



Megaphone

Newsletter of the Pioneer MCC
Summer 2021

Prizegiving

The Club prizegiving for 2021 will be at Alan and Isabel's house at Cass Bay in the evening on 29 January. The 2 course meal is free for those who observed at the South Island round in August and for children under 12. \$40 for everyone else. You can book online [here](#).

New practice area

Paul Delis and friends have been cutting a track out at the Ashley River. It is a technical slower track with logs and large banks to play on. It was set up for hard enduro practice so it makes an awesome area for trials as well and it is a public area so you can go there anytime you like. It is another interesting and different area to go riding without needing permission.

Look on Facebook for the [Ashley River Track Group](#) which Paul runs, and he will add you to the group.

JRL and Tour de North

The JRL Memorial will be held again in the Maungakotuks on 26-27 February. The week after this there will be a North Island tour from Monday 28th February to 6th March with rides at Wairoa, Havelock North and Waikuku (Wairarapa).

2022 Nationals

It hasn't been announced yet but next year's nationals will be at Alexandra and the Otago South Island round will be held late March in the Dunedin area.



*Mick Andrews visited Chch 10 years ago.
See p.5.*

In this issue

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New club members

The club welcomes new members: Ben Chapman, Peter Beyere, Darren Keen, Donovan Johnson, Ben Muir, Liam Ross, Leo Sincock and James Smith. And welcomes back Robin and Ryan Hampton, John Ross and Mitchell Sincock.

Two day trial

The inaugural two day trial on 4-5 December which was organized by Brent Downes raised \$800 for the Cystic Fibrosis Charity. It was a very enjoyable event, which included a ride down the riverbed to the Leithfield Pub on Saturday evening. We've heard that on the ride back to the campsite one rider had difficulty staying upright.

Children's boots

The Club has purchased two sets of children's boots for Have a go days. Simon and Karla Hopkins have also donated a set of small size boots.

Des Thornton

We were sorry to hear that Des, who was one of our life members passed away in October. Des joined Pioneer around 1954 and rode a 350 cc BSA Gold Star and a Francis Barnett in club events in the fifties and early sixties.



Des riding his Francis Barnett

He was elected as treasurer in 1955 and served in that role for 13 years. He was also the club secretary in 1961 and 1962.

In the mid-1970s Des bought a TY250A and resumed riding trials again with his sons John and Ian, but his real forte was long distance road trials. Des worked at Parrott and Sons so he understood more than most about how speedos worked. He was exceptionally good at navigation and maintaining average speeds between timed checkpoints. He won the 1975 Pioneer 700, and the 1982 Show weekend trial and he teamed up with Bruce Morton and Bob Harris and later with John, and they were virtually unbeatable for several years in the team's category.

Results

Looking for the results of club trials this year? They are on the website at

<https://pioneertrials.co.nz/club-events/> In the [past results](#) section you can also find results for the Kaikoura 3 day, South Island Trials Championship and New Zealand Trials Championship.

Alan Honeybone

Alan joined Pioneer in 1974 and the first club trial he rode in was on 26 May at Purau. It wasn't long before everyone knew Al and he had injected a lot of fun and humour into the Club. Over the years Al has made a huge contribution to Pioneer, he's been president and secretary, has organised many events, and together with Isabel has hosted visiting riders. This year Al has been president again so it seemed like a good time to ask him a few questions – ed.

Why did you start riding trials in 1974? And what was your first trials bike?

It was straight stupidity that got me into Trials. I had bought a new Suzuki 380 3-cylinder for my first bike, and immediately turned into a nut case. I would do Trials bike wheelies for long distances by standing on the rear footrests balancing with the throttle. We used to think every ride was the NZ GP. Corners were attacked by doubling the recommended speed and adding 15 km per hour. I progressed to a 750 waterbus which just meant I was even more lethal on the road. My friends had a few words to me about how long I would live if I kept riding like that.

At this time, the best motorcycle movie ever came out, On Any Sunday, with a 3-minute segment on trials. I think this movie saved my life. I loved the trials riding by Malcolm Smith and Mick Andrews. The decision came one Sunday when we were doing a quick run over Arthurs Pass and back through the Lewis when I misread a 25KMH sign for 75KMH. Needless to say I was way over the top speed wise coming into the corner, but somehow saved it, but ended parked beside a huge drop. While sitting waiting for my friends to arrive I thought about the Montesa Cota 247 and Trials. Monday, I went in to buy a Cota and came home with one of the first TY250s. This became my commuter everyday ride, until one day I met Jeff Anders and he introduced me to Pioneer and Trials riding.

Apart from a break for a few years when Alice and Rose were young you've ridden trials for over 40 years now?

Yes, I had a break for 8 years to watch netball and do girl things but always had at least one trials bike and rode Kaikoura a couple of times on the Ossa. I did a bit of observing at Champs and got into barefoot skiing which I have become fairly proficient in. 2024 will be my 50th year of being a trials rider. I would like to think I can carry on riding until I am 80. Trials is a special sport. It is an individual sport you do as a team.

In that time you've ridden a few bikes. Are there any that stand out? Any that you wish you still had? The RL250 or the KT250 maybe ...?

I have owned a few Trials bikes. The bikes I have really hated were the RL250, the KT250 (and I secretly owned a Honda TL for about 2 hours ... uck)

I am pleased I own no old bikes. The fondest memories are the TY175 and the Fantic 125, plus every modern two stroke.



Al rode a Suzuki RL250 in 1975. Tall bike, short rider - not a good mix.



Riding the Fantic in the 1980s.

You've been loyal to the Sherco brand for a few years now, any plans to switch to a TRS?

I could happily ride a TRS, Beta, GasGas or Scorpa but my clothes are all blue and I hate buying clothes.

There are some younger members who won't have heard about the "Mighty Ox". Could you tell us what it was and how it became a film star?

The Mighty Ox was my 1958 Morris Oxford Ute which we used to transport ourselves and bikes around the country. We were probably not a good representation of the standard of person in the Pioneer club at that time. The destruction really started one day when Perry Tidball was reading out aloud the road code while I was driving, and one bit said, in emergency pump your brakes. This I did and found that with shocks with no dampening left, pumping the brakes, caused the front to dip drastically and the back to rear up. By about the third pump the rear wheels would be about a metre in the air and the body almost vertical. The passengers would have to brace against the dash and would be looking down at the road. Every so often the fan blade would go through the radiator. The sound effects were amazing. Screech of tyres, pause crash as the wheels landed back on the road, pause crash as three bikes landed back on the deck. This sequence repeated until we ran out of momentum. This became known as an Ox hop. We developed a few very cool moves such as the Ox trot, where I would viscously spin the steering wheel back and forth causing the body to rotate on the chassis while the car when straight.

Next came the movie, filmed by Vern Turner, titled the Ox Movie where the Ox did a number of crazy stunts, including jumping a stop bank at the Waimak. On landing a couple of tyres burst and the bonnet hinges broke. We did lots of hi jinx and had a ball making the film. Unfortunately, no copies were made because it was in super 8 and the film is now lost.

You (and Isabel) have hosted a lot of riders from overseas and from around New Zealand. Who are some of the overseas riders who have stayed with you?

We have had some great fun with visitors. We had the whole Aussie team stay a few years ago, and that was fun. They pulled the beer out of the fridge so fast that the vacuum created sucked the sides of the fridge in. Every time we have had the Aussies stay has been great.

We had Steve Saunders around for a meal when he was world number two and found him to be a nice guy to have around. But our favourite was when Mick and Jill Andrews stayed, and about 10 Kiwis spent the week with us. That was one of the most fun weeks I have had. I remember Steve Armistead leaving when it was time for him to head home. About 2 hours later he turned up with some more wine and asked to stay longer. One night I had a touch rugby game. and Mick and Jill came to watch. When we went to leave the club rooms later that night Mick said, I had better go and say goodbye first. I couldn't believe that he went up to so many people, shook their hand and bye Tony or Bruce or whoever. I didn't know most of the names and had played in the club for years.



One funny tradition when people stay is that the highest ranked rider gets the main guest bedroom with the best view. Number two gets the next, until the lowest gets the ground floor or caravan. I don't know how it started but it is always the same. It was really funny when Jake won the NZ champs as a 16-year-old and Karl and Debbie were relegated to no. 2 room.

And you have visited Mick and Jill Andrews in the UK?

Yes, we went and stayed with Mick and Jill in Matlock. Fantastic hosts and tour guides. We got to meet some really interesting people and check out some of his old practice sections. You could see why he thought the Scottish was easy.

In recent years you have also been involved in 4-wheel events. What are you driving?

I started racing a Suzuki Swift a few years ago, then switched to a Westfield Aero Race 7, which is a cool car. I have certainly lowered the racing attitude of my class. At first the other competitors couldn't understand why I would slow up and let them pass. They never understood that winning is not as important as having fun. At one meet, my mate Russell decided we were going to have turns winning, but do multiple passing maneuvers all race, being 3 wide in the corners where we could, then on the last sprint to the line the nominated driver would just sneak in for the win. The commentators enjoyed it and the spectators believed it was hard out racing, with many coming and shaking our hands afterwards for the best racing display they had seen in years. The funny bit was Russell had chosen to win the

last race, but mis counted the number of laps, so I ended up winning two races. That was the most fun I have had racing. I can't understand peoples need to win when you can have so much fun just hooning around with mates. The big difference between Trials and car racing is when you are car racing you are going fast but have lots of time to plan. When you are coming down a straight you are thinking brake at that point, then off the brakes and turn at that point, power on there. In trials you are going really slow, and everything is happening so fast. So, the slow sport feels really fast as you have no thinking time, and the fast sport feels slow because you are planning several seconds ahead. Weird.

This year has been your fifth stint as Club President. How has the year been?

I didn't realise it was my fifth. Really embarrassed about not having the time to do it properly this time. It is a very important job for the club as you really need the club to concentrate on doing things that grow the club and be aware of people who may want something different from what is being provided. The job is much easier with Scotty on the committee and a good secretary.

Twin shock trial reunion 16-17 April 2022

Greg Power and Kerry Miles are organising a reunion for those who rode, observed or watched trials during the 1970s or early 80s. It will be held at Kerry and Joan Miles' property at Fernside next Easter.

The trial on Saturday will be run as an easy section by section event for twin shock bikes. For riders who don't have a twin shock, Greg and Kerry will have up to eight bikes to share.

People from that era who are not riding are more than welcome to come along for the camaraderie and reminiscing of days gone past. There will be a BBQ at lunch time and an evening meal, which will be at a local restaurant or at Kerry's place.

On Sunday a classic trial, open to riders of all ages will be held at Kerry and Joan's property.

There is a Facebook page for the reunion at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/585889015933308>



4x NZ trials champion Greg Power. The photo was taken at the Cootamundra 3-day trial in 1975.

Club trials

Motunau – 19 September (section setters: Kahu, officials: Josh, Ross)

The Motunau trial brought a lot of new and old faces along to a great event. The weather was perfect and couldn't ask for a better day. There was an exceptional turn out of minis to the trial which was great to see. The sections were different to the usual norm which gave a lot of variety in the obstacles and scores. It was a great day for those stepping up to a higher grade and wanting a challenge. The scores in each grade were hotly contested for 1st 2nd and 3rd which created a fun and competitive atmosphere, but still took points off everyone. Overall a fun but challenging day for everyone.

Kahu Jones

Expert		Clubman A		Mini A	
David Trewin	8	Wayne Harper	4	Evie Hubbard	19
Paul Mountstevens	13	Chris Pascoe	13		
Josh Stones	59	Arron Eades	54	Mini B	
Kahu Jones	84	Shey Corson	nc	Leo Hopkins	27
Hamish Barnett	100				
		Clubman B		Mini C	
Intermediate		Dick Gardner	14	Isabel Hopkins	5
Simon Hopkins	10			Makye Chambers	14
Ross Bristol	22			Amelia Hubbard	35
Shane Brons	24			Max Blanchard	nc
Nigel Bunny	103			Liam Ross	nc
Dave Barber	106				
Cody Corson	nc				
John Ross	nc				
Paul Delis	nc				
James Smith	nc				

Kaituna Valley– 10 October (section setters: Peter B, Hamish; officials: Alan and Peter B)

Since our last visit to this property in 2020 there have been quite a few changes due to logging. The hillside near the carpark where we have had sections in the past is no longer usable but the area north of the creek is unchanged so Peter and Hamish were able to set the sections there. Overnight rain made the track down to section 4 very slippery and if it had been a section it would have taken a few points.

It was close in expert with Jules on 24, David on 26 and Paul on 28. Intermediate was more spread out with Kendall having a 15 points winning margin over Shane, but it would have been closer if Shane had not had a couple of unlucky motor stalls. Kahu had to revert to the Fantic for this trial so he rode the yellow line and he did well to coax it up some steep sections. Clubman A was also close with Christine finishing 3 points ahead of Chris who is finding that the ex-Kerry Miles Beta Rev3 is a lot easier to ride than the Villiers he rides in classics. Peter Dunn took out Clubman B from Peter Beyere who has recently shifted from Nelson to Christchurch and Dave D won the Twin Shock class on his TY175. In the minis it was a good day for the Hopkins family with Leo and Izzie winning their grades. Bodie Harper and James Bayliss rode the Club Osets watched by their dads, Wayne and Rhys.



Ross in section 9. This section has been set in various ways over the years and is always a good one.

Expert	Total	President		Mini B
Jules Huguenin	24	Rob McKay	dnf	Leo Hopkins 13
David Trewin	26			Hine Jones 26
Paul Mountstevens	28	Clubman A		Mini C
Tom Beedles	33	Christine Thompson	56	Isabel Hopkins 4
Clark Fountain	61	Chris Pascoe	59	Makye Chambers 16
Simon Hopkins	85	Peter Barnett	78	Bodie Harper 23
Hamish Barnett	nc	Shey Corson	91	James Bayliss nc
Josh Stones	dnf	Clubman B		
Intermediate		Peter Dunn	45	
Kendall McDonald	37	Peter Beyere	nc	
Shane Brons	52	Twin shock		
Alan Honeybone	60	Dave Davies	83	
Peter Hosking	65			
Kahu Jones	75			
Simon Jones	85			
Ross Bristol	dnf			
Dave Barber	dnf			
Cody Corson	nc			

Club championship - Purau 21 November 2021 (section setters: Jules, Alan, Paul M, Shane B and Shane H; officials: Derek and Ross)

Fisher's property at Purau was the venue for this year's club championship. Jules, Alan, Paul and Shane had pegged 10 sections which were closer together than usual because there was stock in one area of the property that we normally use.

A highlight of the day was the return of Robin and Ryan Hampton after an absence for a few years due to their road racing and business commitments. Also back on the scene are John Ross and Mitchell Sincock, who rode trials in the mid-1990s when they were teenagers. Speedway champion, Larry Ross was also at Purau to watch his grandson Liam riding in the minis.

The Expert sections proved to be very challenging with some of them looking more like orange level than red, and when the points were added up at the end of the day Jules and Paul were the only riders to finish with less than a 100 points on their cards. However, although it was a high scoring day for Tom, Rhys, Simon H and Ryan they each had some great rides. Rhys came close to mastering section 2 when he got through for a dab, the best ride of the day in that section; and Tom rode the difficult uphill tree roots in section 8 with ease. Ryan, who last rode in a Pioneer trial 12 years ago, had injured his finger the day before and was restricted by this, but he showed that he is still very capable at this level. This was Jules day though and he won in style with eleven cleans and nine dabs in the 40 sections.



Simon Hopkins rode the red line for the first time and is seen here riding section 4, with Tom ready to catch if required.



Leo Sincock on his 50cc Vertigo Vandal

In Intermediate, Robin lost 30 pts on his first two laps, but he put himself back into contention when he dropped only one mark on lap 3. With one lap to go John Regan and Robin were both on 31. On the final lap Robin lost 3 points to take the win from John who lost 7. Ross

was third, despite being hampered by his shoulder injury in some of the sections. Newcomer James Smith, who has raced superbikes opted to ride in this class in only his second trial.

Kendall was the only twin shock entry and he rode clubman A dropping a miserly 4 points on his Honda CB125 powered TLR. In some of the sections he rode the intermediate line to give himself more of a challenge. Tui riding in his first trial this year was second on 10 points and Dave Chambers having his first outing since knee surgery was third. Thirteen points on the first lap proved costly for Christine but she did go home with the consolation of having won the women’s cup. Dick won Clubman B on his new electric start TRS, ahead of Peter D who was unlucky to have a couple of fives in section 8 where the Clubman B line looked to be more difficult than the A line.



Shane Hubbard had set six sections for the nine mini riders. Evie won Mini A ahead of Leo Hopkins who has moved up to this line. Izzie who has also stepped up a grade won Mini B, Hine was second and six year old Max Blanchard was third on his little Beta.

Leo Sincock won Mini C on his Vertigo Vandal, Makye who is now on a GasGas was second, and Amelia was third on her Oset. As Peter B has mentioned it won’t be long before some of these youngsters start riding clubman and giving some of the older riders a shakeup.

Expert	lap 1	lap 2	lap 3	lap 4	Total
Jules Huguenin	22	14	13	14	63
Paul Mountstevens	21	20	25	13	79
Tom Beedles	28	33	23	25	109
Simon Hopkins	29	28	27	28	112
Rhys Bayliss	31	33	33	29	126
Ryan Hampton	35	43	40	40	158

Intermediate

Robin Hampton	17	13	1	3	34	
John Regan	13	9	9	7	38	
Ross Bristol	14	14	8	10	46	
Shane Brons	19	8	12	10	49	
Derek Scott	18	17	16	11	62	
Kahu Jones	25	19	11	9	64	
Alan Honeybone	22	15	12	17	66	15 cleans
John Ross	22	14	23	7	66	14 cleans
Simon Jones	25	12	13	21	71	
Ashley Duncan	27	18	17	18	80	
James Smith	31	19	16	17	83	
Hamish Barnett					nc	
Kevin Jarvis					nc	
Mitchell Sincock					nc	

Clubman A

Kendall McDonald	4	0	0	0	4	
Tui Scott	8	1	1	0	10	
Dave Chambers	8	5	3	1	17	
Steve Fisher	7	4	2	5	18	
Nigel Bunny	7	8	1	5	21	30 cleans
Christine Thompson	13	2	4	2	21	29 cleans
Peter Barnett	10	11	6	7	34	
Shane Newton	17	13	6	5	41	
Dave Davies	24	6	7	9	46	

Clubman B

Dick Gardner	2	0	0	0	2	
Peter Dunn	5	5	0	0	10	

Twin Shock

Kendall McDonald	4	0	0	0	4	
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Women

Christine Thompson	13	2	4	2	21	
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Mini A

Evie Hubbard	11	6	7	2	26	
Leo Hopkins	26	18	18	12	74	

Mini B

Isabel Hopkins	10	10	2	7	29	
Hine Jones	9	8	12	11	40	
Max Blanchard	17	10	4	16	47	

Mini C

Leo Sincock	12	5	0	3	20
Makye Chambers	5	10	5	10	30
Amelia Hubbard	16	11	8	6	41
Liam Ross					nc

Greybeards – 28 November

There was a smaller entry this year for the annual Greybeards trial due to the wet day but the persistent drizzle didn't bother the riders who turned up. Dave C, Peter D, and Christine had set eight sections in the creek and the damp conditions provided some slipperiness to make it even more interesting. Dick's bonus points were halved this year, but he still managed to win the Mustang Cup and the Bob Harris memorial walking stick for a second time. A more youthful Brent won the Harley Cup for the A grade. Thanks to Peter McDonald who set up the BBQ under a tarpaulin, and Travis Churchill for the use of his North Loburn property.



Peter B rode the oldest bike this year, the 1964 Greeves.

Harley Cup

	Bonus points	Points lost	Final score
Brent Downes	-45	0	-45
Peter Hosking	-48	6	-42
Dave Chambers	-42	9	-33
Trev Wiley	-39	8	-31
Steve Fisher	-45	14	-31
Geoff Blokland	-39	11	-28
Dave Davies	-42	16	-26
Tui Scott	-48	22	-26
John Regan	-22	2	-20
Kendall McDonald	-20	0	-20
Peter Dunne	-51	40	-11
Darren Johnston	-10	4	-6
Christine Thompson	-28	24	-4
Travis Churchill	-1	12	11

Mustang Cup and Bob Harris Memorial walking stick

Dick Gardner	-47	1	-46
Peter Barnett	-30	20	-10

Lovegrove Norton restoration

Pioneer member, Russ Lovegrove owned a 1927 Norton and had some good results racing it on the beach and at hill climbs in the 1930s and early '40s. In 1938 he was 3rd in the New Zealand Beach Racing Championship and in the same year he set a New Zealand record for the fastest time by a motorcycle over half a mile when he achieved 100 mph on both runs in a timed speed test.



This year Russ' grandson Mark has restored the Norton with help from Graeme McClintock. Graeme who is now in his 80s was an apprentice at Bond & Hockley's in the mid-1960s and he remembers going to Russ' workshop which was nearby. Russ was known as the Norton guru in Christchurch at that time.

Graeme rebuilt the motor for Mark and while doing this he discovered that Russ had made a number of mods to improve its performance. There is an article with more info about the rebuild in the Marlborough VCC's newsletter

<https://www.marlboroughvcc.com/november-2021>

In September Mark and Graeme fired up the bike for the first time in about 47 years and took it for a test ride. After the ride Mark said "it certainly has some get up and go and it put smiles on all our faces that's for sure."

Membership renewals

The Club membership expires on 31 December. It can be renewed online at

<https://pioneertrials.co.nz/membership/>

New members who have joined the club since October will have their membership extended until 31 December 2022, so don't need to renew until then.

Bikes, parts, clothing, etc.



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**Photos of Pioneer and
Canterbury classic trials**

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/nzpeterb>



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Club Captain:	Derek Scott	ph. 027 432 3646
Committee members	Peter Barnett, Rhys Bayliss, Shane Brons, Mike Elliott, Patrick Hall, Jules Huguenin, Kahu Jones, Simon Jones, Paul Mountstevens	

Next events:

12 December Have a go day Waimak Trials Park

For more information see the 'upcoming events' section on the Pioneer website.

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.

Megaphone is the newsletter of the Pioneer Motorcycle Club Inc.

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