

Christchurch Singletrack Club

2023 Annual General Meeting

Date: **Sunday 23 July 2023 4:00 pm** - Location: Redseed, Tuam St, Christchurch

Attended by: Craig Tregurtha, Rebekah Tregurtha, Jennifer Tregurtha, Brian Smith, Nikki Bligh, Sara Taylor, Alex Hamilton, Murray Anderson, Brigette Bilbe, Andrew Laurie, Jemmima Snook, Darcy Arnold, Seb Linscott, Gavin Williams, Rob Wilson, Kurt Richardson, Ethan Richardson, John Thornton, Alex Adams, Karen Junge, Millie Junge, Abigail Junge, Richard Rookes, Meredith Rookes, George Rookes, Rob Thompson + 1 other (27 attendees)

Apologies: Dave Ffowcs-Williams, Graham Allan, Michael Simek, Jeanette Gerrie, Richard Morley-Hall

1. Approval of the minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting

The minutes from 2022 were received as being accurate. Moved Craig Tregurtha, seconded Murray Anderson

2. Chairperson's Report - Nikki Bligh

In November 22, we hosted our "Crocodile Series" and we pulled off 5 great events. We had our highest number of riders participate to date. With the first race 110 eager riders, then 114, 123, 122 and 103 on the weeks following. We were lucky, with balmy evenings, for each event. A huge amount of prep work by Craig, Rebekah and Murray goes into organising this wonderful series. Thank you guys! And on the day the general committee and regular marshals' step in and help. Thanks to everyone involved, as either a rider or a helper. You make this series a huge success for the Club.

On 21 January 23, we hosted "round 2 of the MTBNZ National Series". The number of participants were low, at just 68. We think this could be due a combination of reasons. It was the first time in several years that MTBNZ hosted a series like this. Being late January, some people may still have been on holiday, or just back and not able to travel again. We'd hope the numbers will grow if the series continues. MTBNZ have released the dates of their four series event for Jan/Feb 2024, with 2 rounds in the North Island and 2 in the South Island.

On 19 February 23, we held the famous Christchurch Singletrack Club "Reverse Enduro". We thought we would try running the event on a Sunday but found we got much better numbers in previous years, being held on a Tues or Wed night. We had 42 competitors on the Sunday. Anyone that raced, will remember it was a scorcher of a day. It was red faces all around. The temperature may have turned a few people away as well. In previous years we have had 70 competitors.

March 23 was all about "Schools Racing". Having come out of 3 years of being disrupted by Covid, we were really happy with the numbers we got. With between 140 and 155 riders, each week. We thought these numbers may be lower, having missed out on capturing a proportion of year 9 and 10 children, due the break with Covid.

Racing was competitive, fun and had a great School team spirit. We had 3 successful weeks but unfortunately week 4 "the Canterbury Champs," was cancelled due the weather. We were then unable to allocate another date for this, due Schools Sports exchange week. Thank you Murray, for all your work on the Schools racing. It really is the starting point for many young Christchurch riders, who then progress with their cycling. Which I will touch on shortly.

We plan to hold our usual 5 race event series and the reverse enduro, as well as our schools racing for this coming season. We have dates for most of these events on our club and schools websites.

We had 138 paid Club members and 41 (free of charge) children. This is a lot lower than previous years. It is our first year of using the Hivepass App for entering members. All of our social media pages have increased in followers and we continue to use Facebook as our primary way to get messages out to the riding community.

National Champs were held in Queenstown and there were several Singletrack Club members who travelled and raced at this event. Like previous years we offered to reimburse our Club members their license fee, to attend this event. 8 Club members took up this offer.

Taramea Project report (on behalf of Graham):

The much anticipated "Elevator" track opened in November 2022, and is an instant classic. High traffic numbers - encouraged by the gentle climbing grade - compliment the already busy Taramea Loop. These two tracks make Montgomery Spur a great destination for riders progressing to hillside singletrack from the flatlands of City, Bottle Lake and McLeans Island.

For my health and other priorities I have stepped back from leading the Montgomery Spur effort, but will still be on the hills from time to time to attend to maintenance, etc. Big ups must go to Gray Rathgen, Chris Hyslop, Murray Madgwick, Rob Halliday, and Dave Jones for their consistent support in building and maintaining tracks on Montgomery Spur. Thanks also to Nick Singleton - the (incredibly patient) mover & shaker, visionary & volunteer supporter.

With the creation of new tracks, and ongoing maintenance that they require, it occurs to me (Graham) that a model featuring separate, but linked, groups could lead MTB track building in different locations across the Port Hills.

An obvious location awaiting a bunch of keen track builders is Linda Woods Reserve (the parcel of land to east of Rapaki, around to Castle Rock). This is administered for public recreation and habitat restoration by The Summit Road Society, and they are open to mountain bike tracks being built in the LW Reserve - we just need some riders to step forward and "own" this project.

It seems to me the groups already involved at Crocodile XC Park and Montgomery Spur are largely maxed out. I believe that new energy picking up the challenge/sharing the load is the way forward. I would certainly be willing/available to advise and support any group getting started with track building @ LWR.

Meanwhile let's all treat tracks with respect (the vast majority do) and plan to swing a grubber at least once or twice (it's ok to do more if you're really keen :-)) a year.

Graham (on behalf of "Montgomery Spur branch" of CSC)

At the Crocodile XC MTB Park a lot of work has been done over the past year by a small team of dedicated volunteers to extend and improve the very popular track network. In the past 12 months there have been almost 100 sessions, so an average of 2 per week. Much of this work has been ongoing maintenance like improving drainage, reshaping berms, fixing up erosion, building and repairing track fences and farm fences, spraying out weeds, dealing with several big trees that had blown over in storms, and general tweaks to several section of tracks. And there has also been a massive amount of trimming and blowing – big thanks once again to Richard Morley-Hall for his contribution here. Then there has been a lot of small track projects, including:

- Finishing Upper Mishmash and creating a return line to C2
- Finishing stage one of the Down & Out farm extension that Darcy and the GSL digger started on last winter
- Starting stage two of the Down & Out farm extension. Again, big thanks to Darcy
- Built a bridge on Garden Path – thanks to Travis for his building skills here
- Installing lots more signage – thank you Murray for leading all of that side of things
- Making some tricky sections of Double Exposure, Spurious, Off the Cuff and Mishmash a bit easier and safer
- Building a walking track up the gully below Down & Out – thanks to Rebekah for leading this
- Huge improvements to all of Switchback Alley and recently starting to create a whole new upper section of that track

- Laying geogrid on many of the bridges to improve safety
- Creating an easy line on the most technical rooty section of Crocpot
- Building the middle section of Mishmash to join Upper Mishmash to the start of the original Mishmash to create one continuous track starting at C2 Hub

A big addition to the work at the Crocodile Park this year has been the initiation of the Wednesday Mid-Week crew earlier this year initiated by Murray. It has been very successful and the impact that team has had on the condition of many of the tracks out in the farm is outstanding. They meet at the Quarry Café for a coffee, generously paid for by Pringle Homes, then head into the tracks to carry out maintenance work for a couple of hours. If you have time available Wednesday mornings and would like to help out occasionally then have a chat with Murray.

At Living Springs we have continued to have the “Kaimahi For Nature” Team doing all the day to day maintenance for us. This is a team that is funded through a large multi-year grant that Living Springs secured for planting and improving the natural biodiversity of Living Springs. As such, we have had to do very little in the past year. Just some minor track improvements and installing some new signage.

Last year we made a mention that WORD (a non-profit organisation) had commenced trials in Christchurch, with an aim of getting more young people on bikes. They were previously based in Wellington and Wanaka but have now also made Christchurch home. My 10-year-old niece undertook this programme and absolutely loved it. Her riding improved quickly over a very short period. They often use the Crocodile Park as their riding venue as it is so well suited for this type of coaching group, having a wide range of features all within close proximity.

This season has seen a record number of Kiwi’s racing in Europe. At the recent Lenzerheide World Cup, I heard that between XC and DH, there was 50 Kiwis competing that weekend. We were certainly well represented. As a comparison, Australia had 30. I do think that the forming of “Team Talleys/Kiwi Mountain Bike Collective” has assisted with this. Not only with boosting the number of Kiwi’s there “in the team” but also inspiring others to take the plunge and get over there to compete. To follow their dream of racing, at the World cups.

Christchurch Singletrack Club are well represented in the Team Talleys. In the U23 category we have Jacob Turner, Ethan Rose, Amalie MacKay and Annabel Bligh. And in the U19 we have Maria Laurie. All of whom have been on the international race team. We also have Millie Junge on their Domestic team.

The International team began their trip in March at Oceania’s in Brisbane. From there they headed directly over to Europe and race in a few smaller UCI Cups, with an aim of building up some valuable UCI points, before the World Cups began. Not all the World Cups have an U19 category (this happens when it’s a shared event with DH and now the Euduro World Series sometimes shares the same event too). The U19 riders therefore took a side trip to USA/Canada to race at some Junior series races there. Travelling around in an RV. Whilst the U23’s stayed in Europe to battle at the World Cups. A massive experience for all the team. Most of the juniors did a shorter trip or are due home shortly. The U23’s continues their campaign and include the World Cups in Snowshoe and Monte Saint Anne, before returning home in October. To say they are lucky, is an understatement. An experience of a lifetime for sure! I bet some of you are wishing you were 19 or 20 again! Seriously though, all of those in the team have begun their biking journey with the Schools racing series. A massive reason to keep this valuable series going.

Before I pass you over to Brian I’d like to thank the Committee for all their work and commitment to the club. Murray, Rebekah and Craig in particular work tirelessly on making events possible and lead the charge for us as all. Also, to our very talented pool of track builders who give up many hours to prep, repair and build the tracks we all love to use.

Many thanks to Graham Allan who is stepping down from the committee this year. Graham has headed the Taramea project for many years now and led a lot of general Port Hills trail sessions prior to that, going back close to 20 years. So thank you Graham for all you’ve done.

Nikki Bligh

3. Financial report for 2022-23 year Christchurch Singletrack Club Inc **– Brian Smith**

Accounts for the year to June 30 2023

Revenue	2021-22	2022-23
Subscriptions	\$5485.00	\$4123.83
Donations/Sales	\$1659.41	\$517.00
Event Fees	\$1963.00	\$10679.85
Grants	\$2912.85	\$13855.85
Interest	\$ 174.02	\$1505.12
Transfer In	\$0.00	\$1.58
	\$12194.28	\$30683.23

Expenditure

Events	\$2281.68	\$13909.81
Equipment	\$3637.73	\$2899.15
Construction	\$1732.30	\$827.40
Donations	\$500.00	\$0.00
Operations	\$1842.95	\$2060.39
Affiliation Fees	\$2225.11	\$1452.83
	\$12219.77	\$21149.58

2022-23 Excess Income over Expenditure 9533.65

Statement of Financial Position

B/Fwd from 2021-22 current a/c 30 June 22	\$7708.81
Revenue 2022-23	\$30683.23
Expenditure 2022-23	\$21149.58
Balance	\$7242.46
Transferred to fixed term investment	\$10000.00
Balance in Current Account 30 June 2023	\$7242.46

Investments

	2021-22	2022-23
Invest 1	\$17033.00	\$17033.00
Invest 2	\$20035.00	\$20035.00
Invest 3	\$0	\$10000.00

Investment 1 \$17033 matures 23 May 2024. Interest rate is 5.8%

Investment 2 \$20035.00 matures 23 May 2024. Interest rate is 5.8%

Investment 3 \$10000.00 matures 8 January 2024. Interest rate is 5.2%

Comments

Subscriptions down due to change in membership structure. We used to have lots of people's partners and children join because it was economical to do so, even if they weren't likely to be personally involved in club activities. Events fees are higher because we held the MTBNZ race. Schools racing and summer series. Covid affected the previous year.

Grants: Increase in grants was required to run MTBNZ race and the Schools series. Granters: Mainland Foundation, Lion Foundation, NZ Community Trust and Aotearoa Gaming Trust.

Events spending up due to being able to run events this year. First aid was a big part of this spending at \$7249.50 and timing for the MTBNZ race was \$1725.

Equipment spending was on another Gazebo at \$1700.

Alex questioned about the decrease in membership income due to using Hivepass and asked if it was the best option.

Moved to accept Financial Report – Murray Anderson, seconded Alex Adams

4. Election of Executive Committee members for the 2023-24 year.

Chairperson: Dave Ffowcs-Williams

Secretary: Rebekah Tregurtha

Treasurer: Brian Smith

Committee members: Sara Taylor, Craig Tregurtha, Nikki Bligh, Murray Anderson, Matt Boulcott, Jennifer Tregurtha and Brigette Bilbe

Moved to accept the executive positions and committee members – Rebekah Tregurtha, seconded Sara Taylor.

Sara asked if we needed to change the rule about changing positions every 3 years as she thought it applied to all the executive positions. It only applies to the Chairperson, and we can change the constitution in the future if the need arose.

5. 2022-23 trailbuilding plans

1. Living Springs - Craig Tregurtha

The Kaimahi For Nature team are continuing to look after the maintenance of the tracks. Some signage was installed.

2. Crocodile XC MTB Park – Murray Anderson

Plans for the coming year or so were presented and included the completion of Switchback Alley and associated cattlestop, stage 3 of the Down & Out extensions, a crossover bridge, Redmund Spur Link, and some progressive table top jumps.

6. General Business:

Linda Woods Reserve needs someone to take ownership of building mountain bike tracks there. Craig outlined some of the possibilities.

Events this coming season

- Crocodile XC racing – up to 6 events on Tuesday evening's beginning in November.
- Singletracks schools racing – 4 Wednesdays in March
- Maybe a 4 or 6 hour relay style event in autumn.

7. Awards

Hillclimb Champions (Reverse Enduro)

Women's Hill Climb – Jeanette Gerrie

Men's Hill Climb – Jacob Turner

Club Champions (National Champs)

Women's Club Champion – Priscilla Thompson

Men's Club Champion – Craig Oliver

Crocodile Series Age Group winners

	Male	Female
Under 15	Cody Hawke	Jesse Thomson
15-18	George Rookes	Annabel Bligh
19-29	Rainer Pye	Amelie Mackay
30-39	Logan Horn	Emma Jane Lambie
40-49	Steve Roberts	Jeanette Gerrie
50-59	Andrew Laurie	Dale Nyhan
60+	Dave Ralston	

Secondary School Series

Fastest Male – George Rookes

Fastest Female – Maria Laurie

Top School Girls – Cashmere High School

Top School Boys – Christ's College

Volunteer Awards

Graham Allan – long service trophy

Graham has been on the committee as the Port Hills Liaison since 2009 when the club was formed and coordinated many of the XC volunteer sessions on the Port Hills for many years prior to that. Primarily Graham has been the one behind the development of the Taramea Loop, as well as the Full Monty and more recently the Elevator Track. With Graham stepping down from the committee now we'd like to acknowledge these efforts with a trophy made by Dave Laurie.

Gavin Williams

Gavin is our longest standing volunteer, having helped Craig & Rebekah from 2002 on trailbuilding at the Vulcaniser course, then Living Springs, then the Crocodile Park. In addition to many trail sessions, he has marshalled and been a photographer at numerous events over the past 20 years.

Mike Stringer

Mike is another one who has been helping for a huge number of years at both trailbuilding and at events. One fantastic attribute of Mike is he so often stays right to the very end of a session or event, ensuring that the very last item has been retrieved, cleaned and put away. Thanks for your efforts over the years, Mike.

Richard Morley-Hall

The tracks at the Crocodile would not be what they are if it wasn't for Richard with his many many many hours on the end of a brushcutter and blower. Right through the spring and summer months Richard does a sensational job at keeping our tracks looking pristine. Richard, we really appreciate all that you do, and the enthusiasm you put into all your efforts.

Seb Linscott

Seb hasn't been working alongside us for many months but already, just since February, has clocked up over 30 sessions at the Crocodile! He is often there twice a week creating new tracks and maintaining existing ones and has become a valuable member of the core team. He also played a key role in this year's school racing, spending most of the day there setting up the course, then marshalling for all the races, then demarking and packing everything up. It has been so good having you on the core team, Seb!

Darcy Arnold

Chief digger operator, Darcy! Always happy to come along with one of his GSL diggers when we need some extra grunt. Darcy also is also happy to wield a shovel so helps out at many other trail sessions. And he is always smiling!

Rob Thompson

Also starting this year, Rob has been to almost every Midweek session and quite a few other sessions and is very much appreciated!

Brian Smith - Volunteer Extraordinaire Trophy

Over the past 10 or so years Brian has been an integral team member. He is reliable and always there no matter what - for many years as the Club Treasurer, setting up numerous race courses over the years, and has been to MANY trail sessions at Living Springs and the Crocodile. In fact, three weeks ago, unbeknown to Brian, he completed his 100th session at the Crocodile Park!

We then had a quick-fire 10 question quiz round.

The occasion began with afternoon tea at 3:30pm. The meeting began at 4:00 pm and went through to 5:45 pm.