

# Presidents Report- Waipa Mountain Bike Club

Welcome to the third AGM of the Waipa Mountain Bike Club. Thank you for attending.

A highlight of the last year was the public opening of the first of our MTB tracks at Sainsbury Rd Forest Pirongia. We had a great turnout with a full carpark and over 50 riders riding the newly built single track. It was particularly good to see the younger riders making use of the kids' loop by bike, trike or buggy. I would particularly like to thank all the volunteers who have contributed their time to building the first trail, some of which have regularly come from as far away as Hamilton. This includes the assistance from Waikeria prison, with their community work crew. Track building is a time demanding process with over 700 hrs of volunteer time required to build the first 750M of single track. We have also been fortunate to receive support from the Waipa District Council, New Zealand Community Trust and Pub Charity. These have made the construction of the two carparks and childrens track possible. It's very rewarding to see that the public, especially families, are now using the forest and the trails. Despite a wet winter the trails have held up reasonably well and I think we can be proud of what we have built so far.

Aside from trail building the club has continued its regular rides. New this year has been the Thursday night Sainsbury rides. These have been very popular with good numbers attending throughout winter. I'm sure it is the reward of the beer in the pub at the end which is part of the appeal of that ride. The Sunday Ngutunui rides also remain well attended, with the biannual time trial ferociously competitive. We have not had many destination rides in the last year, but this is something we would like to grow again in the coming year. With many of the new government funded cycleways opening over the next 12 months there are superb new opportunities to explore trails and places. One which I am particularly excited about is the Pureora Timber Trail, which the club will be hearing more about tonight.

Membership remains a healthy level of about 35 club members. This is sufficient to keep the club viable and cover the on-going costs of operating Sainsbury Forest. One thing we would like to do in the coming year is to introduce more member-specific benefits and this is something we will hopefully roll out in the next couple of months, as subscriptions come up for renewal. An example of this was the MTB skills course we ran at Rotorua in summer, which we were able to provide to club members at a greatly reduced cost.

Financially we have had a sound year and our Club Treasurer will be commenting further on the accounts in her report.

The principal challenge for the club in the coming year and medium term will be how we balance the management of the Sainsbury Forest MTB tracks with the other aspects of the club activities, such as rides. This is already too big a project to undertake with our small volunteer pool alone, and there is more to our club than just trail building. We are planning to shift more of the Sainsbury Rd development to commercial contractors, which will be funded through community grants. This will be supported by assistance from Correction Department community service workers. The club will focus on overall management of the project, designing the trails and importantly, riding.

Thank you for attending the AGM tonight. My apologies I could not be present. I've just spent the last 3 days mountain biking the amazing trails in Whistler, Canada ( a tough life) and I've got some great ideas for new things we could do locally at Sainsbury Forest. I'm looking forward to the arrival of spring in NZ and whizzing down those sun packed clay berms up on the side of Mt Pirongia.

Brendan Haigh,

Club President