Presidents Annual Report – August 2026

Welcome

Thank you to the Nakhle family for allowing us to meet here tonight, and to Rima and Roger for arranging it. And thank you all for joining us tonight.

The Presidents Annual Report gives us an oportunity to recap and share about this past term. We started off the 2025-2026 term last May by adopting our new constitution and then re-registering under the new Societies Act. With the deadline looming to not be deregistered it was a huge relief to have that behind us.

Meanwhile in the park our Track Renewal program turned its focus to Tom Up and Puhinui Flow, construction began on the new Working Hard and Hardly Working tracks, and our event calendar continued full-steam with the Winter Cyclo-cross series going onto its second round.

In November Kelvin was elected as Chairperson of the Papakura Local Board and while he may have then stood down from the VP role, he's remained on the committee and as our Trail Network Manager hasn't let up on work in the park in the slightest.

And then in December Megan, our Committee Secretary and Braden, committee member and Web Admin, had their first baby, George. Again, our congratulations to them and we're looking forward to seeing George riding in the park with mum and dad soon. I'm told the bike seat has already been bought and fitted to Bradens bike.

We begun our 2025-2026 event calendar with the 2025 EVO Cycles Auckland Cyclo-Cross Winter Series continuing from May through into June, July and August, with the series winner being David Howie.

With racing on Sunday afternoons and the entire course being visible from the race village this series was certainly a crowd pleaser, and silhouetted above the village there was the spectacle of the field all seemingly riding directly at each other as they navigated the giant spiral mown into the paddock.

The 2025 Monica Maynard Piki 50 followed on Nov 22nd. We promote this event as Auckland's toughest MTB event, and with four 14km laps with 350m of climbing in each, this one is certainly a fitness challenge. Despite that, or because of that, we still continue to get a great turnout for it. This year Thomas Airs showed us how it was done with a time of just 2hr 54min 17sec.

December saw Jamie Smith organise the Ladies Evening Rides, and more recently the Ladies Ride – Winter Series. These are aimed at building confidence on the trails, growing skills, meeting new people and having fun on a relaxed ride. This is a fantastic initiative and we are very appreciative of Jamie putting this together.

Our Woodside Bar and Kitchen Summer Series was then held over five Thursday evenings from 12th February to 12th March. This is always a popular, fun XC series and with options of one or two laps, riding anything from e-bikes to single speed or retro 26" everyone was catered for. Top of the Club Champs Points was – Thomas Airs.

After such a great series we then unfortunately had to cancel our regular March fixture, the Totara 360, and this for a second consecutive year. This year we offered a $1000 early-bird spot prize - a Rotorua weekend away, including accommodation in the Redwoods and a spa or sauna session - but it still wasn't enough to get the numbers necessary to allow the event to go ahead.

To help us understand what might be happening, Scott put a survey up on Facebook and from the feedback it appeared the biggest issue was a lack of a gap from the Summer Series. However, having canceled the last two Totara 360's now, we've decided we will give it a rest and not run it in 2027.

Also in December, we joined in a collaboration with other Auckland MTB clubs, Bike parks and local businesses with the goal to establish mountain biking as an officially recognized sport within Auckland schools. This collab model is working well, and is being watched closely by other clubs and our national bodies , MTB NZ and Cycling NZ. Auckland schools now have mountain biking on their sporting calendars, funding and support is available and students have a pathway to participate from school level through to regional, national and international competition. Event registration numbers are up on last year and continue to grow.

Late June this year, we hosted Round 3 of the Auckland Schools XC series. We had an excellent turn out with 190 entries from 62 intermediate schools and colleges from all over Auckland. Outset Bike were on hand to help out with any mechanical issues, and to temp us with some great looking e-Bikes while the Coffee van and the Papakura Sea Scouts BBQ delivered on the refreshments.

We'll be hosting another round on Sunday 16th August, and we invite you all to come along to watch the racing, walk the park or mingle in the village, and fill up at the BBQ or Coffee van.

And from there our event calendar continues, with our 2026 Monica Maynard Piki50 on Saturday November 21st, with registrations open now, and the Woodside Bar & Kitchen Summer XC Series on Thursday evenings from February 11th.

Before I move on from the events, I must say thank you to our fantastic sponsors, Monica Maynard Realty, Outset Bikes, and Woodside Kitchen and Bar who all support us so well and allow us to put on these events and to keep our entry fees so low.

Thank you also to the committee, club members, volunteers, and marshals who all pitch in and give of their time to make these events happen and to ensure the riders and park users are able to have a safe and enjoyable time.

Our membership numbers have stayed steady for the year at 232 paid-up members. Breaking that number down briefly, 42% are family memberships, 22% are female, and by age, 22% are under 18, while 14% are 60 and over.

In addition to financial members, we have 5,600 following on Facebook, and we're increasingly using Events on Facebook rather than just putting up a Post, so it should be easier for you to find that post you remembered seeing about a working bee or an upcoming race, or even an AGM.

Membership fees remain unchanged this year, at $10 an individual, and $30 a family. That fee level offsets the fees we pay for the membership management software and to affiliate with our national body, MTBNZ, which in turn gives us insurance cover for our volunteer work and events.

Also for that low low fee, in addition to supporting your club, you get access to some very good deals we've negotiated with our partners, Woodside Bar and Kitchen, Totara Park Café, Wiri Licensing Trust and Mitre10 Mega. If you haven't already, check out the Great Membership Deals on the Benefits tab in the Hive Pass App. The Mitre10 Mega Trade Discount is now available at all Mitre10 Mega stores. Just scan the bar code from the App and enter the PIN number.

You may have seen that we've put signs put up around the park featuring QR codes to make it easier for riders and park users to download our trail network maps, or to join the club. We still get visitors who are unfamiliar with the club, or have gotten themselves slightly lost in the park so we will be doing more with signage around the park and trails in the coming year.

Behind the scenes your committee continues to advocate for the park and trail network and to engage with other park stakeholders in efforts to deliver the best outcomes.

A year ago, we received details of the proposed Mill Rd Road of National Significance which laid out where the road would go, what portions of the park would be taken, and how access might be affected. Major changes were envisaged to the Redoubt Rd car park and Pony Express tracks. We and other stakeholders engaged with Auckland Council and NZTA representatives and provided feedback and recommendations for what we saw as best outcomes for the club and park users, and we were quite enthusiastic about most of the changes, especially the addition of pump tracks and beginner loops beside the car park. However, those works largely appear to have gone on hold recently.

We have approached the Manurewa Local Board and signalled our desire to still progress some aspects related to this project, namely an Event Base and a Bike Wash Station, both up near the car park. We will be looking to work through designs, Landowner Approvals, and funding this next term.

Last August the Council agreed a new grazing lease and the park welcomed a new Grazier, Brendon, and cows started returning to the paddocks. Fortunately in the intervening time our track renewal program has made many of the paddock tracks more robust and better able to withstand the cows, and we are pleased that we have not seen a repeat of the anti-social anti-cow nonsense from previous years.

The committee continues to talk to Auckland Council and the Manurewa Local Board about the shortcomings with the current track-side weed control and their contractors approach to weed control in the park, and we continue to hope this will result in some better outcomes soon.

On Health and Safety, we have had the occasional report of horses being moved or ridden in inappropriate areas, including on multiple downhill tracks which poses a very real risk of injury to the horse, the rider, and the cyclist. We've communicated this to the Equestrian Centre and together we're considering ways to allow bike and horse to continue to share the park safely.

Ensuring the safety of riders, volunteers and other park users is of the utmost importance to the committee.

Overall, there were few injuries reported this year. While mountain biking does involve some risk of injury and there is signage up to that effect, we will still do whatever we can to make the park as safe as practicable. An incident where a rider broke their arm on a challenging part of the track behind the hub saw a working bee arranged to focus on upgrading that area.

Another rider broke ribs in a slow speed fall, but this didn't warrant any mitigation work to the track.

A contractor sprained an ankle while moving a loaded non-electric wheel barrow on steep trails. We've agreed that only powered barrows, with brakes, be used going forward, so a fourth e-barrow was borrowed from Trail Pro while we look to buy another this year.

There was also an incident during a start at the last schools race, but our medic was quickly on the scene, and the rider was cleared after observation.

Our club volunteers have had another busy year doing the Working Bee mahi all over the park including on Gutsa, DIC, Tom, Harry, Anaconda, and the Hub two-way bypass, as well as fixing up and reopening Kids Loop, doing a couple of planting days around Working Hard and Hardly Working, and putting in a bypass around the Challenger skinny bridge which was not everyone's favourite bridge. And in amongst all that work we still found time to get in some weed eating, spraying, and cutting back of flax.

In September we received a $7000 grant from the Manurewa Local Board towards our operating costs, for which we are very grateful.

Doing all this work, buying and maintaining the tools and equipment, and looking after the volunteers, would not be possible if it wasn't for the continued support we are very fortunate to receive from the Manurewa Local Board.

I mentioned earlier that we re-registered under the 2022 Society Act. All New Zealand societies are now registered under this Act which has introduced and clarified a number of requirements, one of which is to maintain an Interests Register, where Officers record any actual, perceived or potential conflicts of interest, and to present these at AGM. We have just one declared interest this year. On

19th August the committee voted to request Kelvin provide supervision of the track renewals work program on Fridays, work to be undertaken at a fair market rate. Kelvin abstained from this vote to avoid any conflict of interest.

Our Track Renewal programme continued this year with Holland Landscaping breathing fresh life into Puhinui, Anaconda, Rewa Hard, Tom Up, and Harry Up.

I'd like to thank Bert Schuurkamp and his super team from Holland Landscaping, their hard work is really paying dividends, with park users remarking on how good the trails are, how they're a pleasure to ride, that they're in the best state in a long time. It is very gratifying to be in the park and have someone pause to say thanks, or just to hear others discussing the trails so positively.

Thank you also to Manurewa Local Board for their support, and to Auckland Council Sport and Recreation for the service agreement and $150,000 of funding.

We're having discussions with Council about further funding for renewal of Dick Up, Log Cross and DIC, so hopefully you'll see those get the magic touch soon too.

July 2025 saw volunteers and VIPs descend on the park to plant out 600 native trees and to open new tracks Working Hard and Hardly Working. These were our first new tracks opened since 2019 and it was a great feeling to have them off the drawing board, and made real. Our thanks go to Land Owners the Manurewa Local Board for their support and to Wiri Licensing Trust and Trillian Trust for the $170,000 of funding to make it possible. Thank you also to Byron Scott and his team at TrailPro for trail design and construction, to arborist Row Robinson from Awanui Landscaping for the guidance and education during the planting, and to Friends of Totara Park for the gift of additional native trees.

The long term strategy is to increase the network trail length from the present 15.5km up to nearer 30km and we've already begun looking at options for the next tracks. But I will leave that there, as we will have a presentation at the completion of the formal business of the AGM.

What I will say though, is a Thank You to my committee, for the time you've given to attend meetings and races and working bees throughout the year. We're all volunteers with jobs, family & other commitments, and I do appreciate your giving of your time so selflessly and contributing so positively. Thank you team.