



# Megaphone

Newsletter of the Pioneer MCC

Summer 2023

## A message from Jules

With the birth of our second child, we've made the hard decision to move back to France after 8 years spent here in New Zealand. We want our families to see our children grow up, and that's the main motivator of our decision.

I would like to thank the Pioneer Club and its members for all the support that has been given to us over the years. I will stay a member and come back for a holiday and trial ride as much as I can!

## 2023 Prize giving

The Club prize giving will be held on Saturday 27 January at Simon and Trudi's house at Swannanoa. It will begin around 5pm but you can come earlier if you would like a swim in the pool.

Catering will be by Spitroast.com. The cost of the meal is \$25 for adults and it's free for children and teenagers under 16. The booking form is [here](#)

## 2024 South Island Champs

Next year there will only be two South Island rounds because the nationals will be held in Alexandra. The two rounds will be in Christchurch on 13-14 April.

## Mats Petit training day



Mats was back in Christchurch for a short time before he returned to France and while he was here he ran a training day for our top riders on 4 November.

Next year the club experts will run a training day for the rest of us who ride the lower grades.

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## New member:

The Club welcomes Rodney Bolton. Rodney has ridden in a couple of classic trials recently and has bought a tidy looking Rev3.

## Rat at the 2023 Oceania



A 3,000 km round trip from Canberra to South Australia and back, very hot conditions, snakes, and some blue line sections which had obstacles that would be red line here, were some of the things that Paul experienced during his trip. The photos are screenshots from videos that Wayne Furniss took at the trial.

*The Tasmanians who rode at the Aussie nationals have told me that they were very impressed with the way Rat tackled the big rocks in South Australia on the TY - ed.*

## Al's 50 years with the Club & farewell to Jules

Next year Alan Honeybone will have been a Pioneer member and a trials rider for fifty years. On 17 March Alan is planning to run a trial at Western Valley to celebrate this achievement. Oldies who have ridden with Al over the years are welcome to attend as riders or spectators.

This will also be our farewell to Jules before he leaves for France in April. His young son, Oscar will be making his trials debut.

## Odd

Roy Parker was one of the Club's founding members in 1914 and he was a committee member for 38 years. When he decided to retire from the committee in 1955, he said "I hate the sight, sound and smell of motorcycles but I admire the men who ride them."

## New Zealand Trials Championship 21-23 October 2023

*The reports below were published in the October issue of Cycle Torque (Ixion's newsletter) Thanks to Mark, Wayne and the Pearce family for sharing them.*

*Cycle Torque is edited by the inimitable Phil Costello and is always a good read.*

*Emily Willard puts the latest issues of the newsletter on the Ixion website and an archive of older issues is available there too.*

### Day 1

The first day was hosted by the Tauranga club at No. 4 Road, Te Puke. This venue is an old favourite which those who travel to champs trials will remember. The road leads uphill from the main road at Te Puke through kiwifruit orchards, then you turn right into No. 4 Road and drop down into a gorge, then past more kiwifruit until the end of the road, when you go back down into the valley where the rocky creek ideal for trials is.

Weather was cloudy and warm, the organisation was good with briefing held on time. We got a bag of "goodies" each. Mine had a handy-size chainlube, 3 pens and a "ride forever" notebook, a polishing cloth, a tyre pressure gauge (doesn't do low pressure unfortunately) and a "ride forever" tubular neck warmer/ multifunction head garment. Choice. And a programme which revealed there were 58 riders entered consisting of: 3 Experts; 6 Red graders; 18 Yellows; 14 Greenies including myself (Sideentry); 8 Blues and 9 Minis. Some of these riders were in other classes (not colours). There were two women, and one girl in the minis.

13 Vet 1 riders (50 to 65) and 3 Vet 2 riders (over 65). That's 16 out of 58 of us over 50, 28%. On the other foot, there's 16% minis, and if we add (by my count around 10) under 20's such as Connor and Finn it's 33% "youngies" which I reckon is a good sign for the sport.

And so, to the sections. The loop was compact, with 9 sections in the rocky creek and 3 in the bush. Difficulty level was up there, grades being won from 14 to 38 points for the 36 sections, but fair with hardly anyone over 100. They were set to take points, not to fail you. Section 7 where Green started had lots of "content" so caused a big 'ole' queue later in the day. What I learned was to start your second lap one section in front of the Oranges and Reds. If more did that the queue problem would be less. Three people got time penalties including our very own Cam Judd with 4 of them, and the winner of the Experts, Mats Petit from France who showed Jules Huguenin and Matt Foster the way home anyway. The lad can ride.

I found bouncing over all those rocks all day took a lot of energy. It was a good sleep that night! Big "ups" to Tauranga for setting a really great trial.

**Sidelines** (Mark Sidebotham).

**Day 2** of the Nationals was held at Saunders' Property, Wharepapa South, Waikato. This is an amazing property with rocks up every gully just begging to be ridden over. It even has a set from Lord of the Rings which occasionally gets used for weddings, etc. Every section involved rocks, although 2 also included trees and roots. The rocks were grippy and therefore needed to be big to provide a challenge, this was quite different to day 1's creeks and green rocks. Intermediate grade started on section 1, and after watching a couple of 5s and a few other points accumulate, I cleaned it 👍 This is great, I thought, I'm on today, and then I proceeded to get fives in the next three sections. Fortunately, I wasn't the only rider representing Ixion! Zack caught up with me on lap 2 and informed me that he had two clean laps and was looking for a clean day. Rain was forecast for around 3pm and we were watching it approach around lunchtime, so the decision was made to skip lunch and launch back into it before it arrived. Sure enough, while we were queuing for section 5 our backs suddenly began to get cold and next minute it started. Fortunately it wasn't too heavy initially, and I pushed Zack to try and finish his 3rd lap before the grass got too slippery. Off he went, I got to section 7 in time to watch him lose traction on the wet grass and get his only point of the day. Still, one point is a pretty good day and was enough for him to beat out Gavin Fox, his closest competition, who finished on 8 points. I had a few issues of my own to contend with, including an "over the bars" in section six. Nobody was there to video it, but there were plenty of witnesses. And then there was section 12, previously we'd been told that we'd face 3 obstacles in each section. I'm thinking somebody couldn't count as there were at least 6, including 3 that were challenging for any Yellow rider, and one that a rider (who shall remain nameless) wanted removed, insisting that it was an expert rock! Said rider took three 5s. I managed to clean it 3 times 😁, although at least one of them wasn't very elegant.

Day 2 is traditionally the North vs South Challenge, and after Day 1 I was tasked with selecting the N.I. team. So after telling Jules that Mats wasn't allowed to represent the South in Orange and that he would have to do it, I went and informed Matt Foster, Warren Laugeson, Kevin Pinfold, Grant McEwen and Zack that I wanted them to represent the N.I. in their respective grades. They were all happy.

With Paul Mountstevens beating Kevin Pinfold in Yellow, Jules beating Matt in Orange and Gavin Fox beating Zack in lap 2 of day 1, there was a very real chance of it being a tight contest. However, I didn't doubt our team for a second, and we ended up taking it out again, this time 5-0. Well done team North Island!!

The organizing clubs decided they'd try something different with the Minis and appointed Warwick Merriman to manage them for the 3 days as a neutral person. From what I hear, he managed to give them a bit of training and encouragement, all while acting as manager/observer. The Mini sections were separate from the senior sections and I didn't get to see much of the goings on, but I did see a lot of smiling mini riders and that's a good sign!

Obviously with big grippy rocks, the Expert sections looked pretty intimidating, and were therefore, very entertaining to watch! The 3 top grade riders didn't disappoint, with two of them yelling and cheering in French each time they made it over a massive obstacle clean. The nature of expert sections means they tend to take a lot longer to complete a lap, this meant that when the rain (and warm? hail) really set in, the French Connection still had almost a lap to go. Matt on the other hand, could see what was coming and decided not to muck around. This was a wise decision as Jules suffered many fives in his last lap due to the sudden reduction in traction.

In competitions like this a dab or two can make a big difference to your position at the end of the day, with many riders separated by only 1 or 2 points. It's safe to say that three or four fives will take you quickly out of the running.

However, the day was very enjoyable (much like the entire weekend-Epic!!) and it's safe to say that everyone who travelled for the event had a great time and no regrets about going. Also, Neil did a great job, getting some pics and competing, at the same time!

### **Wayne Furniss**

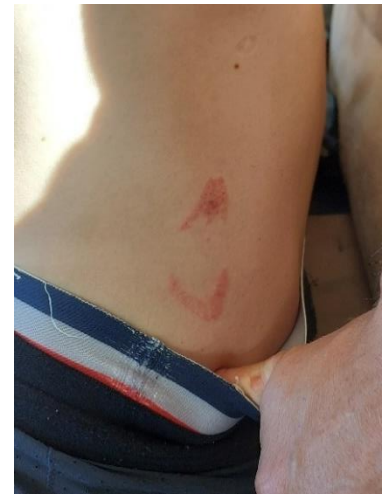


Neil Sturmfels was on hand to take these photos of Mats and Jules on day 3.

### Day 3

At the end of day 2 the threatening skies loomed. Dad handed in his card, rushed to the bus and drove it down the farm track minutes before the rain hit. Leaving all the kids and mum along with Finn's bike in bits. As usual in the spirit of trials some passers by (Paul Mountstevens) helped Finn while dad manoeuvred the bus into position at the new campsite, in preparation for day 3. As quickly as the rain front appeared it then cleared to glorious blue skies and sunshine. Mats, Jules and family had also parked up in Jules new camper van, which Mats described as an "effing snail". The French contingent and Ricky Hamilton had some light refreshments before we set off on an adventure. Lucky for us we had been told by Nigel Shilton that there was a Lord of the Rings film set still in place not far from our bus. We all went down to investigate, walking over a bridge to a perfectly formed stone wall and entranceway to a rock amphitheatre. Mats decided it was the perfect opportunity to have a wash in the creek. Stripped to his undies, he jumped in, bathing himself. To our absolute delight he shrieked and jumped around violently claiming there was a "monster" in the creek. With blood running down his hip we quickly recognised the jaws of a sizeable eel. The only consoling words we could offer were "thank goodness you were wearing undies".

Somewhat disgruntled, Mats dragged his damaged, skinny torso back to the campsite with everyone else showing loads of sympathy (not).



After dinner there was a bit of bike preparation and then off to bed.

On day 3 we woke to a stunning day with all the organisers hard at work from around 7am doing final touches. There was significant dew on the grassy sections, which made traction more challenging especially for the small wheel 80cc.

The minis had 6 sections with Warrick Merriman observing and section checking. After watching the previous two days of riding, Warwick knew the kids capabilities and was keen to help them improve their skills. Tips and tricks were verbalised and the kids blasted through the day quickly. The kids all loved hooning around afterwards playing on the rocks.

As the day dried out and the sections became more familiar, everyone's riding improved and most people were pretty happy. Even dad (Gavin) got a clean lap on his last lap. Unfortunately this did not compare to Zack's efforts in achieving an entire clean day. Luke dropped only 3 points on his last lap and Finn managed to sneak in 2 points behind Kevin Pinfold, which was a fantastic effort.

We all finished in plenty of time, got packed up with time to relax and then off to the prize

giving which was held down the road at the Wharepapa Hall where the local school had put on an amazing spread. Overall, it was a really enjoyable day and a credit to the Tauranga and Hamilton clubs.

### The Pearce's.



Simon and Paul riding the intermediate line on day 3, with Gabby looking on. The photos were taken in the same section.

Twelve Pioneer members rode in the Nationals and they had some good results. Mats and Jules were first and second in Expert. Paul Mountstevens won Intermediate and Vet 1. Gabby was first in Women and Liam Ross won Mini 1. Liam also had the lowest score on the yellow line in the minis where he was competing with two older boys.

Brendon was second in Vet 1, Gavin was second in Clubman, Gareth was third in Intermediate and Neil was third in Vet 2.

The full results are available on the Trials.NZ website

[https://www.trials.nz/files/ugd/631f5a\\_59de8b4457b64823989a3c845ce0cc4e.pdf](https://www.trials.nz/files/ugd/631f5a_59de8b4457b64823989a3c845ce0cc4e.pdf)

## Club trials

**Purau Valley – 8 October** (section setters: Paul M, Glenn, Dave B, Simon H, Officials: Patrick, Ross, Kahu)

There was a fairly small clubman field for this trial but a good turnout of experts, some of whom were heading north to the nationals a couple of weeks later. The sections were the usual mix to be found at this property, some were in the creek and some on the hillside. There was a huge log in section 9 for the orange and red line riders, and in section 5 they had to ride up a long, very slippery gully. There were some spirited attempts but no one managed to get through it for less than a 3. The lower grades could bypass the gully but

there was an awkward slippery exit for the intermediates. Most of the inters had threes and fives in this section too.

Jules made an appearance and rode the orange line with Paul who was on Scotty's Beta again, still missing his Vertigo which was in the North Island. Glenn prevailed in a very close contest with Pete G and Ryan on the red line. Hamish has had some knee issues recently so he rode in Intermediate at this trial and won the class. Peter B also had a good ride finishing second to Steve in Clubman A. Dick won Clubman B again but will have to watch out for Izzy in future because she is getting better with every ride on the 125.



Izzy on the Sherco.



John making his way up section 6.

### Expert Orange

Jules Huguenin	68
Paul Mountstevens	86

### Expert Red

Glenn Smith	34
Peter Gledhill	37
Ryan Hampton	38
John Ross	45
Simon Hopkins	71
Arron Eades	86

### Intermediate

Hamish Barnett	31
John Regan	37
Peter Hosking	47
Alan Honeybone	49
Ross Bristol	50
Tui Scott	nc

### Sportsman

Simon Jones	29
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### Clubman A

Steve Fisher	39
Peter Barnett	60
Dave Davies	81

### Clubman B

Dick Gardner	25
Isabel Hopkins	36



**McQueens Valley– 29 October** (Section setters: Ashley, Peter G, Peter H. Officials: Derek, Peter H)

While red card and tmo decisions were causing anguish elsewhere in the nation, the 18 riders who turned up at Ashley’s property were enjoying a pleasant spring morning in the country. Scotty, who was the steward, was checking the progress of the game in France when he had a spare moment, but the rest of us were hardly aware of it.

The sections began with number one which was high up on the ridge and from there we gradually made our way down, eventually arriving at number 10 which was close to the car park. Long grass in the first four sections provided an early challenge, particularly in number two where some rocks were underneath the grass. Several riders came to grief when they ran into a hidden rock and Dave Chambers was very unlucky when his Sherco landed on one which punched a hole in his front fork sleeve. Sections 5 to 10 were in the gullies and had the usual mix of loose dirt, banks and tight turns. Section 9 had a couple of very steep descents for the experts.

Tom, Pete Gledhill, Hamish, Simon and Wayne won their grades, but Bodie’s effort in Clubman B was probably the best ride of the day. He rode the four laps of the challenging loop on his GasGas 80 and only lost a few points in the sections.

Thanks to Ashley for the use of his backyard and also for spending most of Saturday setting the sections.

<b>Expert Orange</b>		<b>Sportsman</b>	
Tom Beedles	<b>106</b>	Simon Jones	<b>48</b>
<b>Expert Red</b>		<b>Clubman A</b>	
Peter Gledhill	<b>69</b>	Wayne Harper	<b>21</b>
Arron Eades	<b>104</b>	Dave Chambers	<b>33</b>
Glenn Smith	<b>dnf</b>	Peter Barnett	<b>48</b>
		Dave Davies	<b>57</b>
<b>Intermediate</b>		<b>Clubman B</b>	
Hamish Barnett	<b>41</b>	Bodie Harper	<b>21</b>
Ross Bristol	<b>58</b>	Dick Gardner	<b>dnf</b>
Peter Hosking	<b>67</b>	Craig Newbould	<b>dnf</b>
Ashley Duncan	<b>nc</b>		
Tui Scott	<b>nc</b>	<b>Mini C</b>	
		Koby Pascoe	<b>nc</b>

**Club Champs – 12 November, Western Valley** (Setters: Paul M, Peter G, Tom. Officials: Kahu, Alan)

Thirty riders participated in this year's Club Championship at Matt Latham's property. For the senior riders Paul, Pete and Tom had set 12 sections spread over a fairly long circuit to be ridden three times. Most of the sections were in the creek but there were also a couple on the hillside. For the minis there were four laps of six sections. After spending Saturday helping set the sections Tom was unlucky to test positive for Covid in the evening and was unable to ride the next day.

For the past two years Jules has won the Laurenson Cup for the Expert class, but this year he was also a non-starter because he had sold his GasGas a week before the event. There will, however, be another French name on the cup for 2023 because Robin Hampton loaned his bike to Mats for the day so that he could ride. Paul and Ryan made Mats work for it but his low score of 9 points on lap 2 gave him a handy lead which he retained to the end.

John Ross had some additional training time with Mats before the trial to work on some skills and it seems to have paid off because he had a good win on the red line. John's 22 cleans and 6 dabs in the 36 sections was impressive.

The Intermediate, Sportsman and Clubman A classes were closely contested. In Inters, Kahu was riding Simon's 300, and it didn't take him long to get familiar with the bigger motor. He moved up from fourth position on lap one to first on lap two, and stayed there to the end, finishing a couple of points ahead of John Regan. Ross was third ahead of Hamish who started and finished well but had a costly second lap.

In Sportsman Rat came close to pulling off a green line/twin shock double, and in Clubman A, Dave C was only one point ahead Wayne. Steve was also riding well but had a crash on the slippery rocks near the exit to section 10 and decided to retire.

Dick won Clubman B with consistent scores for each of the three laps. Izzy also handed in a good card and she impressed her dad when she made a stylish floater turn in one section. She picked up the Women and Junior cups this year.

In the minis, Bodie rode his Oset and won Mini A with a low score of 12 points. Liam also rode the red line and tried the first four sections on his Beta 80, but decided to switch to his TRS electric after this. Sections 3 and 6 took points from them but they both managed to clean section 6 on the last lap. Bodie also cleaned it on lap one.

In Mini B, Leo had to switch to his Oset when his Beta wouldn't start but he reverted back to the Beta later on after Simon got it going again. In Mini C, Koby's riding has improved a lot this year now that he has bigger wheels.

The hot day meant it was important to keep the fluid intake up while riding. Once the trial was over, and the sections were pulled, we adjourned to the newly refurbished Little River Hotel for some more rehydration and some food supplied by the club, before the prizegiving.

<b>Expert Orange</b>	<b>lap 1</b>	<b>lap 2</b>	<b>lap 3</b>	<b>Total</b>
Mats Petit	19	9	13	<b>41</b>
Paul Mountstevens	26	19	14	<b>59</b>
Ryan Hampton	24	22	21	<b>67</b>

<b>Expert Red</b>				
John Ross	12	11	4	<b>27</b>
Glenn Smith	14	17	14	<b>45</b>
Peter Gledhill	24	17	11	<b>52</b>
Simon Hopkins	23	18	21	<b>62</b>
Arron Eades	32	26	26	<b>84</b>

<b>Intermediate</b>				
Kahu Jones	12	7	6	<b>25</b>
John Regan	10	10	7	<b>27</b>
Ross Bristol	10	14	7	<b>31</b>
Hamish Barnett	11	18	8	<b>37</b>
Ashley Duncan	22	21	9	<b>52</b>
Alan Honeybone	14	20	19	<b>53</b>

<b>Sportsman</b>				
Peter Hosking	2	6	6	<b>14</b>
Paul Jackson	6	4	7	<b>17</b>
Tui Scott	8	7	12	<b>27</b>
Nigel Bunny	16	11	17	<b>44</b>

<b>Clubman A</b>				
Dave Chambers	6	7	3	<b>16</b>
Wayne Harper	6	3	8	<b>17</b>
Chris Pascoe	15	5	11	<b>31</b>
Dave Davies	14	10	11	<b>35</b>
Peter Barnett	17	13	13	<b>43</b>
Steve Fisher				<b>dnf</b>

<b>Clubman B</b>				
Dick Gardner	6	5	5	<b>16</b>
Izzy Hopkins	19	16	20	<b>55</b>

<b>Twin Shock</b>				
Paul Jackson	6	4	7	<b>17</b>

<b>Women</b>				
Izzy Hopkins	19	16	20	<b>55</b>

**Mini A**

Bodie Harper	3	5	3	1	<b>12</b>
Liam Ross	18	9	8	4	<b>39</b>

**Mini B**

Leo Hopkins	14	15	15	8	<b>52</b>
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**Mini C**

Koby Pascoe	14	3	5	6	<b>28</b>
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**Greybeards** – 26 November at Travis Churchill’s property (Section setters: Brent and Shirley)

History was made at the 54th Greybeards Trial in Canterbury. It was the fourth year since the Canterbury Classic Trials Group had taken over running the event from Pioneer, and we finally managed to hold it on a sunny day, after last year having to abandon the event after completing only one lap in heavy rain. This year 24 Greybeards age riders, competed for the trophies, with support from a number of younger riders swelling the total number to 30. There were four laps of eight excellent sections thanks to Brent and Shirley and several riders had low scores. Bonus points are then subtracted so the winners finish on negative points. Well done to Alan Honeybone for winning the Harley Cup for A Grade, and Peter Dunn for winning the Mustang Cup and Bob Harris Walking Stick for B Grade. Dick Gardner at 80 years of age, became the oldest rider to ever take part in the Greybeards event. Early Greybeards events also had a competition for best beard and this was reintroduced and won by Kendall McDonald. All trophies were presented by past Greybeards winner and Pioneer Life member, Peter McDonald, who also did the cooking on the BBQ. Thanks to Travis for use of his property.

A great social day out enjoyed by all ages.

**Peter Barnett**



The cup and award winners at the Greybeards

<b>A Grade - Harley Cup</b>	<b>Points lost</b>	<b>Bonus points</b>	<b>Final score</b>
Alan Honeybone	3	54	-51
Christine Thompson	3	33	-30
Steve Fisher	21	51	-30
Dave Mardon	13	42	-29
Kelvin Bakkenes	17	42	-25
Wayne Harper	12	33	-21
Kendall McDonald	6	24	-18
Dave Chambers	8	24*	-16
Peter Hosking	14	27*	-13
Brent Downes	4	12.75*	-7.25
Trev Wiley	28	22.5*	5.5

### **B Grade - Mustang Cup**

Peter Dunn	2	28.5*	-26.5
Peter Barnett	17	36	-19
Rodney Bolton	29	33	-4
Brian Chambers	26	28.5*	-2.5
Leigh Rowley	16	4	12
John Jarvie	23	5	18
Michel Armiento	73	2	71
Dick Gardner	1	<i>Not eligible</i>	
Iain Davis	24	<i>Not eligible</i>	

*\*reduced bonus points*

## **Family - the Barnetts**

*Trials is a great family sport, and families who get involved contribute a lot to their clubs. The Barnett family is a good example of this with Peter, Lynette and Hamish very active in Pioneer.*

*I was interested in how Peter first got involved with the Club and how things evolved from there. Peter kindly agreed to write a few lines - ed.*

I have been a member of Pioneer at two different times, so I will start this story 45 years ago, in 1978. This was a time when you could go to the Ministry of Transport and, after answering 20 questions, get a provisional motorcycle licence to ride on the road. I purchased a 1971 100cc Kawasaki in need of repair, completed the work, repainted the tank, and headed for my first off road adventure riding down the Ashley River to the lagoon and scratching the newly painted tank. I also rode the bike to Hanmer and Lake Tennyson at the head of the Clarence River.

A 1975 Suzuki TS250 soon followed then, in 1980, a 4-month-old Yamaha XT250. I rode this off road at the weekends gaining experience, then in 1981 got a NZ ACU competition licence and did my first Enduro organised by the Pioneer Club. At another enduro at Ashley Forest I cooked the engine after filling the cylinder fins with mud, so I swapped the XT250 at Tommys Yamaha for a Yamaha IT175 also in need of repair, the bike had been previously ridden by the shop sponsored rider. This was a quick bike, faster than all the 250's, as the cylinder had been ported in America. Tom McCleary did the deal and supplied me with the parts at cost, and I rebuilt the bike.

I took part in enduros and hare 'n hounds, and was a member of Pioneer from 1981 to 1984. I remember riding a round of the South Island Enduro Champs at Ashley Forest in 1982 or 1983, and the rain was torrential. I was the last finisher, but was eighth! I think I have a certificate somewhere. Apart from the weather, the most memorable thing about the event was someone arriving late during riders briefing and climbing onto the back of their pickup, starting their bike with enough noise that the briefing had to stop, then the rider trying to wheelie their cold bike off the back of the ute and failing miserably, ending up going over the bars and finishing under the bike to a massive cheer from everyone.



During this period, I would ride the bike most weekends even when there wasn't an event on. Lynette would come out with me and I taught her to ride initially on an old YZ125. She then purchased a Suzuki TC125 much to the consternation of her parents who thought a step though was more appropriate. Lynette and I were married in September 1983 and, just after we were married, my bike was stolen and I couldn't afford a

replacement. The 6 months without a bike is the longest I have been without a bike since getting my license in 1978. The replacement I eventually purchased was not sorted or competitive and with other distractions I dropped out of the sport and away from Pioneer.

I have no recollection of ever getting a Megaphone while a member of the club. The Enduros and Hare 'n Hounds were advertised in the motorcycle shops and in the newspaper, and we just turned up for the events. After the events you received a certificate if you had placed well. George Drayton and Morrie Smith ran the events, and Ray Shearman was the Steward. Eddie Ridgen raced his old XL350 Honda at these events and did very well. We also met up with him at road rallies such as the Brass Monkey and he was racing a Montesa MX bike at BEARS when I built a BEAR's racer. Of course, that was a Greeves purchased with many parts missing for \$70, but that is another story.

As well as BEARS racing, I also rode another Greeves in Classic Scrambles for a couple of years completing events around Christchurch and Timaru until an injury forced a change to restoring and riding a number of vintage and classic bikes aged from 1911 to my current 1986 “modern” bike.

The reason I came back to Pioneer was solely down to my son, Hamish. When he announced he was going to get his motorbike licence and buy a road bike as soon as he turned 16, I decided we needed to buy an off-road bike and teach him to ride so he could gain some skills before getting on the road. I tried to teach both of our boys but bikes only jelled with Hamish. I found the blue Honda TL125 that Kendall now owns which also gave me a chance to try classic trials.

This changed in January 2008 when, as a family, we holidayed in Otago, mountain biking at Bannockburn and into Macetown. Unfortunately, I went over the bars coming back from Macetown and broke my thumb, so it was Hamish who lined up for his first classic trial in January at Kainga. My thumb took months to come right and by then it seemed the best idea was getting a second trials bike, a TY350, for me to ride. Definitely not a beginner’s bike, this was soon swapped to a Fantic 200.



Thomsons Saddle



In the snow – Old Man Range

In, 2010 Hamish decided he wanted to try modern trials so we headed to our first Pioneer trials event at Western Valley. The sections were on the front part of the property and Hamish rode A grade on the Honda 125. I rode the Fantic on the B line. Watching Hamish drop down the steep hills barely in control made me determined to get him a modern bike with better brakes, and soon after we purchased a three-year-old GasGas from Brendon.

Once we had the GasGas Lynette rode the Honda, and as a family we completed a number of trips in Otago and on the West Coast to places such as Nevis Valley, Serpentine Church, Big River, and Napoleon Hill. Somewhere in there we swapped to a TY175 with its lower kickstart for Lynette.

Lynette hasn't ridden competitively and brought the camera out at a few trials to take photos of Hamish and I. By 2013 this expanded to capturing images of a few other riders, then expanded again in 2015 to capture as many riders as possible. We sometimes miss the big photos of expert riders doing something gnarly, but our philosophy has always been to show competitors at all levels taking part. Lynette has now been taking images, and I've been posting them on Flickr, since 2015. Currently there are around 16,000 photos posted.

I realise we have been with Pioneer now for a dozen years. I still only have basic skills, and Hamish now gives me tuition and rides better than I ever will. I have been helping at events by being steward or COC. I have also had a stint on the committee, and currently Hamish is having a turn.

**Peter Barnett**

### **Tim Gibbes, 1933-2023**

In October Tim Gibbes passed away a couple of days after his 90th birthday. Although Tim will be remembered mainly for his motocross and enduro achievements, he was also a trials rider. In 1956 and 1957 he rode in the SSDT and won first class awards, and in 1958 he worked for Ariel. Sammy Miller was also working for Ariel at this time and was developing his famous GOV132 trials bike. Tim and Sammy practiced together and they even went ice skating to develop better balance. When they rode in trials, Tim said that he was Sammy's "floor mop."

Later when Tim moved to New Zealand to live, he bought a motorcycle shop in Palmerston North and was the Bultaco importer. In the early 1970s he imported some Sherpas which were the first new Spanish trials bikes that were sold in New Zealand.

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## Club contacts:

<b>President:</b>	Simon Jones	ph. 021 566 871
<b>Vice president</b>	Alan Honeybone	Ph. 021 566 871
<b>Secretary:</b>	Peter Hosking	ph. 021 027 16940
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Ross Bristol	ph. 021 221 0397
<b>Club Captain:</b>	Derek Scott	ph. 027 432 3646
<b>Committee members</b>	Hamish Barnett, Rhys Bayliss, Tom Beedles, Arron Eades, Peter Gledhill, Patrick Hall, Paul Jackson, Kahu Jones, Rob McKay, Paul Mountstevens, Tui Scott	

## Next events:

21 January	Summer series 2	Puaha Valley
27 January	Club prize giving	Simon's house

For more information see the [upcoming events](#) page on the Pioneer website or Events on the Pioneer Facebook page.

## 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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Editor: Peter Hosking, email: [pioneertrials@gmail.com](mailto:pioneertrials@gmail.com)

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