

Totara Park Mountain Bike Club Inc

AGM Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday 31st May 2022

Venue: Nathan Homestead, 70 Hill Rd, Manurewa, Auckland



Present:	Greg Simmons, Martyn Capstick, Kelvin Hieatt, Geoff Leckie, Alan Zuppich, Egbert Koekoek, Braden Schultz, Megan Schultz, Johan Botha, Andrew Shallard, Sean Dick, Thomas Airs, Brian Blake, Mat Glanfield, Daniel Newman, Karl French, Mark Vince, Mark Norris, Glenn Murphy and Ralph Patterson
Apologies:	Janet Stark, Linda and Alan Eustice, Phil Murray and Murray Byers
Minutes:	Megan Schultz

Current Business		
	Information	Who/When
Meeting Opened – 07:32pm		
Previous Minutes: <p>A comment was noted regarding the following minute in the 2021 AGM General Business:</p> <p><i>Mike Small reminded the club of the Reserves Act 1977 Section 17 that states that ‘recreation reserves are for the purpose of providing areas for the recreation and sporting activities and the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public, and for the protection of the natural environment and beauty of the countryside, with emphasis on the retention of open spaces and on outdoor recreational activities, including recreational tracks in the countryside.’ He stated this is important when working with the council as this is something they need to adhere to with Totara Park. Kelvin informed attendees that at every opportunity the Council, be that staff or Local Board members are reminded that this park was purchased by the former Manukau City Council in April 1966 and gazetted as a Recreational Reserve for the community. This will continue to be reiterated throughout the MOU discussions.</i></p> <p>Kelvin Hieatt informed the meeting that following some research it was noted that Totara Park had not been gazetted as a “Recreational Reserve” either immediately after its purchase in 1966 or in subsequent years. It had been recommended in a management report in the early 90’s, but this had not been followed through with. It was noted that as the park grew over the years some 10 parcels of land had been gifted to the Council by various landowners and developers as Recreation Reserves. On discovery of this information no further discussion was entered into with Council with regards to a gazetted recreational reserve and as such was not included in the final draft of the MOU.</p> <p>A motion to accept the minutes of the 2021 AGM was proposed by Kelvin Hieatt and seconded by Geoff Leckie – Motion Carried</p>		
1.	Presidents Report Delivered by Kelvin Hieatt <p>Well, it doesn’t seem that long ago that I was marched up here with my arm behind my back to take this chair. One year on and all I can say is “Wow! what a year it has been”. The year started out with work continuing on the Memorandum of Understanding, a partnership agreement that both ourselves and Council have been putting together. I’m glad to report that’s all but across the line, but more on that later.</p>	

During May and early June, we were busy working on some new cattle gates into and out of the CHALLENGER track area following the fencing off of this waterway by Council for the upcoming planting, which was to take place later in the month. Don't know what the fencers were thinking, but they left us with an unusually high gate level, leaving us little choice, but to build features out of the ramps. Due to Council LOA restrictions, we were not able to have any new tracks built at the time so uphill and downhill tracks were marked out, taped off and around 30,000 native plants planted around them. Hopefully in the very near future you'll see these new tracks eventuate.

Around this time the on again, off again Mill Rd Corridor was cancelled again meaning the PONY EXPRESS track will remain untouched for another few years. There's supposed to be some improvements coming for this road that may affect the top section of this track along Redoubt Rd, but who knows when. So, in the meantime we are going to continue with track repairs and improvements.

Many a working bee was planned for the coming winter season, but only 3 were able to go ahead. Yes, you guessed it COVID19 and the Lockdowns got in the way and we lost 3 if not 4 of what would have been valuable working bees. Over the last 2 years we lost 6 programmed working bees to the COVID Restrictions.

That's somewhere north of 400 hours of lost volunteer time, not to mention the hours usually put in by our Track Legends to trim and keep the tracks clear. That said we had 3 cracking working bees, one on the PONY EXPRESS Return, one on the last couple of Berms on DIC and the other was on DICK Down. I managed to score an awesome picnic table with a Galvanised steel base, which we concreted in at the top of DICK during the working bee. Bet many of you have sat there trying to get your breath back after climbing TOM. What a great place to watch the sunset from. Awesome pic of your feet Andrew.

Over the last few years, we have lost a number of the big trees in the park, especially those around our tracks. They seem to fall at any time whether there's wind or not. In early August we lost a real big bugger, right across the main entrance to the tracks and bridle path in the Redoubt Rd carpark. Took a few days to clear the debris and rebuild the entrance, but man there was some timber in that tree trunk.

Auckland Schools racing also took place in August with more than 230 kids smashing it out on a very wet and muddy day. Great racing was had, and we look forward to hosting them again for another 2 race events in the park this year. Auckland Mountain Bike Club will also be holding 2 Cyclocross events in the park this coming Winter as well so it's going to be a busy year for racing. Please support them in their efforts to bring these races to our park. They are short, but fun events.

Mid-August saw Xterra utilising the track network for its Cross-Country running race. With 1500 runners you would not have guessed it that one of them had COVID and that apparently by just being in the park somewhere, even watching the runners from a distanced you could catch it! Ok yes, I did go down into the Race Village to thank the organisers for their donation to the club, but man 12 days and 2 tests later... oh well, better safe than sorry.

In October the committee put heads together over WhatsApp to look at a number of designs for a club shirt. Eventually after much to-ing and fro-ing we came up with what we believe is a pretty cool design. A green shirt with black sleeves and our club logo in the middle with rolling hills and trees in the background. If you haven't got one already jump onto our page, check out the styles and support the club by wearing one while out on the tracks.

Also, in October we were hit by a fake track closure of Fatmans that nearly led to a few accidents. Unfortunately, this resulted in the track being closed properly by Council and then a not so satisfactory repair by their contractor. Thankfully with the help of some of my committee we were able to save the day, temporarily rename the track the “Whine Incline” and get it back open.

Sadly, in late October many of us who had planned to race the Whaka100 couldn't get out of the jail that was Auckland. Unfortunately, this meant the event, which some 3000 riders were to attend was postponed until January 31st 2022, then unbelievably cancelled at the 11th hour with participants lined up outside waiting for registration to open. Many chose to still ride the course on the Sunday even though the race tape had been removed. Gotta say Madam Secretary that was an outstanding effort you put in to smash out that 120 km. A few more k's than you should of, but at least you finished it, Kudos to you.

In November the committee started work on updating our membership list. Megan will provide further details soon, but what I'd like to say is a big thanks for your support and assistance in getting this important club matter sorted. We are now officially Affiliated with MTBNZ and CNZ and are covered under their insurance policies for both race events and working bees. Yeaha! Glad to get that ticked off.

While a little later than expected we were very pleased to announce in November our donation of \$3000 to Totara Hospice. Over the last 3 years of the Shimano Totara360 we have donated around \$7,500 to the hospice from the proceeds of this event. Totara Hospice does great work for our community and I for one are very glad that we support them. I lost my brother-in-law earlier this year and they were there supporting my sister and her family until the end.

Over the Christmas and New Year break we managed to throw in a couple of really good tree trimming working bees to clear both the DIC and Rewa Hard tracks of their spring growth. The aim here is to trim the regenerative planted trees back hard so that they grow up and over the track and not across it. We have seen it takes around 8 or 9 years to train the trees, but eventually you get this tunnel effect, which many of you will have seen and enjoyed riding through with the added bonus of less trackside weeds due to the lack of sunlight. We also trimmed out Puhinui Flow and Mawhitiwhiti in another working bee not long after.

Race time! With all the COVID restrictions around and Omicron looming large it was absolutely great to be able to get our **Woodside Bar and Kitchen Summer Race Series** away. 5 races successfully completed. Our Race Director Greg will have more figures, but suffice to say it was a sold-out event with 100 registered riders for each race and around 90 or so making it across the line each Thursday evening. I want to thank the **Woodside Bar and Kitchen** and the **Wiri Licensing Trust** for once again sponsoring this event. I know many a race participant enjoyed dinner and a beer with the vouchers they received. Long may it continue.

In February the fencers started fencing of the last of the big gullies in the park to be planted out. As per last year the fencers built the grate levels really high leaving us again to build ramps up to and off the cattle grates. Planting will happen July 2nd so register on the Councils webpage and come join us to put some trees in the ground. And yes, we've planned out a couple of new lines for track.

A young man from our club competed in the U15 Nationals in late February. While just having turned 13 he smashed the rest of the field by more than 2.30mins to become the New Zealand U15 National Champion. As a club we are very proud. Our congrats goes to young Alex Botha. The effort we've seen you put in deserved this outcome. We'd also like to congratulate Matt Wilson who came 2nd in the U23 and is currently away racing on the

	<p>international stage and doing very well. Good luck to you both with your future races. You have our support.</p> <p>Unfortunately, due to the COVID Restrictions at the time our Shimano Totara360 Race, like many events around the country had to be cancelled. Very frustrating to have to make this decision. I want to thank both Shimano and MyRide Botany for their continued support. However, out of the ashes of this year's event will rise another. The Totara Piki 50, a 4 laps race on a 13 km course with around 1350 metres of climbing to be run in early October. The aim is to run this event as a prelude to the Whaka100, which is later in the month in Rotorua. We hope to see you all there.</p> <p>Couple of final things before I finish off.</p> <p>With the winter approaching it's time to crack into the track working bees. We had our first of the season a couple of weeks back and Geoff our Club Vice President said he thought it was one of the best.</p> <p>We moved around 12 tons of track surfacing material in just over 3 hrs before chilling out with our usual BBQ and a cold beverage. There are plenty more working bees scheduled so please come along, get involved and earn some much-respected trail Karma.</p> <p>As mentioned, the Club and Council have been working together to finalised the Memorandum of Understanding Partnership Agreement that will be the basis for our future in the park. Last week the MOU was presented to the Manurewa Local Board for their approval and feedback by the consultant undertaking the project for Council Mat Glanfield. As you can imagine a lot of work has gone into this with more to come on the Operation, Maintenance and Future Tracks Plans. As part of the project the tracks have been graded professionally and I'm sure there will be plenty of discussion around the outcomes and changes that need to be made. Mat, the committee would like to thank you for your efforts. It's been a pleasure working with you, not least because you know how to point a bike downhill and ride it FAST!</p> <p>Last, but not least. Yesterday we received an email from the Trillian Trust telling us that our funding application for \$15K had been approved. Yeaha! This is to be spent on some new radios and riding harnesses to improved safety during our events along with a new Timing System that will enable us to run a much better organised race event. I'm sure Greg will be very pleased to finally get rid of that old manual system that has caused a few strange results over the years. I want to thank both Trillian and the Wiri Licensing Trust for their approval of our funding application. The new equipment will be very much appreciated by our club and racing community.</p> <p>Hope you enjoy the photo montage.</p> <p>A motion to accept the Presidents Report was proposed by Kelvin Hieatt and seconded by Geoff Leckie – Motion carried</p>	
2.	<p>Treasurers Report Delivered by Greg Simmons</p> <p>The club has made a total revenue for the year of \$31,380 This is made up of: Maintenance income - \$18,580 Donations received - \$1,297 Club racing - \$4,143 Totara360 - \$7,348</p>	

	<p>Total Expenses were \$21,134 These expenses have been Tools/Equipment, Track Materials, Racing Costs, Totara 360 race costs, MTB affiliation and Donations made</p> <p>Our surplus for the year is \$10,246 and our accumulated surplus is \$26,402</p> <p>TPMTBC has a total of \$29,707 in the bank as of the 31st March 2022 and \$44,000 as of today.</p> <p>A motion to accept the Treasurers Report was proposed by Kelvin Hieatt and seconded by Andrew Shallard. Motion carried.</p>	
3.	<p>Membership Report Delivered by Megan Schultz</p> <p>In November last year we carried out a membership refresh to ensure that we had an active membership base and were reaching the right people. We currently have 252 members and use Mailchimp to send out communications for things such as working bees and club races/events held in the park. We also have 4,275 people following the clubs page on Facebook so use this and Mailchimp to reach a wide range of people.</p> <p>Totara Park Mountain Bike Club is now officially affiliated with Mountain Bike NZ and Cycling NZ so any member wanting to race under the club's name will now be able to do so. We really love supporting our riders out there racing so hopefully we get to see some of riders out there soon.</p>	
4.	<p>Health and Safety</p> <p>Nothing to report from working bees.</p> <p>Racing – one major injury – a rider fell off a bridge and broke his neck (first ambulance called during a race out of 35 races). This incident was reported to council and maintenance is required on some of the tracks to bring them up to standard for their grade.</p>	
5.	<p>Track Maintenance:</p> <p>Working bees have been scheduled for dates over winter. These will be the second weekend of each month.</p> <p>Work is needed on Pony Express track with the deep ruts needing to be graded to create a smooth track again.</p> <p>Material will need to be spread around Challenger track.</p> <p>There is a lot of wear in the tracks that needs to be caught up on due to loss of working bee hours from Covid restrictions.</p>	

<p>6.</p>	<p>Events for 2022/2023:</p> <p>A very successful Summer Race Series was held even under red light restrictions. We had a limit of 100 riders with about 90 riders starting each race. There was even had a person who drove up from Hamilton each time now that's commitment!</p> <p>The club will run the inaugural Piki 50 which will consist of a 12.5km lap with a total of either 25 or 50km. This will be held just before the Whaka100 in early October.</p> <p>Another Summer Series will be held in 2023 and the Totara360 will be back in March 2023 (we had 206 riders in 2021 for the Totara360 so we are looking forward to another record year).</p> <p>New Zealand is ranked fourth cross country (XC) mountain biking country in the world. However, the XC scene in NZ is very light weight with not many races around. The MTB Collective manager is very keen to bring this up. The plan is to have 3 North Island rounds and 3 South Island rounds of NZ XC National Series with National Championships as a stand-alone event. We need to design a 5km XCO course with obstacles, climbs etc in the park to be able to hold a series event. This will be a great asset and exciting development for the park.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Council/Local Board:</p> <p>Councillor Daniel Newman spoke about the old toilets down by the Botanical Gardens being removed and a new toilet block being installed by the Redoubt Rd carpark. These are accessible toilets so you can take your bike in with you which will be a great asset for the park.</p> <p>Rabbit culling using night vision goggles and silencers has been very successful. A large number have been culled over the planned sessions.</p> <p>A member of the meeting asked Councillor Newman "Is there going to be any work done to the Puhinui stream in Totara Park?" He responded with "There needs to work done on betterment of the whole catchment and there may be some funding towards this. But this is mainly for developments needing to ensure they do not impact the quality of the stream."</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Presentation: Delivered by Mat Glanfield</p> <p>The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is a sense of formality, structure and framework. It shows that all the club's values are the same as councils and fosters a relationship between the club and council. The MOU has been finalised and will be signed by representatives from TPMTBC and Council.</p> <p>An operational plan for the park's trail network is also being developed. This covers health and safety, maintenance and funding for capital projects. This will help to outline what the club does for maintenance and what the council does. Through the operational plan there will be a model with new tracks planned over the years so that it is not a surprise to council for funding of these tracks</p> <p>The trails in the park have also been graded as per set Guidelines of MTB trails in NZ and a full report issued to the club.</p>	

12.	General Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair of Wiri Licensing Trust (Brian Blake) – TPMTBC is the largest club in Manurewa local board area. He congratulated the club for receiving the funding from Trillion/Wiri Licensing Trust. However, the club needs to be talking to the trust more and asking for funding. What could the trust fund for under 18s in the park and to get more people enjoying the facility? The trust is interested in a cost per kilometre of track as there could be funding for this. 	Kelvin, Greg and the TPMTB committee to come up with ideas where the trust could assist
13.	Election of Officers President – Kelvin Hieatt Nominated by Geoff Leckie and seconded by Martyn Capstick. Unanimous vote. All in favour Vice President – Geoff Leckie Nominated by Greg Simmons and seconded by Kelvin Hieatt. Unanimous vote. All in favour. Treasurer – Greg Simmons Nominated by Andrew Shallard and seconded by Geoff Leckie. Unanimous vote. All in favour. Secretary – Megan Schultz Nominated by Kelvin Hieatt and seconded by Andrew Shallard. Unanimous vote. All in favour. Media Officer – Braden Schultz Nominated by Megan Schultz and seconded by Kelvin Hieatt. Unanimous vote. All in favour. MTBNZ Liaison Officer/Membership – Megan and Braden Schultz Nominated by Greg Simmons and seconded by Geoff Leckie. Unanimous vote. All in favour. Club Captain – Greg Simmons Nominated by Andrew Shallard and seconded by Kelvin Hieatt. Unanimous vote. All in favour. Council Liaison Officer – Andrew Shallard Nominated by Geoff Leckie and seconded by Martyn Capstick. Unanimous vote. All in favour. Committee – Alan Zuppich, Martyn Capstick and Johann Botha All names put forward were accepted. No further voting was undertaken.	
Meeting Closed – 09:07pm		
Next Meeting: May 2023		