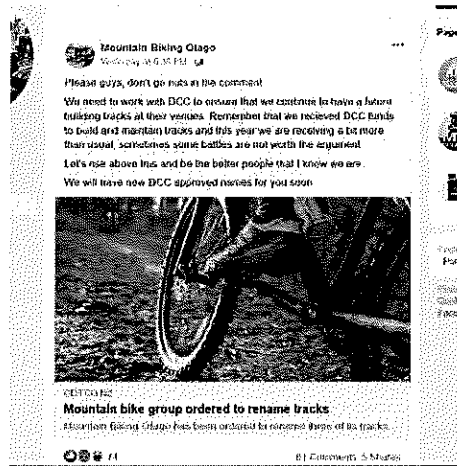
I would like you to explain specifically what it is that the complainants and the council found offensive about these names? I'm sure a little searching may reveal that these names have numerous meanings as so many words do.

I am also interested to know how the council judge what is offensive and what is not? As we all know some people are offended by things that others are not, we all have different cultures and values.

As you will see from the comments on the sites listed below the majority of people don't support the changing of these names.

1. Mountain Bike Otago Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/mtbotago/>
2. Sig Digs Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1727723620806562/>
3. Otago Daily Times Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/OtagoDailyTimes/>

I do not talk for or represent Mountain Bike Otago but as a concerned resident and rate payer. I believe that Mountain Bike Otago did not want to change these names but felt pressured into agreeing to the councils request or they might risk losing funding and or access to the tracks. See below a screen shot of their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/mtbotago/>



This does not seem fair and reasonable and by default puts the club in an unfair position. The mountain bike club and its member have put thousands of volunteer hours into this resource for the greater community. There is meaning behind the naming of these tracks which is part of the greater culture of biking and the people that built them. Mountain Bike Otago should not feel silenced in fear of losing this funding and access.

I find I am questioning myself for writing this letter, am I getting wound up about something that seems so small. To me this is not just about the naming of a few mountain bike tracks it's about the fact that a very small and unrepresentative number of our community have nothing better to do than to complain about things that are petty and time wasting. This whole process is a waste of your time, my time and council and community money. If we don't stand up to these people, our community will not be representative of the way people want it to be. It's just unfortunate that most people that support things don't send letters of support to the council and papers for the good work done. Again, I urge you to look through the comments on Facebook.

I have personally seen Teachers, Doctors, Lawyers, Councillors, Politicians etc...from our community all walking and biking in this area created by the Otago Mountain Bike Club, have they ever complained about these so-called offensive names?

Thank you for taking the time to read and review this letter and thank you for your contribution to our wonderful city.

Regards

