

2017/18 President's report.

The 2017/18 season has been extremely busy for Mountain Biking Otago in terms of events and developments, my apologies for what is a lengthy report.

The usual club events were held such as the Avanti Haggis Hunter/3hr, Bike Otago Enduro and Bike it Now Naseby 12hr, Single speed and XC champs saw good numbers attend, these events are fortunate that they don't carry significant costs to run unlike the DHSS which has significant first aid expenses and was poorly attended resulting in a breakeven event. As a result this means that MBO will not be hosting a DHSS event for the upcoming season. We hope to see a return of club DH racing in the future.

South Island Schools was meant to be moving away but at the last minute we were asked to host it again. 2017 saw the largest number of entries and with the support of Bike Otago, Giant, Maxxis and Ride 100% it was an awesome event for all involved. We are hosting the 2018 Schools again with the support of Bike Otago, Giant, BBB, Maxxis and Ride 100%. This year we will be working with the club who will be hosting this event in 2019 to ensure a successful handover. A 3 stage Enduro has replaced the Super-D and we look forward to seeing the event expand to cater for all disciplines of MTB. In 2019 MBO has expressed interest in hosting the National School Champs

2018 Oceania's, well what an event! The Oceania federation needed New Zealand to host a truly awesome event to secure its future to continue to return to New Zealand every second year. Together with the support of our community and Sponsors, Altherm/Design Windows and Emerson's we did exactly that, winning Mountain Biking Event of the year at this year's Cycling awards. This award is very much your award, as we could not have done this without the 130 volunteers. As a club hosting the Oceania's has left us with an amazing asset for future events, an XC course on Signal Hill. Oceania's has definitely put Dunedin on the map as a race venue, just recently on a CNZ/MTBNZ post requesting bids for National champs a MBO was tagged "Signal Hill" this comment was made by rider from Auckland. We did make an impression!

For 2018/19 MBO will not be bidding for any National level events, as a club we need this time to recoup from what has been a busy season. It's also a time for our volunteers to recover. As a club we will be looking to continue with club level XC, Enduro and Schools racing, while we focus on the redevelopment of Logan Park/Signal Hill.

This brings me to the major undertaking of the redevelopment of Logan Park/Signal Hill, while this project has been in the pipeline for over 10 years it finally saw the earthworks begin this year. To see the road and carpark almost completed has been amazing. The support from Otago Community Trust, Dunedin Casino Trust, Lions foundation and the give a little page has meant we can achieve what we have. We still have, much to do here and Hamish will be presenting on the redevelopment later tonight.

In the 2016 club survey, it showed that the first riding preference was Signal Hill 49%, Wakari 25%, Nichols Creek 12%, Bethunes/Forrester 7% and Whare Flat 3%. Its is these figures that direct where we as a committee focus the clubs resources. This season Pavol

was employed to attend to maintenance, funded by the city service grant. This is an annual grant that MBO receives for maintenance of MTB tracks in Dunedin. The committee uses these funds to maintain, Signal Hill, Wakari Creek, Nichols Creek and Bethunes/ Forrester as these areas have DCC as a stakeholder or shared stakeholder. As a committee we see it is only fit to spend council funds in council areas, it is often question why these resources are not extended to Whare Flat. Whare flat has received two grants from Trail fund for track building for Bermageddon and Green Mile. The Monday night dig crew is the only independent crew to have had funds applied for directly for them to have tools purchased by the club. Club equipment (Weed eaters, sprays etc) purchased for track maintenance is shared with the Whare flat crew when requested. Club equipment is minimal, and booking is required to ensure everyone get to use it.

The track guidelines were implemented in 2017, with the purpose of ensuring that the MBO committee are aware of all the track building in all areas, and to allow the club to not only meet our insurance requirements, but also to maintain relationships with stakeholders/landowners. The guidelines superseded the old trail leads for each area, returning the ultimate responsibility back to the committee and removing it from individuals. It's important the committee makes the decisions on the types of tracks for each area and how to allocate funds accordingly or apply for funds and not let this be left to individuals operating outside of the committee. Club track building insurance is extended to all club members who follow the guidelines. 2018 has seen a steady number of club members taking up the opportunity to build the types of tracks that they would like to ride. This is reflected in the number of nominations for digger of the year. While our members are out there building these tracks, we have been able to focus our attention on building tracks through working bee's. These working bees have built the "Rockery" XC course and kids zone "Butt's track", we look forward to see the skills park completed in the kids zone and starting work on the Design Windows Descend track soon, this track will assist with taking the pressure off the Emersons Big Easy.

While it seems that most of what MBO does is events and tracks there is so much more that happens behind the scenes that goes unnoticed by the public. All these events require health and safety plans, some need significant first aid, volunteer coordination, these don't happen by themselves. Equipment needs to be maintained, and funding application need to be applied for. The school holiday programs hosted with Bike School and September get to go days all aimed at getting kids on bikes. There are numerous meetings with DCC and other stakeholders to ensure we keep everyone informed with what we are up to.

While Facebook is mostly used to communicate what we do, it's also the chosen method by a few who like to use every opportunity to discredit MBO. These post's take up a lot of our time and pull our resources away from other areas. I've always said as president that I'm here to listen to you, my contact details are everywhere, and I encourage you to bring your concerns directly to me or another committee member. On one of these occasions I met with a disgruntled member and when I explained what the committees vision was, he said if only this was communicated and that's when we created the post meeting email that is sent to the membership from me. We are by no means perfect, but we are trying.

There will always be individuals who want to attack at every opportunity and I have this to say; if you're not a member than you have no right to complain, you're clearly riding our tracks without contributing, and if you are a member and do not choose to contact us directly, if you are this anti the club then maybe this club is not for you.

I'm excited to see what this committee can continue to do with the support of its members, for together we are a great force.

Mountain Biking Otago currently has a membership of 188 and in the scale of things makes a small club. Our challenge is to increase our membership to reflect the real numbers of people riding bikes. Having greater numbers of members assists when applying for funds for developments.

Your committee are all volunteers, here to do what we believe is best for mountain biking in Dunedin. No one person is bigger than the next, and everyone has their role to play.

To the committee, I thank you for everything we have achieved this year.

If you're thinking about joining the committee, ask yourself this; What do you want to achieve? What skills do you bring? Are you acting for the best interest of everyone or yourself?

It's a busy committee where everyone must pull their weight.

The 2018/19 season is bound to be another exciting year.

Thank you to you all for attending tonight.

Kind regards

Kristy Booth

MBO President 2017/18