

## 2011 Canterbury BRT Chairman's Annual Report

Welcome, where does one start!

When the current board was elected at the 2010 AGM, who would have thought what lay ahead of us, indeed for all of Canterbury.

The quakes that we have experienced and endured have had a dramatic effect on Canterbury, lives have been lost, infrastructure destroyed, sporting grounds and sporting complexes like QE2 destroyed and some may never be rebuilt, if they are, they could be years away from pre quake conditions.

One thing for sure, what was once normal for most no longer exists!

Fortunately for cycling while many roads were damaged, the courses that are used for road racing on the whole were okay to use, Old Tai tapu road took a pounding but has been repaired to allow midterm schools racing to start as scheduled.

Denton Park oval where track racing is based came through okay and is still able to be used.

Not forgetting the intro to this report, cycling in Canterbury is in good heart, many good things still took place, plenty of good results were gained by Canterbury riders in both Road and Track, these results have been chronicled elsewhere and there is no need to repeat them in this report.

Road riders have been picked for New Zealand Representation in age group and Elites

Track Cycling got off to a good start in the first week of October 2010 and never looked back, with record numbers of Development riders, signing on and staying for the full season with several of those development riders becoming 2011 NZ age group champions, with others going on to be selected for greater honours by being selected to represent NZ at the under 19 world track champs.

Track has been running an annual Track Carnival which is proving to be very successful and is starting to attract top class riders, this year they had Hayden Roulston compete who won the main feature Wheel Race, then several days later went on to become the NZ Elite Road Champion.

The running of the 2011/12 Tour de Vineyard has been moved to give riders who wish to compete in both the Tour, Carnival and Elites more time between each event for recovery/travel.

While the Elite event is a commercial event run by Main Events a lot of input by centre and local club personal help ensure its successful running, and from my recent discussions with

SPARC, BIKE NZ and Council it looks like Main Events may get to keep the event for a further 3 years after the running of the 2012 event.

With the Elite Road Nationals being held on an inner city suburb on one of the best training hills in NZ, the profile of cycling in Canterbury to the general public has been lifted higher than any time since the 1974 Commonwealth Games when the same basic course was used.

The Canterbury Track Champs held early in the New Year were a great success as were the Canterbury Road Time Trial and Road Races with record number of entries recorded.

It's a testament to the riders will to succeed in adversity, with for example a full muster of selected Canterbury Track Riders competing at the Elite and Age group Track National Championships only days after the 22<sup>nd</sup> February quake.

The same applies to the Road Club nationals, the difficulties many of the riders must have faced in trying to train to be at peak for the nationals speaks volumes for the Canterbury drive to succeed where others will have faltered and failed.

I congratulate you all!

Secondary Schools racing have started with a rush with 150+ riders turning out most Wednesdays, it is creating logistic problems with limited time after school and traffic issues to run these races, but it's a good one to have.

The Secondary Schools South Island and New Zealand Championships should be well represented by Canterbury riders.

Many of you will have been aware of Canterbury's bid for a National Cycling Centre of Excellence (including a new Velodrome) unfortunately for the group of people who worked very hard on behalf of Canterbury Cyclists (all codes) they were not successful in securing the centre.

While not successful, in our debrief with SPARC and BIKE NZ on our tender, it became obvious that SPARC still wish for Canterbury to be a sporting centre of excellence for all codes, and with the rebuilding of sporting infrastructure in Canterbury, the opportunity for the building of a new indoor Velodrome is still very much alive.

When things settle down this will be revisited to be included as part of the rebuilding of sporting complexes in Canterbury, some preliminary talks have already taken place along those lines.

With Bruce Dawe, Kevin Searle and I attending the recent annual BikeNZ Road & Track AGM held 11/12<sup>th</sup> June in Auckland.

It was interesting to note that many of the issues facing centres around NZ are much the same, some of the main points raised were;

The cost to juniors who become NZ reps and are required to travel.

The challenges facing the sport in using public roads (traffic management)

Public awareness to identify the difference between club race riders and recreational riders. (if a recreational rider abuses the traffic rules, we club riders are lumped in with them rightly or wrongly)

Path ways for Schools riders to club riders to national road or track, although I would have to say Canterbury has a fairly seamless operation in that area.

There were other items of concern raised in workshops, which will be reviewed with Council members and Bikenz road & track.

Two of our own were recognised by BRT in special awards presentations, with Bruce & Amy Dawe awarded with the life time award for "Volunteer/Administrators"

I wish to extend from all members of Centre and Cycling clubs our warmest congratulations!

With so many things happening in Canterbury the new board has quite a job on its hands, but is relishing the challenges, and as you will see from the various reports presented by fellow board members, centre itself is also in good heart and looking forward to the next 12 months of helping clubs and riders alike have many more successes.

I would like to thank my fellow board members for their contribution in running Canterbury Centre for the 2010/11, Leanne Creighton, Craig Stockwell, Kevin Searle and Bruce Dawe, and look forward to the 2011/12 season.

Syd Martin

Chairman