

Chris Arbuckle President – MTBNZ

During this past year MTBNZ's focus has been to consolidate some of its functions that we deliver as a member organisation for our clubs. These are things such as working with Cycling New Zealand (CNZ) on the future of the MTB Performance Hub and provision of national events like the Championships and Oceania's and managing affiliation and membership information.



In 2017 and 2018 Cycling New Zealand offered to deliver a joint affiliation and member management system for MTB clubs. After finding shortfalls in delivery of a joint system, we have returned to developing our own management system for club membership data and affiliation management. We are conscious of our own limitations in providing some of these services as a small team, but we are investing in tools such as a new website and club portal to assist us in managing club data in the future. While we still have some bugs to bash out of our system, we are already seeing the benefit of managing our own data and gaining a more detailed understanding of club membership numbers, enabling us to report beyond having so many clubs and some financial members. Now we can report a few more statistics (membership types) and we can now better track Mtb membership growth in the future. So, at present we have 44 affiliated clubs, that are comprised of 735 student members, 7408 adult members and a whopping 11706 family members, giving us a total of 19849 members, making us the biggest cycling member organisation. We have also assisted new junior MTB clubs to form into their own entities and see a potential for youth clubs to grow in number. We are therefore committed to ensuring we manage our own information into the future to keep track of such trends. I still see a need to focus on improving communications, value for clubs and refining our membership structure. I envisage our new website to be our hub for MTB information, providing us with a platform to deliver more services to clubs, members, and mountain bikers in the future. Our social media platform continues to offer an avenue for wider engagement amongst our Mtb community, but I know it would be a quiet place without the enthusiasm of Ryan's media savvy postings and his connection to the world of Mtb.

During 2019 we also worked with CNZ to overhaul our MTB Technical Guidelines. MTBNZ are committed to developing a partnership agreement with CNZ in 2020 to operationalise and evidence our working relationship. We also re-developed our event guideline to assist clubs to partner with us through hosting our MTBNZ Series.

I am impressed with progress in the MTBNZ events space, especially this year having the support from clubs all over New Zealand to deliver our six race event series. Four of our events were hosted at new venues, with three new clubs and event managers working with us. We were overwhelmed by the enthusiasm and support of Southland MTB Club, QMTBC and Coronet Peak Ltd, South Canterbury Mountain Bike Club, AKDH and Descend Rotorua. The MTBNZ team supported clubs at each venue and I was fortunate to attend 3 of the 4 DH events this year. Again, we pulled a rabbit out of the hat to hold our final at 440 MTB Park at the last minute because of fire restrictions at Dome (it is becoming

a regular challenge!). A big thanks to AKDH and 440 MTB Park for working with us “under fire” to ensure we held our final. MTBNZ also send a huge thankyou to the Commissaries that supported our events, they provide a critical oversight that lifts the professional delivery of our events across NZ.

On a personal note, the DH at Coronet Peak will feature in my memory for some time, it was an awesome days racing. 150 riders had a ball and the day reminded me of times past for MTBNZ events. I would like to congratulate and thank all those riders who committed to our 2019 MTBNZ National Event Series (DH and XC). I am always impressed our DH riders and supporters who travel the length of the country to compete in our series. Congratulations to our elite riders, Tuhoto-Ariki Pene who took out the Male DH title and Ashley Bond won the Female title (both members of Descend Rotorua). A further highlight of the year was a bronze medal at the UCI Mountain Bike World Championships in Canada for Tuhoto-Ariki and he also claimed the Te Tama-ā-Ranginui (Junior Sportsman) award at the 2019 Māori Sports Awards in September.

Our riders continue to punch above their collective weight at an international level with some solid results. Sadly, the course at the World MTB Championships in Mont Sainte Anne took out both our top DH riders. Brook McDonald fortunately has recovered from his nasty accident, as is Kate Weatherly.

All best to our National and Oceania XC Champion Anton Cooper, for 2020, knowing that the postponement of the Olympics has ramifications for his plans for 2021.

The role COVID played in changing all our plans and our lives can't be underestimated. We though we would be able to hold our AGM as a meeting in Wellington, but recent issues in Auckland put a shadow over our plans, especially for out awardees. We were looking forward to celebrating with them. However, we made sure the moments were celebrated on FB. So, a huge congratulations to:

Award	Recipient
Official of the Year	Jared Scollay
Club of the Year	Southland MTB Club
Event of the Year	MTBNZ 2020 Series DH2 - Coronet Peak / QMTBC
Outstanding Contribution	Chris and Anne Tyas
Elite Rider of the Year	Brook McDonald

And finally, I am in debt to the MTBNZ Executive (Ryan, Gareth, Agata and Jamie) for their support and dedication over the past year, its been a busy one. A further thanks to Gareth for stepping into the treasurer's role, Agata who supported all DH races and Ryan for supporting the success of the XC events. Cheers Chris.