

## CHAIRPERSON'S ANNUAL REPORT

**November 2009**

W2K was finished this year. It is proving very popular and it seems that bikers are slightly outnumbered by walkers. It was built to show that bikers and walkers can happily co-exist and I think it is doing that. A big thanks to the Taupo Half Marathon Trust who raised \$9600 from the half-marathon they ran on the track in September. All this money goes straight into track maintenance.

On 14 May 2009, the Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism, John Key, announced that the Budget would allocate \$50 million over three years for the New Zealand Cycleway Project. What originally was going to be a continuous cycleway from Cape Reinga to Bluff is now a series of 'great rides'. Bike Taupo is applying for funding to extend W2K to Waihaha. This will create a multi-day 100 km ride. We will find out in February 2010 if we have made it past the first hurdle.

A big thanks to Thomas for the great website. There is now a bike friendly accommodation section on the website. Wairakei Hotel has opened up access behind the hotel and will put money into a new track next year. More and more businesses are realising that biking is good for business.

Sometimes because of all the tracks that Bike Taupo builds and manages, people assume it is a mountain biking club. In fact we are a cycle advocacy group whose simple aim to get more people cycling. It has been a deliberate strategy to use the popularity of recreational and off-road cycling to encourage people to cycle in their everyday lives.

Unfortunately there has been a lot of cyclists getting killed and injured this year. Daily as cyclists we face danger on the roads. Bike Taupo has continued to work on urban cycling issues throughout the year and while progress has not been fast, things are slowly improving. The Urban Jungle sub-committee works on urban cycling issues. There is lots of work to be done so please talk to a committee member if you are interested or can help.

With the ETA getting closer to completion, there is a once in a lifetime opportunity to make Taupo the cycle friendly place we all want it to be. The council has a number of urban redesign projects in the pipeline. If we as cyclists want to take advantage of this opportunity we need to make our views and needs known to council. Please take the time to get involved by attending the meetings, talking to your councilors and making submissions to the plans. If we don't make ourselves heard we will miss out.

A big thank you to the committee, sub-committees, members, volunteers, contractors, sponsors and supporters. These people give up valuable cycling time and resources to make a Taupo a better and safer place to cycle.

**Richard Balm**  
**Chairperson**  
**Bike Taupo**