



Our vision: To grow cycling in the Manawatu

Bike Manawatu Chairpersons report 2016/2017

John van Lienen 11th April

The power of any great club often comes down to the loyalty, unity and passion that all members have toward their club and each other. We see this illustrated by the unwavering loyalty of club members and devoted fans of household club names like Liverpool and Arsenal and many other great clubs around the world. Remarkably this kind of loyalty is shown both on and off the field, no matter what the clubs results are, their financial position, or whether they win lose or draw. Isn't that what our club should be aiming for?

Bike Manawatu is still in its infancy compared to those great clubs yet today our club is highly respected in the Manawatu and across New Zealand for what our past and present board, club officials, volunteers and members have achieved on and off the bike. The board would like to acknowledge and publicly thank those people who have helped our club get to where we are today. Looking forward though, this is a great platform and opportunity we all have as club members to unite together and make Bike Manawatu a great club we all feel devoted to and proud of which is my hope.

After two years on the Bike Manawatu board under respected Chairperson and cycling icon Steve Stannard, in 2016 I was elected chairman after Steve stepped down. I felt out of my depth in the cycling arena yet understand business, and the people in the region. The makeup of our board presented the club an opportunity for each board member to oversee a different aspect of the clubs activities. This gave the club a team approach to board governance in areas such as Events, NZ Cycling, Financials and Sponsorship portfolios. Each area has been well managed by a dedicated board member along with the fine work club secretary Christine Christie has been committed to with a membership and people focus. This has allowed the board to achieve some important initiatives which are an ongoing work in progress. As a non-profit organisation the board and club secretary have worked well together to produce a financially sound balance sheet for the club. Christine Christie after two years has recently stepped down as club secretary. I sincerely thank each board member and our club secretary for their valued contributions.

Celebrating success is an important part of sport. In the last 12 months some incredible results by club members have been achieved on the Track and Road at both national and international level. Eleven of our club riders have represented New Zealand and produced some outstanding results to highlight the depth of talent Bike Manawatu has been nurturing under the watchful eye and guidance of local schools, coaches, parents and supporters.

Proudly supported



by

PN Marist Sports Club

We acknowledge those people; Campbell Stewart, Robert Stannard, Michaela Drummond, Jordan Castle, Emily Shearman, Carne Groube, Joel Yates, Matty Hartley-Brown, Dillon Simpson, Libby Arbuckle and Connie O'Brien.

The board also extend our appreciation and thanks to everyone one of our valued riders, race organisers, committees volunteers, coaches, parents and supporters for representing this club at all levels of your involvement with integrity. Your effort and commitment is hugely appreciated and something we do not want to overlook and take for granted. Our members are well known for showing respect and responsibility when representing Bike Manawatu. Those events include;

Gravel and Tar which has been the initiative of Steve Stannard and destined for big things.
School Cycling run and organised by Mike Simpson, Mike Craine and there team of volunteers.
Club time Trials organised and run by John Arbuckle and Mike Groube
Club road races organised and run by John Arbuckle and Mike Groube
Track organised and run by Ian Gray and his team.
The Manfeild 6 Hour Challenge organised and run by Christine and Mike Christie
The Feilding Festival of cycling organised and run by Austin Smith
The Novice Tour organised and run by Mike Craine and his organising committee
The Manfeild Criterium organised and run by Brett Tivers and Mike Craine.
The Sunday ride committee lead by Mike Keenan.

This year has also been a very special year for three club members who have been the recipients of some prestigious national and regional honours and awards.

Ian Gray was honoured by the Palmerston North Mayor Grant Smith and received The Palmerston North City Council Civic Honorary Community Service Award for his contribution to cycling and Ian also received the Marist Sports Club Gold service award for his contribution to cycling.

Campbell Stewart stood proud on New Zealand Television to be awarded New Zealand Halberg winner for Emerging NZ Talent and spoke well as a proud Manawatu athlete. Campbell was also voted Manawatu junior Sportsman of the year and Michaela Drummond voted Manawatu junior Sports Woman of the year at Sport Manawatu's Sports awards to top off a fantastic year.

At my first board meeting in April 2016 as chairperson I shared some of my goals for the club;

- 1) To bring the clubs, schools riders and our masters riders together as one so our club could unite and become stronger and more resourceful for events and volunteers. Mike Craine and his schools committee collaborated well with a successful start at the new Criterium series. Schools and Masters enjoyed the contest.
- 2) To provide a social place where all club members could catch up once a month and enjoy each other's company which the club did not have. "The Bike Manawatu Happy Hour" was born and the last Friday of every month is working well for masters and schools.
- 3) To build a sustainable volunteer base so that our club could organise and successfully run a annual calendar of events for our members and other clubs to engage in.
- 4) To add a Criterium series to our annual calendar. This proved a success with all members and schools across the region including Whanganui, Rangitikei, and Levin riders.

I believe the key ingredient to Bike Manawatu becoming a great club is a culture shift within the membership where every member is committed to uniting together and sharing in supporting the clubs vision. Often clubs have a select few amazing people who behind the scenes are working tirelessly to run their beloved club and make things happen. That model we know is not sustainable and continues to burn out good loyal club volunteer members. None of us want that to continue to happen.

To bring about a culture shift to our club I think starts with our cyclists. As a novice cyclist we all learn to ride a bike with fellow cyclists and then we get more confident with more rides. We end up wanting more organised ride options and events to choose from year after year and Bike Manawatu organise many of those rides and events for cyclists.

Our club volunteers can only do so much and are often stretched and end up having to stand down from helping out, leaving our ride calendar short of events for members and everyone to enjoy. As cyclists this is our first challenge to overcome. All members can help fix this challenge by sharing and supporting the clubs vision going forward.

Our vision going forward 1) For all cyclists to be a financial club member which is \$45 per annum for masters and less for schools 2) For all members to be on a club roster list to be called upon to help out at an event once in a while. These two club member commitments will produce more well organised events and social time for everyone to enjoy. This is the kind of culture shift that will unite people and support club members who want to ride and race more.

A masters Bike Manawatu financial club member enjoys the benefits of liability insurance cover along with an annual calendar of events and our monthly social Happy Hour outings. To put that in prospective, the cost of a road bike can be from \$500 to \$20,000 and with our membership benefits at \$45, the affordability is less than a \$1 per week.

The appeal of our sport is to enjoy your cycling at any level or age but surely not as a lone rider outside of our Bike Manawatu rides and events. Bike Manawatu presents the opportunity of learning to ride, group rides, racing and social which all form part of growing as a cyclist and member. The lifelong friendships we make along the way is a big part of a club culture and to see the wonderful banter between members is fantastic. Many thanks goes to club secretary Christine Christie who has nurtured the club membership to now over 250 members and there are many people who are yet to commit to becoming a financial member which we need to turn around. The benefit for the club and the rider is unanimous.

Bike Manawatu has a respected association with the Marist Sports Club and their 3000 members. Sport Manawatu who are creating opportunities for our club to learn, prosper and grow with a variety of workshops and then there is our devoted club sponsors we treasure and need for us all to support.

As we look ahead, Bike Manawatu's first and foremost priority is to promote cycling, rider safety and enjoyment for our members. We are a volunteer based fast growing sport and the buzz we all get from cycling is why we do it. Pulling together to become a great club requires a mind shift from all of us which for the many great people and characters we already have in the club will set the platform for us to become a great club. I hope we have your support.

Love cycling and stay safe
John van Lienen
Chairperson, Bike Manawatu
0274 464683
John.vanlienen@bayleys.co.nz

