



Pedal Talk 35

Kia Ora

Welcome to another Pedal Talk, it seems like it's been forever since our last one and my humblest apologies. We do keep you all up to date on our Facebook page and website, so please make sure you are friends with us on Facebook.

You may notice that we have a new "Leader" in our midst with the side shift of Rowan onto the Committee and Pete Masters into the Chair position.

So, hoping you have all been enjoying winter so far, it's not too bad in Taupo as our tracks are fantastic year around. We recently had the Craters Classic race here (see the MTB club report) it was great to see all the people out and about and the track network rode amazing with just the right amount of traction, judging from all the happy people at prizегiving I think they agreed!



Last week we attended a presentation at the Department of Corrections for Bruce Jaine our Park Manager. Bruce was presented a Community Work Partnership Award in recognition of the fantastic job he does supervising the Corrections Workers out in Craters. We are very fortunate to have this partnership with Corrections which enables us to build more km's of track together with supporting the Community.

Our work is ongoing to fundraise and keep our vision moving forward.

We are so fortunate to have wonderful people and businesses who support us and we appreciate this so much, we are all so passionate about being out on our bikes and just want great safe places to ride. It has been a long-term project but the underpass planned for beneath the Thermal Explorer Highway (just across from Souvenir Outlet and Kefi at the Hub café) will be delivered next month to site, this is very exciting as it is the start

of our “Hub” concept in this area. We now just need to find more \$\$\$ for the “hole” to have it installed, so watch this space and check out Facebook for updates.

Enough from me, enjoy the reading and have a great day

Cheers, Melissa

admin@biketaupo.org.nz



Words of Wisdom from our Leader

We don't know how lucky we are here. It pours with rain in the morning and we go riding in the afternoon and we have a few puddles and no mud.

This Queens Birthday show cased our track systems winter riding with people from all over the North Island coming here to ride The trails were magic no matter which ones you were on.

There is lots going on in the back ground with Bike Taupo with new track building and also carrying on with the environmental work. This is mostly working in with Greening Taupo to improve the local area we ride in. We have received funding to start the bike expressway running from the top of the control gates to the Hub This will be a metal path on the grass verge alongside the new plantings. Other projects in the pipe line are changes to the start of W2K in Whakaipo Bay and in Kinloch, plus repairs at Kotukutuku end of the trail on Western bay.

Cath, the one and only staff member for Kids Bike Taupo, received a community award from Rotary. Cath is a star, I just couldn't do it, and going and watch her teach kids is an eye opener. To me a bike was our freedom machines from the age of 5 we could go anywhere we liked.

All members of Bike Taupo should get a thumbs up for supporting this program. When it started funding was the major issue but we still decided to give it a go and now look what has happened-more kids than ever riding. This year's summer series was proof.

Another process that's about to start is the review of the Taupo Biking and Walking Strategy. I know it sounds a bit dry, but this is how Bike Taupo came about and has also allowed the council to back us. It's important we hear your views so tell us what you think we can write it down.

We are in the process of renewing our access permit for Craters and hope to have that over the line in the next month. The Mountain bike community has come a long way in the last 12 years. This time round it was a breeze

to sit down with the land managers and sort out the future use of Craters. Lastly I would like to thank Len Malcolm who allowed us to have a night of memories at his expense The Mountain Bike Club put on an evening to thank him for his work. Not many people know that he also does a lot of work for Bike Taupo making sure all the event applications are not only in on time but that also post event reports are done. Len has also been representing the Mountain Bike club from day one regarding access to Craters Mountain Bike Park.

Cheers, Pete Masters

chair@biketaupo.org.nz

Kids Bike Taupo

We have \$5,400 funding to spend south of the lake, so happy to be getting back to Te Kura O Hirangi and Tongariro School again. I have been to Mangakino and have left them with 4 of our old BMX bikes and 4 unicycles. Andy Gray is a very keen teacher out there, so he is responsible for them and I will get them back if they aren't being used. Would love to help support them to get their old BMX Track up and running again. I went to Rangitaiki and enjoyed the wee mountain bike track that BT put in out there. Great little rural school.

I have been at Taupō Primary for 3 sessions with each junior class. I love being at their backfield on Horomatangi Street. It's right in town, so lots of people see us and the space is fantastic.

I took Ricky Biker to Brownies for some cycling and pre-road skills. The girls did wheelie well. In return, they gave Kids Bike Taupo a lovely koha...Kia Ora!! Even better though, they presented me with this 'Wheelie' badge.

Thank you very much to Nicole and the whole troop. You made my day. It was about 45 years ago that I was a Brownie and I don't remember getting a Wheelie badge, will sew it onto my cap and treasure it forever!



Monday BMX

The BMX Club is doing some maintenance, so we are having a break until probably Term 3. I have been getting help from the guys from REAP Male Mentoring. They bring much needed male mana and the boys that were giving me a bit of trouble have been staying away. I have let some of the younger ones return and they have been great.

Community Bike Shed

We have the keys and the recycled bikes and gear have been moved from our garage and the lockup at the Stadium to Spa Venture Park, behind Nuki's Gym. I was at the last Night Market and gave away quite a few bikes and received \$45 in koha for my efforts. I'm not sure how it will work yet, but hope to find a few energetic people with time to fix up some and we can pass them on. If anyone has time/energy/bits to help kick this baby off, please contact me.

Rotary Community Service Award

Phil and I were very humbled to be recognised by the Lake Taupo Rotary. Phil was very uncomfortable, but without him the programme would not run. Behind every good woman is a bike mechanic in the garage!!

Cath Oldfield - Kids BT co-ordinator

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Track Crew News

Huka Trails

The tracks are still in really good condition with a high number of users on them. The track crew are currently undertaking water control work to ensure repair work following these weather bombs that we seem to be receiving is kept to a minimum.

Future capital work planned currently would be looking to replace the Ladder Bridge with one similar to Paddy's Bridge and then relocating the existing one up onto the Gully Track being built in Craters MTB Park.

A meeting has also been had between Bike Taupo, Taupo District Council and DOC regarding comprehensive maps for this trail system – watch this space !

Craters MTB Park

We have been fortunate over the last couple of months with the minimum damage caused by the extreme weather but also need to acknowledge what a good job our track crew are doing in not only maintaining the tracks but also building them.

Construction of the Gully Track is well underway with just under approximately 3km built currently. Completion will be on or before 27 November and so all those considering doing the Huka this year, get prepared for another change to the course layout. On that note, we advise that the roading required to log the pines in the Steamfields track area is still planned for July/August and so make sure you plan some rides in there before that time.

Great Lake Trail

As advised on our Facebook page, there have been a couple of reasonably sized slips on the GLT, one at Kotukutuku and one on the W2K. Both slips are open but obviously care needed when going through these areas. Funding has been approved for these repairs and the works will be undertaken when conditions permit. The W2K slip is currently too wet to clear.

We have also received funding to improve the track along the Kinloch lakeshore, to realign the track up from Whakaipo Bay and to add to the signage on the trails.

Taupo Mountain Bike Club



It's been a busy time at the mountain Bike Club, with lots of races, awesome results and a few celebrations as well!

We started the year with the **Pack & Pedal Summer Series** which was a huge success with well over 150 local riders turning out weekly to ride. This year we added E-Bike to our series. This is a growing area in Mountain Biking and we want to include E-Bikes in as many events as we can. Thanks to the riders that took in this inaugural adventure with us! We have also been impressed with the huge growth in the junior section with around 50 juniors taking on the Tourist Trap categories each week. With the encouragement of Dave Shaw, we had around 10 older juniors take on the short course for the first time. We started them at the back in a group, so that they would not be pressured by more experienced riders. They all did very well and had no problems at all, some even passing a few towards the end of the series. It is so great to see the confidence and skills growing each week! Thanks to all parents who bring your children out for this series. It is great to see kids having so much fun on bikes!

Craters Classic was held last week, and if there was any proof needed that cross-country riding is alive and well – we certainly got it! We had a huge field of 600+ riders take part, and from an organiser view point, all went to plan! Nduro events managed this event for the club, and they ran an awesome event with all riders and spectators having a great day out. We are fortunate that our local companies and communities are supportive of our events.

In May, The Club held a surprise “This is your Life” night for Len Malcolm to celebrate his 27 years involvement with Taupo MTB Club. The night was a huge success with many stories and tales shared! Len was surprised and thrilled with his special night. Thank you to our guest speakers and to the awesome MC Matt Jensen for creating such a great night out.



Our **Night series** is starting on the 6th July. This is run from Craters Carpark and runs for 6 weeks. If riding in the night ticks your boxes, strap on your night lights and come on out – we would love to see you! We also have our weekly social ride from the Crafty Trout each Thursday night, so if a bit of practice is required, feel free to join us. We cater for all riders and like to catch up after for a debrief and refreshments.

The **AGM** is fast approaching. Please think about adding your skills to our awesome committee, we would really enjoy some new folks to add some new ideas and to help us to cement in some great events in the region. We have a new treasurer taking over from Len – Shaz Bishop – who is a very enthusiastic rider and very capable accounts lady! If you have something to offer the club, or you would like to show your appreciation for what we do, please get in touch with me for a free quote – with no obligation!!

The Gambler is set for 17 September and we are looking forward to this family orientated teams racing event. This is a time where you can race as a family, work team or even as an individual. There is 4 tracks to choose from, so you choose which track suits your riding ability. We are looking for an Event Director for this, so if you want to take this awesome event on, please get in touch and we can get this awesome event pumping!

For more info, you can either head to our website www.mountainbiketaupo.org.nz or our Facebook page [Taupo Mountain Bike Club](#) or phone Lynette on [0277529479](tel:0277529479)

Happy riding everyone,

Lynette and the team from Taupo Mountain Bike Club

Taupo Cycle Challenge Announcement

The team at the Lake Taupo Cycle Challenge have created a special incentive for locals to get on their bikes and take part in the region's largest annual sporting occasion.

This idea has come directly from looking at ways in which the event can be better, and one area the team are super keen to focus on this year is to make the event appealing and affordable to the locals, and to have them getting on their bikes on event day.

Entries for this year's Lake Taupo Cycle Challenge are now open, and for the months of June and July, any local who enters one of the 13 categories on offer will receive another entry to the same or lesser value absolutely **free - that's effectively a 50% discount off each entry.**

With June and July also being the months where early bird entry fees apply, it's a double whammy savings opportunity for locals.

When you make your online entry at www.cyclechallenge.com, it'll recognise you as a local by your postcode and will apply the free entry discount at the end of your transaction.

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