

Southern Districts Veteran and Ladies Cycling Club - President's Report 2017

Volunteers – can't live without them! Every race needs volunteers/workers or it just doesn't happen on the day. The Race Coordinator is a Committee member who puts in a significant amount of pre-raceday preparation apart from duties on the day. The Coordinator may get to race if not also undertaking the Referee role. The Referee misses their race in order to supervise the event. The Race Secretary is present early at every home raceday and, if riders register in good time, can race. On raceday the First Aider is out and about in their car ready to look after us if required. Where would we be without our Line Officials (who sub as food preparers), our marshals and our trail car? With the advent of electronic timing, that's another pre-raceday and on-day task. How about the Handicapper and Safety Officer's work for raceday and not to forget the year-round efforts of the Secretary and Treasurer as well? There are others besides who regularly give their time to Committee, to SAMCA and to the McLaren Flat Rec Ground group. Like I say - can't live without them!

Our Club will not have succeeded this year without the following core group of contributors working together especially well; it is a great group, I thank them copiously and I ask you to acknowledge them all at our AGM: Bob Seymour, Frank Schoen, Richard Tormet, Geoff Hillman, Graham King, Marie Bate, Pat McCrohan, Terry Proctor, Pat O'Kane, Geoff Bate, Peter Keele, Ilona Solinska, Vic Balfour, Terry Holder, Mary Howell, Sue Perrin, Chris White, Kim Adams and Greg Jackson. Well done and thanks all! Thanks also to all from the general membership who have undertaken marshal/car duty on roster throughout the year and to those who chose the non-marshal payment option, allowing us to pay members available to take extra duty.

To service the needs of our racing, the Club offers training for various tasks. A couple of times a year there is official SAPol Marshal Training for members which

means that we can all be accredited and can refresh our skills regularly. The Club pays for members to train and accredit as First Aiders on a regular basis. SAMCA examines and accredits Referees each year. A couple of members will soon undertake official Traffic Management training as well. Congratulations to all members who have trained on behalf of Southern Vets in 2017.

The common interest of Southern Vets remains road race cycling, and we have provided access to that once again in 2017, just about every week of the year. Along with weekday social rides and the TT training series, we have provided something that suits every veteran cyclist's ability over the various disciplines at Club, Invitation and Veterans/Masters State Open and State Championship level. We have suffered pleasingly few un-welcome racing issues over the year and for that we can all be grateful!

The Orion Electronic Timing System serves us at present. When transponders function and the loop has not suffered from the rigours of the weather and the traffic, it works a treat. With the recent purchase of a tester, we can catch the failing transponders and along with regular checks of the loop, reliability has significantly improved. We regularly order new batches of transponders and provide them to members at less than cost. On an on-going basis, we review the timing software and have replaced the Club laptop this year. As often as possible, we use the Club GoPro to record finishes. That's belt, braces and braces for results – judges, timing system and video. Bob Seymour is the Timing System guru this year and is keen to implement the planned Timing System team. Hands up, please!

We are always grateful to sponsors who generously help Southern Vets racing. This year we thank Eblens Subaru (Club member Kevin Dye; more than 10 years support), Bike Station (4 years support), Southern Joinery (Reynella) (Club member Kerry Smart; multi-year support + new race numbers), Design MC (Club member Paul McGregor; second year Twin Peaks support + ideas man), Transitions DriveWear

(Vets member Mark Rupert; Open Race), Goggleman and not to forget the Ron Williams team (multi-year support). I heartily thank all these sponsors and urge members to support the commercial sponsors whenever possible.

Again this year, Southern Vets has made a substantial donation to a local community group. Three Committee members presented the \$1000 donation to Kangarilla CFS at their station on one of their August training evenings in the presence of the whole local CFS team. We hope to continue to reinforce our being part of the community with future donations; we have some ideas where to go next, but all suggestions are welcome.

Southern Vets website provides formal news, notices and communication about the Club. Facebook provides a venue to reinforce communications less formally, and for members to discuss other cycling issues. We offer Club riding strip and recently have re-introduced Club polos. While racing, the wider membership generally participates in good spirit and after the event communes genially. New riders and visitors are made to feel welcome. When a member suffers a significant injury as a consequence of a riding incident (and we hear about it), our Welfare Officer makes a best effort to acknowledge them on behalf of the Club. All of these things are aimed at bringing members together - that's what I think makes a club, otherwise it's just a bunch of people riding bikes. We *are* a Club.

Congratulations to all members for their participation this year and best wishes for 2018. Ride well, ride safe.

David Milne

President

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