

Cycling Southland has a growing membership of 900 and since 2006 has successfully managed the only indoor velodrome in New Zealand (NZ). This magnificent facility has been fundamental to the growth and success of NZ Cycling.

Cycling has been popular in Southland since the late 1880s and has rocketed ahead over the last 60 years since club stalwarts built their own hard track at Kew Bowl in the late 1940s. This track was gradually improved over the years, producing many national champions.

Like many sports, cycling went into decline in the early 1900s and it took the formation of the Invercargill Amateur Cycling Club in 1930 to get the wheels spinning again. Steady progress was made until the late 50s when club officials decided that a Southland Centre had to be created to allow the sport to thrive.

Formation of the Glengarry and Waikiwi clubs in 1961 followed by the Murihiku Novice Wheelers and Invercargill Ladies in 1962 eventually broke the shackles of the Otago amalgamation and the Southland Centre was born in 1963. The clubs all struggled to thrive and by 1996 the three remaining clubs merged with the Southland Centre to create Cycling Southland.

Key Objectives

- Creating opportunities for members to develop their potential and achieve success at whatever level they choose.
- Promoting events to an international standard on the velodrome and the roads of Southland.
- Ensure the highest safety standards are maintained in all events.
- Maintain financial sustainability while delivering a range of recreational opportunities for our members and the wider community.

Primary Funding Source

The Invercargill Licensing Trust, ILT Foundation and the Community Trust of Southland are major providers, supported by more than 400 community funders.

Cycling Southland and its voluntary executive ensure that resources are allocated wisely to ensure that services and facilities are sustainable, affordable and accessible to the cycling community.

Projects and Activities

The club delivers over 150 local events throughout the year and more than 25 sessions open to the members and community each week. In 2012 Cycling Southland co-ordinated, managed and delivered 24 regional, national and international events at the world-class velodrome and on the roads of Southland. Brief details of the three major events follow:

UCI Junior World Championships

- The organising committee was established in 2008, to secure the championships.
- 154 riders from 24 countries competed for 19 Junior World Titles. They were supported by 102 team coaches and managers.
- Four world records were broken.
- The UCI (International Cycling Union) declared that the championships hosted in Invercargill were the best-ever run event in the history of the Junior Worlds.
- The event came close to a sell-out with spectators and supporters travelling from all over the world.
- It is estimated that up to \$1.6 million towards the region's economy was generated.

Tour of Southland

- First held in 1956 to celebrate the Southland centennial, our Tour has become the longest running Annual Cycling Tour in Australasia, hosting riders from all over the world.
- Stages are spread throughout the region and most Southland towns regard the Tour as an annual sporting highlight.
- The Tour inspires budding young cyclists, and promotes road safety education for schools around the region through a "Share the Road" programme.
- Over 160 volunteers are dedicated to running the Tour, including 80 in support of the 20 teams of riders.

NZ Track Championships

- When this event was first held at the velodrome in 2007 the record book was virtually rewritten.
- Successful management and promotion by our volunteers has seen it return by popular demand every year following.

Volunteer Involvement

Volunteers contributed 57,000 hours in 2012 including 12,000 hours hosting the UCI Junior World Track Cycling Championships. Comments from a survey of visitors included:

"This has been a great event, well promoted, well attended, friendly staff and volunteers".

"The people are very polite and willing to help. A nice place. Well done NZ".

A combination of support from the community and dedication of our volunteers are key factors in the success of the club and what it has been able to achieve. The contributions of our volunteers are recognised at the annual Cycling Southland Club Awards Dinner.

Over 250 dedicated volunteers assist in the day to day running of the club and many high profile events hosted in the region. This dedicated community of volunteers come from all

walks of life and cover an extensive range of technical and non-technical roles from the medical team to coaches and commissaires.

Our volunteers are world renowned for providing a welcoming face as spectators and competitors arrive at an event.

Achievements and Benefits

At the 2012 BikeNZ Awards Dinner, Cycling Southland was named the Bike, Road and Track Club of the Year.

Cycling Southland members and volunteers have a well-established community that is recognised throughout the region.

The opening of the velodrome has seen the sport flourish in the south, with riders and teams from all over NZ regularly travelling to Invercargill to compete at the many great events hosted by the club, including the Yunca Junior Tour of Southland, the Tour de Lakes, National Track Championships and secondary school track events.

Local businesses have enjoyed participating in the annual Corporate Pursuit. With over 30 teams competing it is believed to be the biggest corporate cycling event of its type in the world.

Training opportunities are identified and encouraged to allow all athletes, coaches, commissaires and administrators to develop and reach their potential. Many members have qualified as NZ Commissaires and accredited coaches as a result.

One of our members was appointed as a Technical Official to the 2012 World Championships and the London Olympics. He was one of only six chosen from throughout the world.

Our members have won World Championship honours in Juniors, Masters and Para Cycling categories since the velodrome opened in 2006.

The next step is to win a World Title in the elite category . . . watch this space!