

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2005-2006

As Bike Taupo matures it may be harder to have the impact that we have had over the last four years. Some of the work we have done is just taken for granted now but we mustn't forget how much work went into getting some things up and running.

The 1.5 metre road safety signs went up the other day and it seemed to take Lisa just one email to get things going this year, not all the hours of running around and trying to get funding. The sign still works too, because within 3 days of them going up I had three people wanting to debate 1.5 metres with me. Of course debating what was wrong with it, but I went away happy as it had made its impact yet again. All publicity is good publicity. In fact our road safety campaign has been requested by two other districts in New Zealand, namely Hastings and Christchurch. So we may soon see "our" signs all over New Zealand.

We recently rode down the Rotary Ride to check out the summer maintenance program and where we need to improve the track. It only took two bike rides not days of work as in the past.

One important thing we need to always be mindful of is that all bikers protect what we have built up in the last few years. The financial statements for this year show the value of the tracks. This figure reflects what it has cost to build them not always in cash but still the true value. It also shows the value of the equipment that it takes to look after and build new tracks. We now have a steady income based not only on long term funding but also some smaller business support. Haven't we come a long way?

The gully tracks have been a highlight for me this year. It's been great to see the impact they have had not only for bikers but for walkers as well. That's what it's about, getting people out in the reserves and away from the roads enjoying nature and a bonus is breaking down the pea brained bike vs. walker argument. Walk Taupo has now formed and we have been instrumental in encouraging their formation.

We now have three gully tracks built in town with another one just about to be built. There are others we are working on and for as long as we get funding we will keep searching for potential to build more tracks in town. The turn out to Thomas and Lisa's Gully Treasure Hunt event shows how much interest there is in the gully tracks built to date. Opening up the culvert under the highway at Rainbow Point didn't happen, but we have the funding to hopefully get a safe crossing built on State Highway One in this vicinity.

Other highlights have been developing an even better relationship with DoC. We are now co-sharing tracks and making them more cycle friendly.

Recently we moved the Rotary Ride onto the DoC controlled Gun Club land which means the Rotary Ride is now solely on public land.

Membership is up to 1134 and the website has links to Taupo Mountain Bike Club and Taupo Cycling Club. So many people now keep up to date with goings on via our website.

W2K may seem as though its not been started however we are closer to the first spade of dirt being lifted than we were a year ago.

So even though we didn't achieve everything we set out to in the last year, we certainly continued to make an impact on our community by advocating for cycling.

This is my last term as Chairman so I want to take the opportunity to thank the many people who have helped over the last four years. The number of people and the way they have helped has been humbling.

It's been a lot of work but I hope you will all say that it's been worth it and we now have a much safer and more fun biking environment in Taupo than we ever had. We still have a lot to do but we are a long way down the road now.

Cheers,

Pete Masters
Chairman 2003 - 2006