

Presidents Report 2020

Welcome everyone,

I have now completed 4 terms as President, and I want to start my expressing just how proud I am of what the club has achieved. When I refer to the club it's not just the committee but each and everyone of you, I hope that within this report and the club awards we can highlight our achievements and acknowledge some individuals along the way.

The beginning of the season was tormented by bad weather, meaning the annual open day/ fun day at Signal never eventuated. We were unable to reschedule due to a full calendar locally and regionally.

We kicked off in October again with another record-breaking National School Champs, as a club we are incredibly proud of how this event has grown. I have spent a significant amount of time working with other clubs around New Zealand to assist them to both bid and host the event to a similar standard for the future. The success of this event is a credit to the club for all the time they have invested over the years, and I applaud everyone who is involved.

The Spring/ Summer Funduro series sponsored by Emmerson's and Evo Dunedin continues to go from strength to strength. The casual format that suits a variety of competitive and social levels, results in lots of laughs at the end of the day over snags and beers as finishing times are compared. Many thanks to Craig and Kane who lead these events.

The DH event was held in late November, showing an increase in numbers as we see many juniors now giving it a crack and some not so juniors coming along for a good time. Jason added in some Gravity back to basic events to encourage people to participate in DH events.

The Summer series organised by Clinton and Roger during Jan/Feb/March hosted mid-week is an awesome example how events does not need to be run by the committee, and we thank you both.

We hosted for the first time ever a combined Oceania and National Champs in January. When Cycling New Zealand asked initially if we would swap the Nationals for the Oceania's I declined, mainly for personal reasons. During my time with MBO I have event managed a number of high level events, but had not yet done a national. A National champs would complete the set and allow for me to move on with a feeling of satisfaction when the time comes. Sadly, this still alludes me, as it ended up being a double event, another first, and maybe one day I'll get that National Champs. The amazing team that creates this club, from our committee to our members and volunteers who come out and supported us at this event, I thank you. Mountain Biking Otago has a long history with both MTBNZ and CNZ at being able to step up deliver when the call for help comes our way. Our relationship with our governing bodies remains strong.

Covid-19 arrived in March causing not only a disruption nationwide, but it halted our calendar of events too.

The Otago XC and Single speed Champs fell victim to the virus, Brent has been nutting out a winter XC series which is now under way. The final event will be a Bethunes/Forrester which requires the added expense of a road closure. This has been one of the obstacles of late that has prevented us from hosting at this venue for a few years. I urge you all to get together with your mates and support this 3hr event. It will make awesome practice for the upcoming 12 hr.

The Bike it Naseby 12 hr was also postponed in April, now being held in October at the beginning of the new season and what an event to kick off the new season with. To Craig and his team well done

on successfully negotiating the postponement with all parties involved and we look forward to an excellent event in just over a month's time.

In terms of new events I've been working the school sports associations to set up and Otago/Southland School Champs. The numbers of youth riding are forever increasing and adding an event of this calibre will support more youth to have ago and provide an opportunity for practice for those preparing for South Island and National Events. On a side note school events have provided a significant input to club funds and adding this new event will continue to provide some financial income to the club.

The track building teams have been hard at work, the multiple parties at Whare Flat are building an awesome venue. It is pleasing to see the collaboration not only with MBO but with each other.

Hamish has been leading a team of volunteers who have been slaving away high above the city at Nicols Creek, this is looking awesome and with the bigger picture in mind, it will make a lovely addition to the city's track network.

Sig Digs is back up and running under the watchful eye of Mike. They have been working away at realigning the track formerly known as The MRS to make way for the new Grade 3 track sponsored by our forever patient sponsors Design Windows.

Track names has been our most recent headache. But I'm pleased to say that this is now behind us. The Ginger Cougar was re-homed to the Tokoroa MTB club and I see they are having a race on her in the near future.

MBO presented to the DCC annual plan submission to increase our annual track maintenance budget, our intention was to be able to offer a permanent paid role to oversee maintenance of the track network as this is more what volunteers can manage. As this will not be a regular increase to our maintenance grant and it is a one off, we will be allocating the funds to the Big Easy Down and Heli gravel at Nicols Creek.

Signal Hill / Logan Park development from a club's perspective is now finished. The DCC have some planting to take care of. The toilet project halted for a while why the DCC investigated taking the project over and getting independent service to the site. The project is now back in the club's hands and we look to getting shared services with the Ministry of Education sorted. A club shed will be put on hold why we evaluate the club's position at Signal with the DCC. It's absolutely awesome to go down on the weekends and see how many people are using the facility that MBO built for the city.

In April as we are all sitting at home, our club storage was broken in to, our relative new side by side was stolen along with our club keys. The side by side was recovered however after being rolled insurance provided us with a new one, many thanks to Honda Oamaru and McIver and Veitch for all your help. MBO has since bought back the old one so we now have two. We are in the process of getting the sign writing redone. New locks have been installed thanks Adrian and Glyn.

On the membership front, Justin has taken on the membership role within the committee. We have provided opportunities for people to join at events as well as online. We had an issue with the online payment provider. Justin is continually looking for ways to add value to our members. This year we will see each membership receiving a Mankey map with an acknowledgement of their membership, we thank the local bike shops for supporting this initiative. We will be using a new system this year for processing membership that will automatically acknowledge paid members when entering events to apply the membership discount to entry fees.

The 2019/20 season has indeed been a busy year, as a club we are forever changing to meet the demand. Being part of the MBO committee is by no means an easy role as it is a very busy time. I am excited to see new committee members bring new ideas and becoming actively involved. I'd like to make a special mention to Jason for all the time and effort you have put into learning the Enduro timing gear, having extra bodies able to operate the system has freed Hamish up to continue to have his work parties at Nicols while events are running to help fund tracks work. Justin has stepped up with membership role and we are starting to see more structure around this, well done. Justin has also been approached to step up into the treasurer's role as we look to spread this commitment further afield. Tim has bought the club from paper ledgers into the world of modern technology and will now spend the next 12 months preparing to handover to Justin.

The 2020/21 season, MBO committee must consider the future direction of the club. From the beginning in 1989 one of the clubs main objectives was to be a pro-active and advocate for issues affecting recreational and competitive mountain bikers in Otago, in particular to work for improved land and trail access for mountain biking and to promote responsible mountain biking. What was clear in these stated objectives is the implied role of Mountain Biking Otago is to lobby land authorities to provide better facilities for all mountain bikers. We have achieved these objectives with the development at Signal Hill, we have world class tracks and public access carparking space. Recently the DCC have brought to our attention that they intend to see an end to track development at Signal Hill. What does this mean for us? Right now, MBO is committed to the construction of the Easy down and a toilet in the carpark but we will need to plan for what direction we take in the future. Maybe it's time for MBO to walk away from track construction and maintenance on DCC land and take a more relaxed approach like other sporting clubs when using council facilities, where you book the venue for events, rock up, use it and walk away. Maybe after 30+ years it is time for the focus to be riding and racing and no longer looking at the benefit to the greater community users and economic benefit of these assets, and to making Dunedin and MTB destination. We welcome your input so please let us know during the question time, or with any of the team later or via email. We are here to represent our membership, now more than ever we need your input to set the path for our future.

While I have singled out a few individuals there is no I in Team and the committee of MBO is an amazing team of 17 people, and I thank each and every one of you for your contribution over the year, we not only have a laugh and often at some ones expense but we've had a vision for the club and for MTB in the greater community, we've gotten on and got the job done, and we will re group and re focus on a new direction for the 20/21 season and beyond.

Kind Regards

Kristy Booth

President 2019/20