

2014 President's report

Welcome and thank you all for attending.

The past 12 months have been a very successful time for the club and the credit goes to every one involved not matter what level.

Part of that support is because our member base has grown.

Our membership has grown and we can now truthfully say we have 100 members. In the past whenever the press asked us how many members we had we would always say about 100. It didn't matter if we had 75, 85 or 90 I always said about 100. Now we do have more than 100 on the books so thank you all for helping us achieve that goal and I can now say we have over 100 members.

MTBA came up with a great idea this year –the 8 week free trial membership. The timing was great for our 6 hour and it saved quite a few people a \$20 day licence and encouraged new riders to have a go.

A number of big events this year.

The Epic was a real success – good improvement in numbers- building a spot on the MTB calendar and a credit to the organising committee.

The six hour was a cracker again –we kept our pricing affordable and built on the family friendly atmosphere from a year ago. Thanks to the six hour organising committee

Teachers games – MTB race low key but good to be part of the overall event. We will run this again next year

Schools champs- 175 entries for the day in MTB. Bendigo Council major events team have secured rights for next year as well. Would love to see more Bgo schools get behind it.

Tri club father's day event – good to engage with the Tri club

Cross country tri event in December will result in a new trail at Crusoe Road

Other achievements

Trail building – guys will update you but what an effort. It takes time but it's worth it. Our focus is to build a world class trail network that will provide a great facility for locals and a drawcard for visitors to come to Bendigo We hope having a first class venue will reduce the building of illegal trails in our National Parks.

A thank you to all those riders who have taken Fastways of their list of rides – yes it was great fun to ride but if we are serious about a healthy relationship with Parks we can't continue to go into the reference area

Talked to all our local politicians who have been supportive of our plans. Tried to build relationships with other users –Orienteer/Field Nats and neighbours - some more successful than others but we will keep trying.

Club kit – great to see members riding in their new gear and promoting our club

Changed our club race format- trying to be more inclusive of new riders both young and old while still offering something for those who like to race.

Our Committee from last year

We have achieved a lot and that wouldn't have been possible without the work of this year's committee. Everyone has pitched in on lots of things but all have areas of focus such as:

Garry on the books, Jo keeping everything in order, Shaun for his support as Vice President and his trail work and representing us on other committees, Barry on six hour and the Goldfield Track committee , Rim for his great drawings and trail work, Gareth for all things web related, Joel for efforts on a lot of things- sponsorship, the Epic, the six hour and membership , Kristian for the six hour, Paul in charge of grant applications, Lisa a great addition recent edition has done super work on our EOI for the funding of the master plan, Phil Turner for his work on the club kit and our junior program, Murray for the Epic and his vast knowledge of the history of the club. Toby for his trail work and Ash on the Epic committee

We have farewelled a couple of committee people. Life Member John Harvey resigned from the committee during the year. We made a presentation to John at the Epic. John is recovering from a fall at the six hour and we wish him well.

Ash Harvey, Toby Parkinson a past president and Kristian van Maanen. Love to have these guys back when time permits

A big hand for the committee and all the work they have done.

Also had great support from **Sponsors**- make it easier to run our club.

Paul from Bendigo cycles – six hour – Jo and her ladies program

Nic from Giant Bendigo – junior development program

Bendigo Hire – toilets and other items, donating a container

One Tree Hill Hotel – meals deals and vouchers and our container

Brewhouse coffee – summer series prizes 2013

Knog – summer series 2014

Andy from Andy's Earthmovers - I'd like to take a moment to acknowledge Andy's great support of the Epic over the past few years. We have a presentation to make to Andy and I'd like to invite Murray to join me to thank Andy.

Big dreams and Ideas.

I mentioned our trail building. My ten year vision is a full on MTB park like Atherton, Cairns or closer to home Forrest, Buxton or the You Yangs.

Harcourt is one step ahead but that's good for us. They are forging the way. Our big plus is that we will be the northern entry point for the Goldfields Track - Feature on the Goldfields track in Enduro magazine travel edition at the end of the year.

I'm thinking of it as a 10 year project – We have been going for 2 so there's only 8 years left to achieve it.

Our grant has been applied for via Regional Development Victoria and my fingers are crossed.

Have you seen the plans for the Pavilion on the pony club site? That could happen sooner than you think

More people on bikes – its makes a lot of sense to have healthy kids and adults. We want people to ride their bikes. Not just about racing, that's where it can lead but the main goal is to get people on their bikes.

Support bike projects in Bendigo. Bendigo should be a cycle friendly city – it should be a friendly city full stop.

A lot in the press about bikes vs cars and bikes vs pedestrians. Think about your interactions with other road users when on your bike. Be courteous to other users and give them the benefit of the doubt if they get it wrong. It can be scary passing a group of riders. I did it recently on a Saturday morning near the Flora Hill roundabout. Maybe I was more nervous about the headline- MTB President hits morning road riders but we all need to consider the car drivers point of view who have never ridden a bike and have no idea how fast you can go.

Provide a pathway to elite riders. We have seen lots of great riders come through the club over the years, I can't go all the way back but of more recent times Jarrod Moroni, Jo Wall, Peta Mullens, Jack Haig and now Chris Hamilton and Tasman and Russ Nankervis, Dan MacMunn and Jason Lowndes. Not always making their names on the dirt but that's how they have cut their teeth in cycling. It's something for our club to be proud of. Who will be next and how do we best support them? Personally I'd love to see a focus on promoting young female talent to give them as much chance as the boys. But it's a big challenge is to find ways to identify the next Jo or Peta.

What we can do better - keep building our junior program and hold more skills events and more social rides to spread the net wider.

How can you help?

- Join the committee – there is no pressure but think about having a go. We have a lot of experience which means it's easier to come on board and take time to find your feet.
- Come along and have your say – Ron and Peter do that and are very welcome and great to get their input.
- Come to our events - get a team together for the six hour.

- Help out at working bees.
- Spread the word. Help another rider get started –encourage others to have a go. Invite them on your social ride.
- Ride to work – make bikes and accepted part of the scenery.
- Support our sponsors.
- Support local bike shops
- Give us feedback
- Enjoy your riding – MTB has a reputation for being friendly - we have a great club so let's keep it that way.

Thank you

David Macauley

27 October 2014