

## TAKING ON THE WORLD - SOUTHLAND'S BMX FLIERS



Joseph Widders, 17.  
Ranked NZ 5.



Jacob Crooka, 10.  
Wild card entry.



Harlan Hayden, 15.  
Ranked NZ 15.



Ryan Grantham, 15.  
Ranked NZ 27.



Ruby Laidlaw, 10.  
Ranked NZ 1.



Callan Holloway, 15.  
Ranked NZ 17.



Seth Brown, 10.  
Ranked NZ 26.



Jake Lawrence, 9.  
Ranked NZ 21.



Joe Lucas, 42.  
Ranked NZ 14.



Connor Douglas, 10.  
Ranked NZ 25.

Photos not available for  
Josh Burnett, 12.  
Ranked NZ 13.  
Hadis McLaughlin, 17.  
Ranked NZ 3.

**A 15-strong Southland contingent is set for the world BMX champs in Auckland, reports Louise Berwick**



Ben Burnett, 10.  
Ranked NZ 22.



Shakira Mirra, 11.  
Ranked NZ 6.



Summer Lucas, 15.  
Ranked NZ 2.

# Ride on! Watch out world

A group of Southlanders are excited about taking on the best in the world this month.

Fifteen riders from the Southland BMX Club take to the international stage for the world championships on a purpose-built track at the Vector Arena in Auckland from July 24 to 28.

The riders, who range from 9 to 42-years-old, have been training several times a week for the past few months. They secured entry to the event after impressive performances at the BMX National Championships in Cambridge in April.

The Southland hopefuls heading to Auckland include Ruby Laidlaw, 10, who is ranked No 1 in New Zealand for her division and Summer Lucas, 15, who has a national ranking of two.

Southland BMX Club president Ginge Burnett said having so many competitors at the world championships was a huge suc-

## BMX World Champs

**Where and when:** Vector Arena, Auckland, July 24-28.

**Southland contingent:** 15 riders will compete in various classes.

**Southland club president Ginge Burnett:** "It's going to be a once in a life time opportunity to represent New Zealand."

cess for the club, which has 70 members.

"The club is in really good heart at the moment, it's going from strength to strength," Burnett said.

He put the club's success down to a number of factors, but the parents were the driving force behind having such a large contingent travelling to the world championships, Burnett said.

Their support, encouragement and organisation had meant the group had been able to focus on training and become top riders in

their categories.

"There's just a good group of people helping at the club at the moment.

The club did not expect all its competitors to ride away with medals from the world championships, but the experience would be invaluable, he said.

The championships are expected to attract 4500 riders, officials, supporters and spectators.

"It's going to be a once in a life time opportunity to represent New Zealand in a sport," Burnett said.

## Starting gate to improve safety

By LOUISE BERWICK

Southland's BMX Club is looking forward to a welcome addition. The club is buying a new and portable starting gate for its Lime St headquarters. Club president Ginge Burnett said the gate would be a fantastic new addition and would improve the safety at the start line.

The gate would cost about \$22,000, but they had received

\$7000 in funding from the I.L.T.

The gate was essential to safety at the starting line because it could not crush riders if they went over the top, he said.

They hoped to have the gate in place in August, ready for the start of the BMX season in spring. It would be moveable so could be transferred if the club moved.