



Megaphone

Newsletter of the Pioneer MCC

Summer 2019

Thanks Sandra & Roy

Sandra and Roy Hallie have decided to take a break from the committee this year while they move house and spend some time caravanning. Sandra first joined the committee in 1978 and has been on it since then apart from a few years when she and Roy lived in Taranaki and when Katrina was young. Roy is also a longstanding committee member and a former president.

Thanks both, we appreciate your long and significant contribution to the club.

Club notices

* This year's AGM is on 7 March at 7.30 pm at the Pioneer Leisure Centre. The supper will be a good one because Al is bringing along some of his home baking.

* The 2019 Club calendar is now on the Pioneer website.

* It's time to renew your membership for 2019. This can be done online through the website.

MNZ Trials Commissioner

Paul Jackson is the new trials commissioner. Rat has been involved in trials for over 30 years, and has ridden overseas in Australia and Scotland so he brings a lot of knowledge and experience to the role.

Dylan joins the Beta team

In December the Beta Company announced that they have selected Dylan Ball as one of the two young riders that they will be supporting in the World Trial 125 class this year. Dylan and Nick will be competing in the world rounds in Italy, Japan and the Netherlands. They were also planning to go to the UK round but unfortunately this has been cancelled.

There is a fundraising page for Dylan (see p.2).



Dylan is congratulated by John Lawton after signing to ride for Beta in 2019. John has provided Dylan with a 250 Factory to ride in NZ.

Sad news

The trials community was shocked to hear the news that Siobhan Robson, Carl's wife passed away in January. Siobhan was also the Ixion Club's treasurer.

In November Paul Lagan died after a long battle with cancer. Paul was a member of the Pioneer club in the late 1970s and edited the Megaphone for a year in 1978. In the early 1980s he lived in Australia and while there he imported Fantics. He won the veterans title at the Aussie nationals in 1982.

Ira Chambers also passed away in January. Ira attended and observed at many trials in the 1960s to 1980s period. Our condolences to Dave, Lyndsay and Craig.

Have a go days

Jules and Josh have run two "have a go" days recently, with seven children turning up to the one held on 3 Feb. Some of the adults who have accompanied the children have also been having a go. The Beta electric is getting good use, but we have decided not to purchase the smaller wheel Gas Gas.

Help Dylan to ride in Europe

The Givealittle fund raising page for Dylan is: <https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/help-dylan-with-his-dream-to-become-world-125cc>

Trials article

The Dec/Jan 2019 issue of *Dirt Rider Downunder* had a very good article on trials by Jessie Meek of Motorsport Media Solutions. Jess wrote this after spectating at the Oceania and talking to Josh about trials. There are some interesting photos of the Oceania/nationals on Jess' website <https://www.jessiemeek.co.nz> and she has also been promoting our events on her Facebook page. Thanks Jess!



Jess riding Georgina's 125 at the Waimak have a go day on 3 Feb.

Jess is now working as a freelance copywriter, and is available to help businesses with email marketing, blogs and content.

Congrats

Josh & Jeni have announced their engagement.

Megaphone is the newsletter of the Pioneer Motorcycle Club Inc.

Editor: Peter Hosking, email: pmctrialnews@gmail.com

Club website: <http://pioneertrials.co.nz> and we're on Facebook



Prize giving

This year's prize giving was held at Bishop Brothers Public House and attended by 27 members and family. Kahu needed a box to carry home his trophies after another very successful year.

2018 cup winners:

Laurenson cup (Expert)	Glenn Smith
Intermediate cup	Ross Bristol
Clubman cup	Kahu Jones
Hallie cup (twin shock)	Paul Jackson
Whyte cup (women)	Stef Downes
Blandford cup (under 19)	Kahu Jones
France cup (under 21)	Kahu Jones
Peter Bennett cup (best first year rider)	Simon Hopkins
The Knitters Shield (most fives)	Ashley Duncan
BSA shield (best 125cc)	Kahu Jones
Big Tree challenge cup (sidechair)	Rob & Laura McKay
Bonnington cup	Ross Bristol

Kaikoura 3 day winners

Triumph no. 2 cup (expert)	Jules Huguenin
Wynne York cup (intermediate)	Ross Bristol
S.A.M. trophy (sidechair)	Paul Jackson & Emma McKay
Moir cup (clubman B)	Mark Hockey (Nelson MCC)
Falconer cup (best first year rider)	Emily Willard (Ixion MCC)
Kaikoura family cup	Simon & Kahu Jones



From left, Paul with the S.A.M. trophy; Hine & Kahu after receiving the Kaikoura family cup from Josh; and Jules is now a two times winner of the Triumph no. 2 cup.

Club trials

Glenelg Spur, 16 January (section setter: Derek)

The first event of the year was a midweek twilight trial at Glenelg Spur and we had a good turnout of 23 riders. It was a relaxed affair so some riders didn't bother handing in their card. Paul turned up on an 80 cc Fantic and rode the yellow line which was no mean feat on the little bike because a couple of the sections had some steep climbs. Gareth Gore rode well in his only his second trial, and looked good on his 4 stroke Beta while Graham Honeybone had his first ride in a trial since 1985.

Thanks to Derek for setting the sections, Alan for being an official and Jules who didn't ride so he could provide training and encouragement to some new riders who wanted to try the sport.

Expert		Intermediate	
Derek Scott	48	Alan Honeybone	10
Willie Ahomiro	48	John Regan	10
		Peter Hosking	26
Clubman A		Rob McKay	31
Gareth Gore	18	Ashley Duncan	37
Steve Fisher	19	Paul Jackson	56
Nigel Bunny	21	Matt Stockman	63
Peter Dunn	no card	Tui Scott	no card
Christine Thompson	dnf	Hamish Barnett	no card
Peter Barnett	no card	Simon Jones	no card
Graham Honeybone	no card	Kahu Jones	no card

Greybeards, 27 January (section setters Tui, Peter D, Christine, Peter H)

Twenty-three riders turned up at Weedons-Ross on a hot summer day which was around 30 deg by the time the trial started. Kendall rode Peter's Bultaco, which must be the only one from the batch of M49s which were imported in 1971 that is still in very tidy and original condition. Peter Barnett was on his Greeves, Christine rode the Fantic, and Trev Wiley and Guyan Bennett were on their TLRs. Mike Elliott won A grade and the Harley Cup after close contest with John Philp, and Paul Norridge, riding in his first Pioneer event won the Mustang trophy and the Bob Harris walking stick. Thanks to Tui for his work setting the trial, the officials: Peter and Christine, Josh for the results, and Sandra for presenting the trophies. We had intended running the greybeards last November but because of other commitments it was decided to



postpone it to January. We are calling this one the 2018 greybeards because we'll hold another one later in the year.

A Grade	Age	Bonus Pts	Lost	Score
Mike Elliot	68	-54	6	-48
John Philp	66	-48	0	-48
Peter Dunn	64	-42	14	-28
Geoff Blokland	61	-33	16	-17
Trev Wiley	60	-30	16	-14
Christine Thompson	57	-24	14	-10
Kendall McDonald	52	-14	9	-5
Gareth Gore	39	0	6	6
Nigel Bunny	51	-12	34	22
Guyan Bennett	48	-8	37	29
B Grade				
Paul Norridge	59	-28	19	-9
Peter Barnett	58	-26	21	-5
Maurice Coppard	55	-20	35	15
Yellow				
Peter Hosking	63	-39	16	-23
Tui Scott	63	-39	29	-10
Ashley Duncan	40	0	26	26



Mel Banks, Brent Downes, Shirley McDonald, Simon and Kahu Jones, Tim Bassett and Henry Pearce also rode.

Waimak Trials Park, 13 February (Section setters: Ross, Derek and Shane)

Our second twilight trial had 8 sections set by Ross, Shane and Derek. Blake Fox was working in Christchurch that day so he brought his bike with him and came to the trial after work. It was good to see two young girls, Isabel and Evie trying clubman B on an Evie's Oset.

Expert		Clubman A	
Derek Scott	62	Simon Hopkins	5
Willie Ahomiro	72	Christine Thompson	24
Jules Huguenin	no card	Peter Dunn	30
Blake Fox	no card	Peter Barnett	31
Josh Stones	no card		
Intermediate		Clubman B	
Ross Bristol	2	Isabel Hopkins	dnf
John Regan	19	Evie Hubbard	no card
Matt Stockman	77	Shane Hubbard	no card
Hamish Barnett	no card		
Brent Downes	no card		



Shane and Jules look on as Derek hops over a rock. Shane wasn't riding because he is waiting for his new bike to arrive.



Isabel Hopkins gets some help from Jules.

Mel retires



The committee has received with regret Mel Bank's letter of resignation from the Club. In his letter Mel said "after many years riding, making friends and having a very good time I now find tho' the mind is willing the body is not so therefore it's time to resign from the club."

Mel hasn't given up riding yet though. He's still a regular at Sunday church at Weedons Ross, and still doing the classics.

Thanks Mel for all the help you have given us over the years with bikes and club events.

Back in Chch

Good to see trials stalwart Patrick Hall back in town. Patrick is now living in Wigram after a stint in the North Island.

Pioneer at the Whanganui Masters Games 2019

It was with some nervousness Peter and I pulled into the tree covered parking area at Queen's Park Whanganui after a day and a half travelling from Christchurch, via Picton and the ferry, and up a very windy SH1 to Whanganui. 30+ degrees temperature travelled with us, however on the day it was a very pleasant 22 degrees and cloudy, having rained very briefly the night before. Twenty-two riders turned up for the two-part trial, mostly on TRLs, Fantics, Bultacos, Yamahas, and the odd Kawasaki. Our two bikes, Peter's TYZ (1993) and my Fantic 241 (1984) were the youngest.

The trial consisted of two parts, the morning trial 8 sections, 4 laps, were over natural terrain around the edge of Queen's Park mostly on tree covered, cambered hill sides. The afternoon trial 8 sections, 4 laps were over various man-made obstacles such as tractor and excavator tiers, oil drums, car trailers and one unfortunate car, oh and a lot of cones. One section of the afternoon trial was definitely not for us, a wheelie section, the further you went the less points you scored, needless to say we just rode through, one rider Colin Richardson on a Montesa Cota 200 regretted his attempt at this section as his Montesa flipped over and destroyed the rear mudguard, and bent the rear sub frame.



The morning trial consisted of tight turns, tree stumps, hill cambers, and hill climbs and descents. It took a few moments to understand the mini trafficators, and a checkered flag at the end of each section, touching a flag was an instant five. We had an advantage in the afternoon trial, namely the "Kaikoura turn" which worked well on the first section which consisted of four tractor tires, a tight S turn to then jump over a larger tractor tire, before

weaving through a number of tight S bends made up of traffic cones. However, the officials saw our advantage and taped off the extra half meter we squeezed out of the final turn before the largest of the tractor tires, in time for our second round!

Both myself and Peter scored 0 for the morning trial, and I had 34, while Peter had 48, for the afternoon trial, not too bad a score especially since we both had 20 points for not attempting the wheelie section.



The 1st photo shows myself, Todd Palenski, and Julian Rivers discussing our Fantic shirts. The 2nd photo shows how liberal and free thinking the people of Whanganui are when it comes to town decorations! The 3rd photo shows two very pleased South Island riders.

While I and Peter took away most of the Gold medals and a Silver, one up for the South Island! we were nevertheless very kindly looked after by the Midwest Trials club and our special thanks to Craig Bagley for his help and the great tee shirts, Glen and Ivan Bullock, and Ben Morrell for setting the trial.

Christine Thompson

2018 Footwork

2018 was a good year for the Pioneer Club with members taking class wins at the South Island Champs in the following categories:

Glenn Smith – Intermediate
Ross Bristol – President
Tui Scott – Clubman
Kahu Jones – Junior
Shirley McDonald – Women
Simon Jones – Twin Shock

Our photos are of two of these class winners, both taken at the South Island rounds at Blenheim.

Early on the first day Ross has climbed up from the creek and is executing a tight downhill turn. With a loose surface and a few bumps, it is one of the few times we captured Ross throwing his feet about during the year.



The second photo shows Simon climbing a bank on the second day at Blenheim. It was section 8 which I remember well as it's the section I started on, and crashed on first round. Simon had a great season on the bike but the Honda is no lightweight as it tips the scales at 108 kg ready to ride. Simon is looking to return to riding his Gas Gas this season so straight away he will have a 40 kg advantage over last year's ride.

2018 Footwork (cont.)

Hamish's best footwork was at Pioneer's trial at Purau on Banks Peninsula. The section was tricky for riders on the red and yellow line who entered the creek over a rock, then climbed up a bank. The difficulty was due to the short distance between the rock and bank which meant riders had to carry the front wheel, then power up the bank as the rear wheel dropped off the rock. The line also meant riders didn't hit the bank squarely.

The first two pictures show how this first part of the section should look, but many had trouble with the next bit. The problem with getting both wheels up onto the bank is there is only land on your left if you have to put a foot down. The other side drops back to the creek.

Our feature photo for this section has Hamish showing a bit more stretch than I could muster but was still not enough to recover and finish the section.

Peter Barnett (photos Lynette)



Kerry Miles and Trials Guru

I had intended including part 2 of Kerry Miles' SSDT story in this issue of the Megaphone, but in November Kerry's story was published on the Trials Guru website <http://www.trialsquru.com> so the full story can be read there. John Moffatt who runs the website has informed me that Kerry's story has had 800 views. It is also on the Trials Guru Facebook page so it will have had more readers there too.

Coincidentally around the time that Kerry's story was published on Trials Guru, the committee received a letter from Ian Miles, who is Kerry's cousin. Ian organised the road class at the Kaikoura for a few years, and was also a motorcycling journalist who worked at the Star in the 1970s and later edited the NZ Motorcycling News. So instead of part 2 of Kerry's story, here are some of Ian's memories – ed.

Kaikoura, a mere 40 years on – by Ian Miles

I thought of Pioneer Club the other day. *Bloody Pioneer*, I believe was the expression.

I was lying in a creek at the time, up the Hakataramea. It's all the fault of Pioneer, shameless hussy. There I was, a perfectly happy 1970s road rider and racer, until she came along and beguiled me like a temptress, onto the back roads.

Now, half a century on when they take my Ruapuna lap times with a calendar not a stopwatch, I'm left chasing that dirt nirvana just to get my jollies. The big Adventure bike is supposed to make it easy but somehow there's a disconnect between intent and execution. Hence the little swim.

Give me the plain simple Yam RD350 of the 70s on which you could win the King of Ruapuna title then just a week later do the double in the roadbike section of the Kaikoura. I managed that a few times, he said, channeling Donald Trump. (Everybody else fell off.)

It was a bit of a scramble during the week to convert the roadracer to a trials bike – flat bars switched to standard cowhorns, lights re-fitted, go get a warrant (on, ahem, a truly standard bike – the testing station guys never noticed it was the same bike coming through each time, with a different number plate). And the TT100s had to go. Great race tyre (the first to lap the Isle of Man at an average 100mph). But in shingle, like riding on marbles. Originals back on, thanks. Which meant a bit of a margin had to be left in the race through the Hundalees on Saturday: nine-tenths was enough. But saving face demanded you couldn't be left behind.

Then it rained.

All this of course a mere prelude to the main event, the dash through the shingle Inland Road on Monday. Just as important to win as King of R. Peter H tells me the road riders staged a protest when prohibited from that route in 74; I have no memory of it but hell that sure would have lit a fuse – I'm sure I'd be in the midst of it. The biggest ride of the year.

True story. All these years later a couple of friends and I text each other each Queens Birthday: *I'm waiting at Mason River, what's keeping you?* One of them, unfair to name but let's call him

Craig Brown, managed to take a front fork leg off the RD250 when a car coming the other way was recklessly on its own side of the road on a beautiful, sweeping, fine-grit right-hander. Craig was trying to dive down its inside at the time. The same bend claimed a 550 Suzuki triple the following year when it motored head-on into a Mini. The two guys on the bike went right over the top, landed on the road and walked away. Remarkably durable these humans. The Mini was towed away. Traffic cops were not considered an issue: today's constabulary would have a fit.

Bikes ruled the road

It's almost impossible now to imagine 70s bike popularity. We see nothing like it today. Across wide swathes of society young guys, and some girls, left school and bought a bike long before they thought of a car. Thousands of bikes were on the road; 73 and 83 were the biggest-selling years in NZ. Excellent road bikes got guys into production racing, trail bikes did it in the dirt. Win on Sunday, sell on Monday was never more true. At one point Christchurch had six Honda shops, though that was a bit OTT ... other brands got by with just two or three.

I rode the Kaikoura for ten years, a decade of huge change in motorcycling: the arrival of the Japanese, the fullface helmet, even coloured leather jackets (no textile yet). And clever Pioneer foresaw all this. By the late 60s the club ran sections for road bikes. Just as on the original Kaik trials with 197 Villiers et al, ride the road between stops and compete on the same bike – the ultimate run-what-ya-brung.

In 70, my first Kaikoura, the class had six competitors ... all competing on just two bikes, my Triumph 250 Trophy (oh dear) or Rusty Gillard's two-stroke Earles-fork Greeves Gravestone. You'd ride a section and hand the bike over to the next guy. The other four guys were on bikes too big for sections – including the Bonneville of club family stalwart Gary Rush and internat roadracer Dale Wylie.

Rusty won of course – he rode that thing in scrambles, road racing and as road transport. All in gumboots. I learned to ride shingle by chasing him.



Gary Rush had high pipes on the Bonneville for the 1971 Kaikoura.



Ian rides a section at Waipara on his DS7 in 1972 watched by the observer Ron Pearson.

Then suddenly there were ringadings everywhere. Suzuki and Yam two-strokes especially were ideal for the road class and in no time we had a couple of dozen competitors, then more. Some came from racing, where by the mid-70s there'd be 40 or 50 RDs and similar on the grid at Ruapuna. Large numbers more of the same bikes were out in the crowd – for these guys racing was a bit radical (I suspect Mum had an influence) but something like the Kaikoura was a tamer alternative. Nutters like me in bike shops preached the gospel and over the years dozens, I guess hundreds, of young riders came into competition on their ride-to-work weapon. Almost all guys, it was still a male-dominant sport.

And by the 70s Yam's DT1 had changed motorcycling. Pioneer started a separate trail bike class (we called it enduro) which grew and prospered. Even Rusty bought a Suzuki – and won of course.

So arrived a multitude of characters. Internationals Stewy Avant and the Boote boys, the irrepressible Warren Guy (RIP) who taught so many of us about bikes, Marty Dock, Bill Jeffrey, Terry O'Brien, Lindsay Smith and the Hawker boys from Rangiora – all from racing ranks, most from the trade. And many regular road riders who might not have starred during the day but lit up the Pier pub later.



Young Stu Avant learned to wheelie at the Kaikoura on his Suzuki 125 Duster in 1971.



One arm, no worries. Rex Robinson takes on the climb at Hapuku, day two 1974.

Incidents. The guy whose Suzuki handlebars came off as he tipped into a left-hander on the way back from Hapuku on day two. Jack Frost's unbearable toe-biting on day one stop one, Waipara riverbed. Four-up on Wylie's Bonnie down the main street. A Suzuki sliding out of the coastal road tunnel, pursued by two tumbling bodies. Ivan Clarke unable to face the

sunshine after last night. Falling in love with young Pam Ormandy when she marked your section clean (don't tell dad Alec). The big guy who buried a TT500 up to its handlebars in a bog. Boris on her Yam trail bike (and half a dozen salivating followers). Bazza Mines contracting tonsillitis. The late, great Ev Norriss, former NZ champ, trying to teach idiot roadies about trials. The big two-stroke Kawa 750 triple passing every trail bike in the shingle, two-up. The local bobby coming through the bar in uniform before closing – and re-appearing in civvies after.

But nobody outshone the incredible, determined, indomitably courageous Rex Robinson. Left arm missing, so he rode an auto Jawa/CZ - and attempted every section! Then dominated the pool table, with a brush to steady the cue. I've known thousands of great bike people worldwide, from world champ to commuter; none is more remarkable than Rex. One-armed bandit.

I got lucky, fluked a Kaikoura win three times in a row, so Pioneer forbade me from competing and made me set the sections. Golden rule, the section had to be possible to clean. A couple of riders challenged my eternal wisdom, made me ride it to prove the point. You want grand prix pressure? Try for a clean in those circs.

You guys who really know how to ride trials tell me it's frustratingly difficult to master. Impossible, was more my experience. But that's OK, we have Kerry in the family as our dirt rider. He also handles the good looks department. Funny thing about trials and road racing. On the face, so dissimilar. Years later as a mind coach across a wide range of international sports I came to understand what extreme personalities motorcycle racers are. Trials riders, by nature, would seem a little more restrained in character – yet they carry much of that same edgy profile. They're still risk-takers.

At the same time of course trials is a great skills-builder for road or dirt racing – throttle control combined with an inherent sense of the laws of physics through bike-feel, balance, vision, anticipation ... without doubt the section-riding helped make that vital tenth-of-a-second difference in track situations, more so wet races. So too did Pioneer's road trials on dirt roads, but that's another story.







The club can be very proud; I tip my hat to that era's great leaders for tolerating the madness outlined here (none of it exaggerated). The fact is, Pioneer provided invaluable experience in bike smarts to a multitude of young road and trail riders, just in the decade I was involved. God knows how many lives and how much skin that saved.

Of course some stuffwits never learn – and end up submerged in the Hakataramea.

The Kaikoura. She's like an amorous liaison: highly addictive, and we all vividly remember our first.

For more photos of the road class at the Kaikoura see <https://www.flickr.com/photos/kaikoura3d>

Bikes, parts, clothing, etc.

 <p>Montesa, Scorpa, Sherco, TRS</p> <p>Contact: Brendon Wadsworth 027 230 3151 03 579 2500 scorpa@trials.co.nz</p>	<p>SPANISH TRIAL NZ LTD</p>   <p>Contact: Kevin Pinfold 021 031 9897 kpatrials@xtra.co.nz</p>
 <p>Beta MOTORCYCLE TRIALS KAPITI MOTORCYCLES LIMITED NEW ZEALAND</p> <p>Contact: John Lawton ph. 04 297 0240 NZTrials@xtra.co.nz</p>	  <p>10% discount for PMCC members on trials related products. Contact Dennis or Sam ph. 377 1881</p>

Trials sidechairs wanted

Rob McKay is looking for old trials chairs that can be modified and reused. Anything considered so if you have one or know where one might be gathering dust in someone's shed then please contact Rob on 0274868802.

Photos wanted

I'm looking for photos taken at the Kaikoura in the 1980s, 1990s and early 2000s. If you'll let me borrow them for a short time, I'll scan and return them to you, and can also give you copies of the scanned photos.

Peter H

Club contacts:

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Treasurer:	Ross Bristol	ph. 021 2210397
Club Captain:	Derek Scott	ph. 027 4323646
Webmaster:	Christine Thompson	admin@pioneertrials.co.nz
MNZ trials commissioner	Paul Jackson	ph. 027 6061065

Next events – for more information and directions to the venues see the Pioneer website.

24 February	Summer series 1	Puaha Valley
10 March	Summer series 2	Hurunui Bluffs
17 March	Have a go day	Waimak trials park
24 March	Summer series 3	McQueens Valley
6-7 April	South Island Champs	Alexandra
28 April	Club trial	Teddington

Acknowledgements

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The opinions and views expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Pioneer Motorcycle Club Inc.

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