



**Welcome to another edition of Pedal Talk from Bike Taupo  
Issue #29**

**Kia Ora**

Welcome to a special edition of the Bike Taupo Pedal Talk. Don't you love this time of year when the weather is improving (?) the beautiful Lake Taupo is looking stunning and warm enough to swim in (?) and Christmas is just around the corner! At least we can always be sure that we can ride our bikes, the mountain bike tracks are riding awesome and if all else fails, there is always the road, especially now the magpies have chilled out!



Firstly would just like to take this opportunity to wish all you wonderful people out there doing the Cycle Challenge in whatever shape or form, all the very best of luck for the day. Its such a celebration of cycling for the Taupo region and its always great to see people with bikes all over town. Enjoy your day and take advantage of everything Taupo has to offer while you are here. If you are a mountain biking visitor coming to ride the Huka, it would be a great opportunity for you to whip into a local bike shop and grab your Bike Taupo membership while you are here. For visitors over the Cycle Challenge weekend, we are offering the chance to grab your annual membership tag over this weekend before the membership kicks in on December 1st.



Yes, its back, check out the Big Bike, back in location and looking pretty groovy!!

**2016 Bike Taupo Membership**

Well people, it is that time of the year again. It has been a great year for Bike Taupo and your membership and support has gone a long way to making this successful. I am sure you will agree that loads of progress has been made out on the

tracks and we are soooo lucky to have this on our doorsteps so close to town.

The purple annual tags will expire from **1st January 2016**. New tags for 2016 will be available from **1st December** online and at all the local bike shops and the Hub Cafe, big THANKS to Tony at Taupo Key & Lock for sponsoring these again. Annual membership fees are the same as the previous years of \$40 for an individual adult, \$60 for a family (parents and children under 18), child/youth (aged 5 to 17) \$5 and under 5's are free. Visitors remain as \$10 for 7 days. Please note that you have the option of also joining the Taupo Mountain Bike Club on your form, this does not cost you any extra and Bike Taupo supports the Mountain Bike Club with \$20 of the family sub and \$15 of the adult sub. This is to ensure that the Mountain Bike Club also has a current membership to continue hosting their great race calendar.

Bike Taupo is now in its 3rd year for memberships and as mentioned we greatly appreciate your support. This year we will be ensuring you are tagged up on your bikes in Craters with random checks throughout the Park and now expect that everybody should have a tag or not be in there. If you have your membership, check your mates bike before you ride to make sure they do too. If you have any queries in regards to our memberships you can drop us an email. I look forward to seeing all the bikes out there sporting the cool new tags for 2016 :) Cheers  
Melissa. admin@biketaupo.org.nz

### **Photo competition winner**

Winner of this photo caption was Sarah Drinnan. Sarah receives a GLT tee shirt for this caption:

**"Bike induced soprano"**

Runner up was Dave Nicol with:-  
a little less cocky"

"Joes second accident left him feeling



### **Bike Demo Day**

**Great opportunity while you are in town for the Cycle Challenge to try out a range**

**of the latest mountain bikes from Specialised, Giant and Trek.**

**9am to 4pm on the Thermal Explorer Highway**

**Sunday 29th November**

## **Words of Wisdom - from our leader**

I looked out of my office window today (not my Bike Taupo office as that one does not have windows, just two wheels and an awesome view) i saw one of the local cafe's advertising deals for MAMIL's (for those who don't know that stands for Middle Aged Men In Lycra). So yes it is cycle challenge week again where it seems that every year more and more of the town gets behind the event and biking. I have certainly noticed this outside of the event period too, as more and more businesses are getting behind Bike Taupo and Biking as they see the value financially, socially and environmentally that it adds to the town. Taupo is big on events, it has a beautiful lake and some amazing landscapes to



explore. Biking complements these things perfectly and is a great fit for Taupo, which is why so many people come here to do it. The support that we get from businesses and the wider community has meant that there is a strong and growing platform for Bike Taupo to keep on building cycling infrastructure around town, i won't say it is easy but it is comforting to know that there is a lot of positive and active support for what we do. As most of you will be aware, this is also down to the hard work that is put in by committee members, our track crew, admin and kids bike Taupo people. They do a fantastic job volunteering their time to keep Bike Taupo moving forward. It is a good time to remind people that we have our AGM next Feb (yes I know it is November but February will come round very quickly) and we are once again looking for people to put their hands up and join us on the committee. While it does come with some expectations of doing your bit when you can, it is also very rewarding being part of an organisation that is constantly moving forward. This is also my last term as Chairperson so we are looking for someone to put their hand up and step up into the Chair role. For me, my last three years as Chair have been personally rewarding and it has been a great experience to work on some amazing projects with the positive, proactive and progressive Bike Taupo team, i would recommended it to anyone who wants to work with a great team and make a real difference.

But for all of you on road bikes, mountain bikes, kids bikes, fixies, recumbents, unicycles, dunga ten speeds, single speeds, tandems going around the lake, along the foreshore around the tracks or just coming to watch, welcome and good luck. And don't forget to come back and ride any time you want.

***"Life may not be about your bike, but it sure can help you get through it." ~ Hallman***



## Track Crew News

Paddy's Bridge has now been completed, big Thanks to the Lion Foundation, the bridge looks and rides great with some work also completed on the Huka Lodge downhill.

Check out how we are making life easier for you on the bungy track! This section of track below the Bungy has been a congestion point on the Huka event, both in terms of bike traffic and in the competitor's lungs!

Greening Taupo has planted 3100 trees; 900 of which have been for Bike Taupo in the Huka Trails. The trees that have been planted along the Rotary Ride over the last few years are well established now and adding to the look of the areas they have been planted in. Greening Taupo is readying the area around Paddy's Bridge to be planted in the winter of 2016.

Marker bikes at the trailheads will be going in at Spa Park and Control Gates this week along with a bike squeeze at Huka Jet flats. Work has also begun on the bottom section of the bungy track courtesy of funding from the Taupo Rotary Club. This total upgrade of the track will be done in stages with the first part to be completed by the Huka event to be held at the end of this month.





### Craters

The tracks out at the JEWEL are riding great. The improvements that have been made are all packing down nicely and the spraying is well under control. The value of the Public Detention (P.D.) crews in increasing work outputs is really starting to show in the state of the tracks.

### GLT

A maintenance crew will be heading out to the Waihaha section soon to fix some track damage and replace the map in the shelter. Other than this minor maintenance, the tracks are in good condition.

There seem to be more riders than usual across all of the tracks. In particular, there was a steady flow of traffic on the Rotary Ride while Paddy's Bridge was being installed, many of who were on hire bikes.



### Track Crew Contact Details

Email [trackcrew@biketaupo.org.nz](mailto:trackcrew@biketaupo.org.nz)

More info: <http://www.biketaupo.org.nz/news/track-crew>



two vans on the road at this time of the year.

Kids Bike Taupō is as busy as ever. We could have

We are so booked for Term 4 that some schools are taking ownership of biking and doing their own sessions, with Kids Bike Taupō lending bikes and helmets. It's fantastic to see parents and teachers realise that they can do this themselves. Kuratau School did the Tongariro River and Waihaha section of the GLT themselves with a few of our bikes. Thank you to Rowan and Marion for taking Bertha to St Pats while Cath was away. This is another example of a school doing it for themselves. I hear that a pre school had a trip to the Spark Trails too. Term 1 for 2016 is mostly booked too, so groups might find they can run more of their own adventures.

Carla from Alterno Foundation came to Waitahanui Kohanga and Kura and helped us out. We have heard since that they are funding \$12,000 for new bikes, maintenance and contractor costs. Many thanks. They will watch how we use this money to see how they can support us in the future. We will use the bike money to get little 18" BMX bikes for the under 10 years. These bikes don't break so easily so maintenance is minimal and the kids want to ride them. There will also be some tiny bikes for early childhood and juniors.

The BMX Club had the North Island Champs at Labour weekend, so the Ratbags hadn't been at the track for a while. We have been enjoying the Spark Trails at Spa Park. More adults seem to come along with their kids to Spa Park and the feedback has been great, so we will continue this on Tuesdays now that we are back at BMX on Mondays. It certainly adds a new dimension to biking. 3.30pm to 5pm both days.

Cath went to lunch at the RSA with the Pakeke Lions guys last week. She had about 30 men all to herself! The point was made that the Lions Walk is a huge asset to the community and encourages people to ride.

Cath has also been to prison and has taken Phil Simpson, her trusty bike mechanic, too. There are a couple of guys at Tongariro Working Prison who are refurbishing the bikes from the Turangi Police. These



are the bikes that have not been claimed. They fix them up wanted to know how to redistribute them to the community. Someone had heard of Kids Bike Taupo, and invited us behind the wire to see how we could help each other. What a fantastic initiative and the guys were so proud of their work. Phil will go back and do more time with them so they learn more skills. They want more bikes and want the ones they have fixed up to go to good homes. The Bluelight Camp at Wairakei has storage and has taken a few. The guys will help with the maintenance of the bikes at Tongariro School too. They do not have much in the way of tools or even puncture repair kits. If anyone has gear/tools/bikes they need to rehome, then please contact Cath and she can pass them onto the prison.

At Cycle Challenge we will be in the Domain on the Saturday with the Bike NZ wooden portable pump track and our gear/bikes too. Come and see us between 12 noon and 6pm.



We have been asked to be in the Christmas Parade again on 5 December. Sandy Turner is keen to do it again. Her boys loved it last year.

There has been some talk about a community bike shed. If we could have free, long term access to a large shed we might be able to develop a place for people to come and learn how to do basic repairs on their own bikes. Maybe we could have a pool of recycled bikes for people to fix. We see lots of bikes being unused simply because they have a flat tyre. It could be a place for young people to learn basic bike

maintenance. There's no harm in putting the thought out there.

Thank you to everyone for their support over 2015 and looking forward to another year

Cath Oldfield, KBT Coordinator [027 280 4005](tel:0272804005)

[kids@biketaupo.org.nz](mailto:kids@biketaupo.org.nz)

## Taupo Mountain Bike Club

Well, it's been another busy month with the mountain bike club.

First and foremost, a huge shout out to Len Malcolm who took out the "Services to Sport award" at this year's Taupo District Sports Awards. Len is the current treasurer and valued member of mountain bike club. 28 years' service to mountain biking, well done and thank you Len!

On the social scene, Gina and her trusty socialites went on a fantastic day out shuttling in Rotorua earlier this month. From all accounts everyone was well behaved with only a couple of minor bumps and scrapes reported. A huge amount of fun was had and serious interest on when the next event will be held. Great work Gina! Keep an eye on the Taupo Mountain Bike Website and face book for details of the next edition.

The Thursday night social rides are currently being well supported with good turnout each Thursday night starting at the Crafty Trout at 6pm.

The Huka challenge is just around the corner with only a couple of sleeps left, so good luck to all that are competing and those that take my training approach, it's going to be a case of true survival! See you out there.





Keep an eye out on the Taupo mountain Bike web site and face book for updates on races and social rides.

Cheers Mat

### The Cranky Divas

Calling all women riders of all levels!!



We generally meet fortnightly on Sundays for social rides and a coffee debrief after! All levels are very welcome and catered for. We often also discuss bike set up, riding technique and other things on the rides. Best to check out the Facebook page Cranky Divas - Taupo MTB Group for where and when.



[www.mountainbiketaupo.org.nz](http://www.mountainbiketaupo.org.nz)

# Taupo Cycling Club

Taupo Cycling Club provides activities for cycling enthusiasts.

The club was the major driving force behind the building of the local cycling velodrome. This project was supported by the community, through various fund raising activities.

The goal of the club is to encourage & develop the sport of cycling, through organised activities.

As well as organising weekly rides like the Sunday Morning Social Ride, Tuesday Night Racing and Skills Session or Racing at the Velodrome, the club encourages entry into a variety of local, regional and international cycling events and you can check out the event calendar to find out more.

Keep up to date with everything cycling in the Lake Taupo region by subscribing to our eNewsletter, liking us on Facebook or checking out our Latest News page. Get in touch with Taupo Cycling Club to find out more!



Any questions please e-mail [secretary@taupocyclingclub.org.nz](mailto:secretary@taupocyclingclub.org.nz) or [barry@dbcon.co.nz](mailto:barry@dbcon.co.nz)



More Info: <http://www.taupocyclingclub.org.nz/sun-morning-rides.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/taupocyclingclub>



## Whakaipo Lodge Concert

Whakaipo Lodge Summer Concert: Saturday 27th February 2016 4-7pm

The Andrew London Trio are back by popular demand with special guest artists and a new album of whimsical songs. Themes run the gamut from rugby fans, driving habits, youth culture, male insecurities, pretentious socialites and other issues of concern to the average, middle-class, Antipodean baby-boomer.

Fundraising once again for Bike Taupo & Kids Bike Taupo so come along, have a great afternoon and support a very worthy cause. Limited ticket sales.

Tickets: \$30 Adult, \$10 Children. Buy now only on EVENTFINDA. <http://www.eventfinda.co.nz/2016/whakaipo-lodge-summer-concert/taupo>



## DOC Summer Programme

***Showcasing, celebrating and acknowledging all things conservation, Mahi Aroha brings together the Central Plateau's stunning natural and historical treasures in an exciting summer programme.***

Mahi Aroha is a joint initiative between the Department of Conservation and Project Tongariro. It offers you exclusive opportunities to explore our local flora and fauna, landscapes, cultural and historical sites and creatures.

Learn about the conservation efforts currently underway in our area and what you can do to help. Meet the people working tirelessly to ensure our very own piece of paradise remains intact for future generations. Be inspired to lend a hand.

Bring the kids, grab a friend and explore your backyard like never before. This is our place, let's protect it, nourish it and hold onto it. Check out the event calendar here :<http://www.doc.govt.nz/mahiaroha>

**Thursday 14 January 2016** | Mountain biking. Explore the fringes of the Mohaka River and Poronui Station like never before.

**Sunday 17 January 2016** | Mountain biking. Experience the newest sections of the Great Lake Trail, guided by the people who built the track.(that's us!!!)



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