



2022/23 President's Report

Executive Summary

With lockdowns and restrictions now behind us, it was comforting to know that programs and racing could be planned and executed without the worry of sudden interruptions. The challenges that our club, and many others, faced over the past 3 years has made us not only extremely resilient but more appreciative of the sporting club and what it provides in mental well-being, community connection, fitness, enjoyment and entertainment. I think we can all agree that these are important components of a happy life.

The 2022/23 year was one of recovery and stability with membership numbers growing in our BMX division and remaining steady in all other divisions. Engagement, marketing and PR through social media, email databases and even some print media continues to give us a strong presence and familiar brand in the Ballarat community.

Big achievements from the past year:

- Continued investment in BMX facilities is paying off with huge numbers attending their Clubbies, Race Series' and coaching sessions and they continue to impress with their energy, time and hard work that they commit to the club.
- The Victoria Park criteriums attracted close to 70 competitors plus almost 20 juniors weekly.
- Our popular mountain bike program; Dirt Critters continue to get close to 100 kids weekly.
- Alana Forster became a World Champion on the track in Glasgow.

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

- Our home base; Marty Busch Reserve is locked in to have a high-standard criterium circuit added to the collection of other facilities by the end of 2026. We will continue to work closely with Ballarat City Council to ensure the development meets the needs of our club and our members.
- The construction of high-class mountain bike trails in Creswick has begun with 60kms potentially completed by mid-next year.

Thank you to everyone that contributed to Ballarat Sebastopol Cycling Club over the past 12 months. Especially, our hard-working sub-committee members. Your dedication, commitment and support help make BSCC a better club. And a big thank you to all of our active members for having faith and trust in our club. Here's to an exciting year ahead.

Happy cycling.

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

Tim Canny | President



BMX Summary

It has been another very strong year for the BMX Division. Our popular coaching sessions have seen steady attendance of about 35-40 members on a weekly basis over three nights. We have also had over 30 new members join the club over the last 12 months.

We successfully hosted monthly clubbies, as well as 2 series events and 1 major event in 2023. These events have been essential in fostering community engagement and competition.

The Winter Series was a 5-round event held in July and August 2022. This series was incredibly successful as we saw 471 entries over the 5 rounds.

The Autumn Series was a 4-round event held between March and July 2023. This event clashed with a lot of other BMX and sporting events, so 1 round was cancelled and another rescheduled due to poor weather. The format was divisional racing which made for some close exciting racing in all categories having riders paired into groups with their track times rather than age classes. Ballarat riders took out 3 of the classes with Bendigo taking out the other 3 challenge classes. Over the 4 rounds we had 220 riders take part.

The inaugural Western Series was hailed a big success. The 4-round event held between Ballarat, Bacchus Marsh, Sunbury & Wyndham was our biggest event held since covid and saw 155 riders attend our track on Father's Day 2023. The entire series saw an average of 158 riders attend each round so we plan to make this ongoing annual series. 37 Ballarat riders completed the series with 9 riders taking home the number 1 spot and securing a limited-edition jersey. Henrey Fraser and Ida Ferguson were the standouts taking home wins in their first season of challenge events.

The introduction of new club jerseys and polos has strengthened our club's identity and unity, especially among younger members who now get to feel part of a team

We proudly had 42 riders compete in the 2023 Victorian State Series. 10 of whom finished on the podium. Plus, 32 of our members competed in the State Championships with 16 bringing home a V Plate.

Going forward, the BMX division plans to host more 'Come & Try' days, have more connection with local schools, create 'new member packs', target specific age groups, conduct membership drives, seek more community partnerships and continue to promote an inclusive environment.

In conclusion, 2022/23 has been a year of achievements and growth for our BMX division. We look forward to the year ahead with optimism and determination as we strive to reach our goals, expand our membership, and continue providing a thriving BMX community in our region. Thank you for your support and commitment to our club's success.



Road/Track/Gravel Summary

The 2022/23 year kicked off with the BSCC's first ever Gravel Race Series. It took place on 4 weekends in August & September in the Creswick State Forrest and was generously sponsored by Cyclescape. The series was well supported by riders from Ballarat, Bendigo, Horsham, Geelong and the western suburbs of Melbourne. Elite Bendigo rider; Tasman Nankervis won the overall aggregate.

Next on the calendar, was our ever-popular Wednesday night criteriums in Victoria Park. And they didn't disappoint with attendances up near 70 competitors and divisions hitting their cap of 20 riders. The racing was fast and exciting with ever-changing podiums each week. The Club Championship race was something special with the absence of reigning champion; Liam White, the race was wide open. Of the near capacity field, it was young-gun, 17-year-old Lenny Griffiths that stole the show and raced away for his maiden Championship.

Complimenting our crits is the Junior Road Critters Program that takes place every Wednesday from 5:15pm. Once again, we were blessed to have experienced coaches Chris Liston and Damien Keirl give up their time to pass on their knowledge to the young future stars of our club.

Road racing of a Saturday continues to be a challenge due to the logistics, permit barriers, corner marshal and compliance requirements plus the slowly reducing competitor numbers. Nevertheless, we conducted some successful race's which received some very positive feedback.

The Fred Icke Road Race took place on Saturday 19th November after having a year off in 2021 due to Covid. The first wave of races in the morning were a big success, however, the heavens opened just prior to the afternoon racing and unfortunately forced the cancellation of all wave 2 races including the elite men's and women's races. The event was still a success for the club financially.

By popular demand, the Power to Pedal Program returned in February for a third 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. The program continues to gain momentum so we aim to offer the program again next year.

In a currently challenging road cycling climate, our committee can be proud of many achievements across the past year. We continue to work hard to provide attractive and enjoyable racing for our members in addition to development opportunities for our juniors. In a changing landscape, our committee is listening to our members and willing to alter and adapt our racing to best fit the demand. Bring on the next 12-months!

Track season 22/23 started back in October with Tuesday night kids at 4pm and senior motor pacing from 5pm. A big thanks to Joel Hossack again for riding the motorbike. We also had both Ballarat Grammar and Ballarat Clarendon schools attend their own programs during the summer on our track. It was a great opportunity to promote track cycling, give the juniors some experience and perhaps tempt them into taking track cycling up.



We also had a major clean-up of the velodrome with a high-powered pressure washing unit. It hadn't been cleaned for a long time so it was a big job it took us a number of sessions across a whole month to complete. A special thank you to Steven Crowe, Paul & Kade Killeen and Luke Taylor for helping with the works.

One of the highlights of the season was running an ACES Series Race, with riders coming from all over the state to attend. The event was a huge success with around 60 participants all having a lot of fun and no crashes. There were lots of funny moments through the day with West Vic Academies; Cam Mcfarlane on the mic. The BBQ was very busy and we sold everything we had on the day. We had lots of volunteers and people chipping in to organize everything. Thank you to everyone involved in the event. We aim to hold another ACES event early next year.

Another huge highlight, was club member; Alana Forster becoming a World Champion on the track in Glasgow earlier this year. Alana took off with a number of laps remaining and was able to hold the chasers off.

Mountain Bike & CX Summary

The mountain bike club membership over the last 12 months has stayed at a similar level to previous years at around 90 members.

Our governing body changed from MTBA (Mountain Bike Australia) to AusCycling, which now runs Offroad (MTB & CX), Road, Track and BMX. The crossover has been completed with most of the membership, insurance, racing and instructor/coaching details now fully converted to AusCycling.

The role of the club was to continue to provide the region with a base for trail updates and advocacy, work with council and land holders to maintain and develop trails, organise and conduct cross-country and cyclocross racing, continue with coaching programs and the junior Dirt Critters kids program.

The Ballarat MTB club has seen a few of the committee members step back for personal and family reasons. Antanas Spokevicius has been on the committee for over 10 years and will be missed especially in the trail advocacy area and dealing with land holders. He was responsible for the setup of the very popular kids Critters program.

Some new members have come onto the committee including Miranda Griffiths with a roll in CX (cyclocross), media and offroad racing. The current MTB & CX committee includes Mark Van Halen, Jess Egan, Matt Gibson, Paul Sagnol, Miranda Griffiths and Michelle Delaney.

The MTB club held a round of the Victorian Mountain Bike Championships on January 28 and 29, 2023 at Black Hill, which included the Victorian State Titles on the Saturday. Around 150 competitors came to Ballarat and raced each day which included some National Champions. The event was very popular with everyone and included junior riders from as young as under 13 through to Masters competitors, Elite and even an E-bike category.



The committee also help with the Junior Dirt Critters program again during summer daylight saving time from 5:30pm to 6:30pm every Tuesday. Around 80 kids aged 5 to 15 enrol and participate in a fun night of bike awareness, handling skills, safety, trail introductions and socialising.

BSCC invested funds for Mark Van Halen to complete a MTB level 1 or Development course to continue coaching beginner and more advance riders.

The Club also purchased three Sender ramps and a wheelie stand for the Dirt Critters program.

Working bees have taken place at Mt Clear trail head with Parks Victoria and another at Black Hill on the cross-country trails with Ballarat City Council.

There is a lot to be excited about in mountain biking with the new Creswick mountain bike trails currently under construction and earmarked to be finished next year. This amazing development will add 60kms of high quality single-track to our region and our club can't wait.