



## 2021/22 President's Report

### Executive Summary

Another challenging year has passed by but not without plenty of positives. The 21/22 year began with some last-minute announced lockdowns that cancelled events once again. But resilience reined again and our devoted sub-committees soldiered on.

Our BMX Division continues to go from strength to strength with a huge growth in new memberships following extensive club investment into our already first-class BMX facilities. The Road Racing division tugged the heart strings of everyone around the Power to Pedal Program again with incredible participant improvements over just 5 weeks.

Pleasingly, memberships across the club remain strong and if anything, look to be on the rise. Our social media following is enormous and now sits just under 3000 people for each of the club's 3 Facebook pages. It's fair to say we have a strong presence and familiar brand in the Ballarat community.

Earlier in the year, long-time BSCC cycling stalwart Damien Keirl was awarded a life-membership. A well-deserved acknowledgement for many years of valuable contribution to our club.

Looking ahead, there's a lot to be excited about.

- Our home base; Marty Busch Reserve looks certain to have a high-standard criterium circuit added to the collection of other facilities within the next few years. We will continue to work closely with Ballarat City Council to ensure the development meets the needs of our club and our members.
- The 2026 Commonwealth Games Mountain Biking event will take place in our backyard in Creswick. This means that we will not only get top-class trails and facilities but they will be built within the next 3.5 years.

Congratulations to everyone that contributed to the club over the past 12 months. Your resilience, persistence, faith, positivity and commitment have helped our club meet the challenges thrown at us with government restrictions. Now that we seem to be past the worst of it, we can be excited about our role of growing the sport of cycling in Ballarat.

Lastly, thank you to each and every individual that has given up their time to help make BSCC a better club. Especially those that do it on an ongoing basis. Thank you to BSCC's partners and sponsors who play a pivotal role in supporting our club. And thank you to all of our active members for your support of our club. Bring on 2022/23!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Canny".

Tim Canny | President



## Road Division Summary

The 2021/22 year kicked off on indoor trainers due to both weather and covid restrictions. Whilst it's not the preferred type of bike riding our members would like, we're lucky that we have an option to keep fit and stay connected. The Road racing Committee put together a 10-race Zwift Series with prizes up for grabs each week and for the aggregate champion. Over the course of the series, we had 72 Ballarat cyclists take part, 11 of which took part every single week. Brenton Ryan was the eventual winner of the series and took home a custom-made bike stand built by committee member; Steven Crowe.

Sadly, after lots of preparation securing sponsors, permits and drawing up calendars, much of the Spring Road Racing Series had to be cancelled due to Covid related government restrictions. Cancelled races included the BSCC Time Trial and Road Racing Club Championships plus the Fred Icke. We did however, put a half-sized Fred Icke on and called it The Fred'. It attracted over 70 competitors and was a huge success. We also introduced a new circuit called Jail Break which takes riders around the Langi Kal Kal Prison.

Crit racing returned on Wednesday nights and whilst numbers weren't as strong as in the past, the racing was exciting, safe and a lot of fun. The junior program was named 'Road Critters' and due to the voluntary time and coaching expertise of Chris Liston and Damien Keirl, junior participation continues to grow.

The AusCycling National Road Championships returned to the January timeslot and saw a number of our club members take part in either elite or amateur events. Christian Ashby added more medals to his growing Nationals tally. Liam White had a great Championship finishing 13<sup>th</sup> in the Road Race.

By popular demand, the Power to Pedal Program returned in February for a second year. The program aims to give kids with autism an opportunity to learn to ride a bike. Once again, the improvements over the 5-week program were enormous and the feedback from parents and guardians was overwhelming. We're aiming to offer the program again next year.

We managed to organise and hold a few road races from February to May this year. The Chris Cashin Handicap made a return to the calendar but this time it was raced in Snake Valley.

The Tri-Series against Colac and Geelong Cycling Clubs took place in May. Ballarat had strong performances in every race comfortably winning the series and the shield back.

The Road Racing Committee introduced the Club's first ever Gravel Race Series. The races took place in Creswick State Forest during the month of August, generously sponsored by Cyclescape and were really well-attended, especially from riders outside of Ballarat. We believe it's something to build on for next year.

The past year has had its challenges for the road division but our committee continues to be committed to organising successful road cycling programs and racing that is attractive, safe and enjoyable. Now that the worst of the pandemic is well-behind us, we're looking forward to moving on with some confidence in the year ahead.



### **Mountain Bike Division Summary**

Trail Advocacy – We have consulted with Parks Victoria about the closure of the Mount Clear/ Woowookarung informal trails. We've held several meetings and media campaigns to negotiate a compromise and try to keep some trails open for events and racing similar to the past 10-15 years. Trail maintenance and working bees have taken place at Mount Clear on the approved formal Parks Victoria trails 1 and 2. Black Hill working bees in conjunction with City of Ballarat on the Cross-Country loops that are used for evening Crits and Victorian XCO mountain bike championships have also been conducted.

Racing - Senior Night Crits - Over the summer of 2021 up to December we ran casual 30-minute XCC (short track) crit events on Thursday nights 6pm to 7pm with an emphasis on casual, relaxed, fun racing and riding. After a survey on what club members liked, we decided to try and run them at different locations in and out of Ballarat city area.

We hosted the Victorian Cross Country Mountain Bike Championships on December 4th and 5th 2021 in XCO Olympic format. It was held together with Big Hill Events and Entry Zone. Around 125 National and State level riders competed each day on 2 different courses. The event made a profit of \$4247.92. We're currently planning to hold another round of the Victorian XCO Champs again on January 28th -29th 2023.

Junior Critters Mountain bike Program – Once again, we teamed up with Club Mud members and Voga Members and conducted our junior critters program. We had around 80-100 kids from 6 to 16 years of age come and ride in groups for 1 hour every Tuesday at 5:30pm during daylight savings. They were taught beginner skills to advanced trail and technical riding. Focus is on safety, fun, socialising and trail etiquette. We have 2 committee members with Level 0 or foundation coaching skills and another doing Level 1 currently. It takes around 20 volunteer ride leaders each Tuesday to make this junior program such a success.

Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute Cycle Classic fund-raising event – Mountain bike challenge, - Antanas has run this for the past few years with a team of about 10-12 volunteers, planning and setting a 30, 40 and 50km course, using around 200 of the MTB Club arrows and signs, around 100 riders completed this last year. Discussions are under way to move away from the cross-country trail format to a Enduro style event at Black Hill.

First Aid Kit upgrade - Michelle Delaney (paramedic) has assisted us in updating the first aid kit with essential items for remote treatment of riders on course and start finish area. The club has also purchased a portable deliberator to have on standby at any of our events.

### **BMX Division Summary**

It has been an exceptional year for the BMX Division. Over June, July and August we held our extremely successful Winter Series which was held over 5 rounds. We averaged 90-100 riders at each round with riders coming from as far away as Mildura, Albury, Warrnambool and Melbourne. Riders needed a bigger trophy cabinet due to the size of the trophies they took home!



We have just had the State Titles in Bendigo with 35 riders competing from our club. We had several riders take home a State Title and a couple were lucky enough to take home 2 after riding in multiple divisions.

We had 2 club members Simon Cooper and Josh Jolly travel to France in July to race in the BMX World Cup. Simon rode exceptionally well and Josh brought home a World Title Number 4 for 16 boys!

We have had some new sponsors come on board which has allowed us to complete some fantastic track upgrades including upgrading to a new scoring system, installation of WIFI around the track which now allows us to have digital staging and spectators TV screens around the track to watch the racing from all areas

We are looking forward to completing even more upgrades to continue the fantastic success of BMX in Ballarat so watch this space!

### **Track Division Summary**

The track season took place from October to March and it gained a lot of good momentum after Covid interruptions. Tuesday nights became quite popular with junior training taking place first followed by the senior motor-pacing. It was particularly great to have Joel Hossack riding the scooter for us again every week from 5pm.

Teacher, Dave Marriott brought a bus load of Grammar school kids to the Tuesday night sessions. It was a great opportunity to promote track cycling and give the juniors some experience.

Wesley Colleges' Clunes Campus have shown a lot of interest in returning to the track this coming summer. Damien last coached them two years ago and they really enjoyed it.

Once again, Alaya and Iesha Humber, Anna Cronin and Daniel Bucknall were the stand out performers on the track over the past 12 months. They competed all around the state producing some excellent results.

Looking forward, BSCC will play host to track cyclists from around the state on 11<sup>th</sup> February for our round of the ACES Series. We anticipate to attract 60 riders from about 6 different clubs to compete.