



Members Barry Emms and Nicholas Pilditch cutting the Club's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cake, Wigram.

A top speed of 82kph was set by Bob Jelley at Wigram on a 3m<sup>2</sup> sail in his *Performance* blokart. In 2013 Bob Jelley reached 87.3kph on a 2m<sup>2</sup> sail at Ivanpah, Nevada, USA.

After lengthy discussion by the Committee it was decided to start considering purchasing a race timing system again. In 2010 such a system was considered too expensive for the Club.

Club member Barry Emms (committee member for five years & secretary/treasurer for nine years) kept thorough and detailed records of Club business, including attendance records of members. As at March 2014, eight Club members had each amassed more than 100 days of sailing at Wigram. Barry was one of these members with 154 days, along with other current 2024 members, Bob Jelley, Ivan Purtle, Rudolph Meltzer, Steve Hall and Terry Helm.

The World Blokart Open Championships were held in January, at Lake Walyungup (about 55km south of central Perth). Nine Club members attended the event, with one member reaching the podium.



Perth, from L - R, Peter McCrea (member), Iarene Jelley, Raelene Helm, Paul Talarico (member), Bob Jelley (member), Dee McCrea (member) and Terry Helm (member). Behind the camera, Peter Kingsbury (member). Louise and Rudolph Meltzer (members) also attended the World Blokart Open Championships at Lake Walyungup.

In addition to the World Championships, three national events were held, the New Zealand Blokart Open, and the North and South Island Blokart Opens. Across these three events, ten Club members were *Production* and *Performance* class podium finishers. The events were held at Wigram, RNZAF Base Ohakea and Vortex Karting (Richmond, Nelson) respectively.

A popular event held most years by the Club is the Summer Blokart Race Series. This was first held in 2014 at Wigram, with former members David Vosloo, Peter McCrea and Paul Talarico taking 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place, respectively.

## 2015

In late 2015 the Club purchased the *MyLaps* sports timing and recording system for \$13,916.00. This followed from a lengthy discussion on the matter at the Annual General Meeting in May 2015. The system was trialled at the Manawatu Blokart Open in 2016 and used in the same year at the World Blokart Championships at Ivanpah, Nevada, USA. The timing system was partially funded from a grant of \$3,00.00 from the Mainland Foundation Ltd. The system continues to be used by the Club today (2025), and there is a growing number of Club members proficient in its use. Various updates and improvements to the timing system have occurred since 2015, including the introduction, in 2024, of long-life disposable transponders. The Club's transport trailer

became a timing trailer (housing electronic equipment, batteries and roof-mounted solar panels), but could still be used for the purpose it was first designed for, to transport blokart to sailing events away from Wigram.

Club subscriptions in 2015 were \$50.00, \$20.00 of which was the NZBAI affiliation fee. Track fees of \$9,830.00 were paid to the AFMNZ in 2014/2015. This equates to 983 individual track fees.



Member, Les Bearman and grandson Kobe Bearman, Wigram.

Four national blokart racing events were held in 2015; The New Zealand Blokart Open at Blokart Heaven, Papamoa (a purpose built blokart track), the North Island Blokart Open at Sanson, the South Island Blokart Open at the Vortex Karting track Richmond, and the Masters Blokart Games at RNZAF Base Ohakea. Club members achieved seven 1<sup>st</sup> places across eight race classes at these four events.

Vouchers for a 30 minute experience of blokart sailing at Wigram continued to be advertised on TradeMe, and in 2015 club blokkarts were hired out 110 times. At \$25.00 each, this was a significant source of funds for the Club.

With the conversion of the trailer to essentially a race timing trailer, the Club purchased a small shed to store equipment in. This was located near the north corner of aircraft Hangar 2.

In March a *Kids Day* was held at Wigram. A large number of children were given free rides in blokarts fitted with shadows (a 'side by side' second seat).

## 2016

The Club quickly outgrew the shed it purchased in 2015, and a decision was made to purchase a 20ft shipping container. The container cost \$10,000. The Rata Foundation provided a grant of \$4,000.00 for the purchase and fit-out of the container. Along with shelving for storage, a hook system for storing nine sails with masts inserted was devised, as well as a space-saving hook system for storing the three Club blokarts in a near vertical configuration. The storage of the sails and masts, and blokarts, in this way, meant that Club blokarts could be quickly rigged for use.

From April 2015 to April 2016 the Club sold 54 blokart experience vouchers totaling \$1,200.00. The total value of blokart hires for the 2015/2016 financial year, was \$2,597.00.

*Streets*, an ice-cream brand, ran a day of entertainment for children at Wigram. The Club contributed to the event by giving young children free rides in blokarts equipped with 'shadows', a side by side seat. The Club also had a display at the *New Zealand Boat Show*, where a high level of interest was shown in the blokart and the Club. One new member was gained from this event. The Club had a joint display with *Urban Wheels* (Blokart supplier) at the Canterbury A&P Show. Site costs were funded jointly by NZBAI and *Urban Wheels*.

To provide a more versatile timing trailer a bespoke transparent enclosure was purchased. The enclosure attaches to the rear of the trailer providing a sheltered environment for the person managing the race timing system as well as a clear view of the field. The enclosure is used primarily for regional and national events.

As a fund raiser, a 2016 Club calendar, was produced. This again generated about \$500.00 for the Club.

Given the mounting accumulation of assets by the Club, it was decided that the trailer, timing system, Club blokarts and other Club possessions should be insured. In 2016 the cost was \$1,147.47. This increased to \$1,500.00 in 2022, and \$1,800.00 in 2024. Insurance is the highest annual cost for the Club.

The Officer of the Day (OOD) roster system was formally introduced in 2016. Prior to this, the responsibility of managing racing and other events on Sundays was the responsibility of only a few members of the Club. Also, at this time, the role and responsibilities of the '*kart supervisor* (supervised the hire of the Club's blokarts on Sundays) were formalised.

Eight Club members and some partners travelled to the USA to compete in the North American Blokart Open and World Blokart Championship events. Both these events were held at Ivanpah, Nevada. An interesting account of these two events can be read at [blokartworlds.com/past-events/2016](http://blokartworlds.com/past-events/2016). Club member Michael Denton achieved three 1<sup>st</sup> places, Terry Helm a 2<sup>nd</sup> place and 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Alex Morris two 1<sup>st</sup> places and one 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and David Tillman, one 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Blokart International Ltd. hired the Club's timing system for the World Championships, generating \$3,500.00 income for the Club. Earlier in the year, 17 Club members travelled to a location about 10km south of Moeraki, Waitaki, for beach racing. Seven 'all-in' races were completed with some members inadvertently taking a 'dip' in the sea. Dee McCrea took out 1<sup>st</sup> place overall.

The Annual General Meeting was held in May with 26 members attending, Jim Gordon (aged 86 years) was presented with a gift in recognition of his continuing participation in Club events. There were 44 sailing days in 2015/16 and the best attendance was on 19 May 2015 with 27 sailors. Track fees paid to the AFMNZ were just over \$8,000.00. Club blokarts were hire out 110 times.