



## 2024/25 President's Report

As we look back on the 2024/25 year, I am proud to report that the Ballarat Sebastopol Cycling Club has not only continued the momentum built in previous years, but has successfully met some of the goals and objectives we set out in our long-term vision.

Over the past 12 months, we reflect on the breadth and quality of activities, achievements and community initiatives delivered across all divisions of our club. These include, but are certainly not limited to:

- Strengthening our partnership with the Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute, continuing our support of their annual Cycle Classic fundraiser and helping to drive another successful event.
- Working closely with the City of Ballarat to further develop our club facilities, including ongoing improvements to our BMX track to continue meeting the standard required for state level events. Importantly, planning is now well underway for the new purpose-built criterium circuit at Marty Busch, construction should begin within the next 12 months.
- Running another highly successful Power to Pedal Program, giving young people with autism the opportunity to learn how to ride in a safe, supported environment.
- Hosting major events across several cycling disciplines—delivering professional, well-run competitions and strengthening our reputation as one of Victoria's most capable regional cycling clubs.
- Continuing to provide a welcoming community built on respect, ensuring that all members have a safe environment that supports their physical and mental wellbeing.

As we continue building an inclusive, community-driven club that our members can be proud of, it is clear that BSCC's strength lies in its people. Like many sporting organisations, we rely heavily on volunteers, and the commitment shown across all areas of the club this year has been extraordinary.

I would like to sincerely thank every volunteer, coach, official, parent, helper and supporter who has contributed to the Ballarat Sebastopol Cycling Club over the past 12 months. A special acknowledgement goes to our hardworking sub-committees—your leadership, time and energy are the backbone of what we do.

And finally, thank you to our members for your enthusiasm, trust and belief in the future of this great club.

Please read ahead to see the fantastic achievements from each division throughout the 2024/25 year.

Happy cycling.

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

Tim Canny | President



## BMX Summary

The 2024/25 year has been one of the most significant in recent memory for the BMX division, marked by strong growth, major event delivery, and outstanding community engagement. The commitment of our riders, families, and volunteers has continued to strengthen our program and position the club as a leading force in Victorian BMX.

Despite a slow start due to a congested national and state racing calendar early in the year, our racing program quickly gained pace. Key achievements included:

- Regular Clubbies maintained strong participation and consistency throughout the season.
- Successful hosting of a Victorian State Series Round, attracting an impressive 470 riders to our track.
- Continued growth of Best of the West, increasing from 200 participants in 2024 to 250 in 2025—a reflection of both strong regional engagement and the quality of our event delivery.
- Introduction of the new Burra Bash club-level series, which has been warmly received and will continue into 2025.

These events have further enhanced our reputation for delivering safe, professional, and well-organised race meets.

Community engagement remained a central focus this year, with the BMX division involved in a wide range of initiatives, including:

- Sebas Early Learning Night
- Sebas Community Showcase
- Ballarat Youth Services Track Night
- MTB Club BBQ
- Three Come & Try BMX Days
- Four Bunnings BBQs

These activities boosted both visibility and participation, while also generating valuable fundraising income. Notably, we welcomed several new members directly from these initiatives—many of whom have quickly become active contributors at working bees and race events, bringing fresh energy and enthusiasm to our club.

The coming year promises to be another milestone period for BMX. We are proud to have secured the 2026 Victorian State BMX Championships, a major three-day event that is already encouraging riders to visit Ballarat for early track time. To prepare for this, we will continue delivering a strong schedule of Clubbies and gate sessions to maintain rider development and community engagement.



Planning for the next Best of the West series is already underway, with expectations of further growth. We also anticipate continuing our Come & Try Days and returning to our key community events, with the potential to expand our outreach further in 2026.

The successes of this year would not have been possible without the dedication of our volunteers, riders, committee members, and families. Whether assisting at events, supporting training sessions, or participating in community activities, your contributions have made a significant impact.

Thank you to everyone involved for helping make 2024/25 such a strong and positive year for BMX. We look forward to building on this momentum as we move into what promises to be another exciting year for the division.

## Road Summary

The 2024/25 year has been another fantastic season for road racing at BSCC, with strong participation, competitive racing, and continued growth in our junior development programs.

Our ever-popular Wednesday night criteriums at Victoria Park continued to thrive, with attendances approaching 70 competitors and divisions regularly reaching their cap of 20 riders. The racing was fast and exciting, with podiums often changing week to week—a true testament to the depth of talent within our club.

A highlight of the season was the Club Championship in March, which saw an open and animated race in the absence of in-form Alistair Forsyth. After a series of strong breakaways, the race culminated in a thrilling sprint, with Damien Larking claiming his maiden Championship, narrowly ahead of Richard Younger and Tim Canny.

Our successful criterium series would not have been possible without our dedicated volunteers. Special thanks to Dean Wells, Paul Killeen, and all who give up their time week after week to ensure our races run safely and smoothly.

Our Junior Road Critters program continued to flourish, running every Wednesday from 5:00pm under the guidance of our experienced coach, Chris Liston, who generously shares his knowledge and expertise. This year, we also reintroduced the Future Stars sessions, designed to bridge the gap between Junior Road Critters and adult racing. Led by former program participant Alistair Forsyth, the sessions have been a huge success, with young riders enjoying valuable race skills, drills, and mentorship from someone they admire. Alistair is busy preparing himself for a tilt at the under-19 National Road Title and a potential European call up early next year.

The Fred Icke Road Race took place on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November attracting 109 entrants across 9 categories. Whilst entry numbers were slightly down on previous years, the event was still a huge success and gained a lot of really positive feedback.

In its 5<sup>th</sup> year, the Power to Pedal Program returned in February under the expertise of Chris Liston. Unfortunately, participant numbers were low but those that attended saw enormous improvement over the 4-wk program.



The 2025 Quad Series with Geelong, Colac and Footscray took place in May. BSCC hosted the first race in Bungaree on a new and exciting course attracting an excellent 83 riders. Whilst our results for the series were not favourable, we were pleased with the participation and enthusiasm.

Another good initiative introduced recently was the BSCC Social Ride every Friday morning. The idea was to give riders an opportunity to practice rolling turns whilst being a more engaged and connected member of the club. These will continue into the next year.

In summary, our sub-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 activities to best fit the demand. Bring on the next 12 months!

### **Track Summary**

The 2025 financial year was another strong period for the Ballarat Sebastopol Cycling Club's track division. Weekly sessions consistently attracted around 15 riders, creating a vibrant and competitive atmosphere throughout the season.

A standout achievement was hosting an ACES round for the second time. The event drew impressive numbers, received excellent feedback from participants, and reaffirmed our commitment to being an active and reliable contributor to the ACES series in the years ahead.

This successful season was made possible by the dedication of our volunteers. In particular, we thank Hugo Tolliday and Dan Cronin for their ongoing leadership and support, as well as everyone who generously contributed their time and energy across the year. Your efforts remain vital to the continued growth of track cycling within our club.

Going forward, we're delighted to have the experienced Scott Allison from WestVIC academy coaching and mentoring our junior track cyclists. Scott's knowledge and expertise will be invaluable to the kids as they endeavour to become strong and smart cyclists.

### **Mountain Bike Summary**

The 2024/25 season was another strong and productive year for the Ballarat Sebastopol Cycling Club's Mountain Bike division, highlighted by steady participation, well-run events, and continued growth in community engagement.

From October 2024 through March, the club again partnered with Club Mud to deliver the popular Dirt Critters program, supported by dedicated coaching from Miranda Griffiths and Mark van Halen. Across October to April, we also delivered our regular fortnightly Thursday Night Dirt Crits series at Black Hill, Nerrina, Mount Clear, and Smythesdale. Participation remained consistently healthy, with most rounds attracting more than 20 riders, including a number of new members and juniors joining the ranks.



In January, the club co-hosted a round of the Victorian XCO Series at Black Hill in partnership with Big Hill Events. Our volunteers supported course preparation, marking, first aid, and marshalling. Rider feedback was exceptional, with many noting it as the best-designed course of the entire series.

The club also invested significant planning and resources into hosting the Ballarat round of the Vic Schools MTB Series in August 2025. Perfect weather, well-received courses, and a vibrant event village at Mount Clear College contributed to a highly successful day. There were 156 entries with 33 local riders taking part. Ballarat achieved the second-highest attendance of the entire series.

This season also saw a key infrastructure investment, with the purchase of new metal fencing barriers. These were used for the schools event and will continue to support both MTB and road events into the future.

Overall, it was a year that showcased strong participation, committed volunteers, and a growing presence within the regional MTB community. The division is well placed for continued success in the year to come.