



**Welcome to another edition of Pedal Talk from Bike Taupo
Issue #25**

Kia Ora

Fellow crank pushes, hope you are all enjoying the last of our daylight saving hours and plan to do plenty of "carbo loading" on the good old hot cross buns this weekend, gotta love those!!

Never mind that we didnt do so well on the cricket front, that was way too boring in comparison to what was going on over in Rotovegas at Crankworx, what a fun time that seemed to be, unfortunately I didnt get to spectate there personally but did view some highlights on TV. Fantastic showcase of mountain biking for New Zealand. Destination Great Lake Taupo had a tent up on site promoting our wonderful region, read on for the blurb below.

Construction is beginning this week on "Scraggs" track with what will include our awesome HukaFalls jet wave ride, photo to the right is the concept we are hoping to achieve, with our own little spin on it. So watch this space for updates so you can get out there and give it a go. Think the boys are planning a bit of a "wall" to ride up complete



with markers to see how high you can go, could be interesting especially for those "competitive" types!!

We also have our new long awaited Craters Mountain Bike Park trail maps out in the bike shops now, these are all up to date with steamfields etc included. You can purchase these for \$5 at any bike shop in town, Hub cafe and online at our website.

After our AGM recently we have had a few changes to our committee, I will endeavour to get a photo for you at our next meeting so you can check out how handsome we all are :) (wont include the track crew as they are a bit dodgy)

Cheers, Melissa

Track Crew News

Eastern Tracks



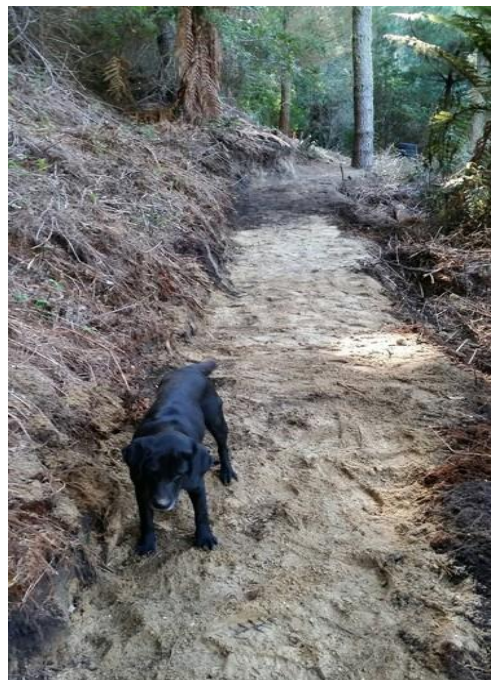
Preparation for this winters' planting along the Rotary Ride (RR) has begun. This will be funded by DOC through the \$10,000 tree fund and includes killing the last stands of pine trees on Totara Gut and the RR. The strike rate from last year's plantings has been good and the crew have just done a release spray on the side of the RR. The RR has also been given a birthday from Paddy's Bridge to the Huka Falls.

The crew is looking at realigning the track around Taylors Bluff to ease the grade out and reduce the need for maintenance. This will be about a weeks worth of work for two guys and a PD crew day or two and will be done nearer winter.

Craters

The crew has been undertaking general ongoing maintenance but for the most part the tracks are okay. There is some minor track damage in the exposed areas from the heavy rainfalls but that is unavoidable until the trees mature. Work has begun on Buddha and the new Easy Grinder track with the use of a PD crew. Walters Wiggles has also received a little TLC.

The new Wave ride structure is coming soon and will be built by Chad, Bruce and PD. This structure is funded from the money raised through



Huka Jet's locals' day. There are also plans for other structures using surplus timber we have in store such as log rides, rock walls and see-saws.

Working also on a "easy Grinder" (see photo of management checking it out for holes) this will be an easier gradient as an option to Grinder (puff puff) great for those who don't like to climb but love the downhills.....can name a few of those!!

Track Crew Contact Details

Email trackcrew@biketaupo.org.nz

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

March has been a huge month for Kids Bike Taupō. Beginning with IronKidz on Sunday 1 March, there have only been four days that there hasn't been a KBT session somewhere in the district. A very big thank you to the people who have helped out at these sessions, especially with the loading and unloading of Bertha.



We have had some lovely donations this month too. Thank you very much.

\$700 from IronKidz.

\$786 from Whakaipo Lodge's Summer Concert.

\$100 from Accent on Taupō Motel.

\$100 from Kids Safety course with Brendon from Huka Cycles.

\$1,000 from 100% Lake Taupō Charitable Trust.

Cath had dinner with Taupo Moana Rotary on Monday 30 March. Without them, the programme would not be running. It was a very good evening and we all learnt a bit of what we do in the community.

The Moe Show filming was amazing. The devil is in the details! It was fascinating to

see how a show is recorded. You will have to wait until August to see the finished product. The kids were very entertaining, and patient. It was a long, long day for them. The big story of the day was that we lost one child on the Kids' Track! He decided to head off on a ride all by himself. It took us 2 hours to find him, and we have learned that we cannot assume that everyone will ride around in a circle.

The Cycle Safety evenings at Craters with Brendon from Huka Cycles were great fun. The parents were listening and riding and learning as well. I think we saw most of these kids at the St Pats Monster MTB Ride on Sunday 22 March too. That was a huge day, and although these kids all had bikes of their own, we would like to think that the numbers riding is a reflection of the KBT programme reaching so many kids in the district.

In contrast, KBT was at the south end of the lake for the Kuratau School Triathlon and the Turangi Tri as well. Kuratau School also used KBT to do an adventure up the Tongariro River to the National Trout Centre and for a day riding with their juniors at school.

Bertha was at Hilltop School and also at their Year 5/6 camp at Whakaipo Bay. Hilltop was also the venue for a TDC Our Neighbourhood evening. The reserve next to the school has excellent hills for blatting down and the kids are learning to stay in control, or not! The grass is particularly fun when it's wet.

Te Kura O Waitahanui is a great partnership with KBT. We have a great time out there. The tracks along Te Awa are gorgeous, but we always get a few blackberry punctures. We even rode along the beach one glorious afternoon and then practised skipping stones across the river and make 'duck farts'. Very educational. KBT also attended the Our Neighbourhood Series at Waitahanui.

We went to the Mangakino Our Neighbourhood and Rangitira Park. Tauhara Primary Gala was a slice of Kiwi culture for a visiting American who came to help us. She also enjoyed Random Ratbags BMX and the kids fell in love with her, probably because they thought she would take them back to Hollywood. These Monday afternoons at BMX are crazy. We estimate there are up to 60 kids there on a nice day. With more adults and whanau coming along for a look too. It is fantastic having these people step in and offer a hand.

Mountview Primary School is making good use of the KBT Programme. We are at the school regularly and also have had a Craters adventure. We were at the Pump Track and Spark Trails in Spa Park with the juniors and the Rumaki, their Maori immersion unit. Once the adults relaxed, it was incredible how many little guys rode over those dirt jumps. A Taupō Nui A Tia PE class joined us. How many towns have their schools doing dirt jumping in school time? We are so lucky.

There is the usual TDC After School Programme session on a Thursday and all the school visits too. We rode regularly with St Pats, Mountview, Kuratau, Tauhara Primary, Hilltop, ADDI and Waitahanui. The school holidays are usually a bit quieter, but we have five holiday programme sessions booked. In Term 2 there are not many spaces left and we want to focus on the juniors, so we can get all kids riding on two

wheels early. We even have a Spa Park adventure booked with a small Hawkes Bay school.

There are a couple of local schools who do not seem to want to use the KBT programme, which is fine. It is better to work with the willing and make a difference with the kids lucky enough to get the opportunity.

We could have 3 vans out there, and all be busy. The Kids Bike Taupō Programme is successful because we bring bikes that work to kids. The schools just have to book the time and an adventure and get the kids there. It is free and fun and rewarding. So long as we can keep the funding flowing, we will keep on rolling.

Kia Ora,

Cath Oldfield

KBT Coordinator

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Taupo Mountain Bike Club



The final round of the Pack and Pedal & Huka cycles Summer series was a ripper!! The sun was shining The tracks were in mint condition and 180 or more turned out for a fun filled evening, with dozens of spot prizes being handed out courtesy of our generous sponsors Pack and Pedal, Huka Cycles & the Hits 96.8. What was really pleasing was the amount of kids that turned up week in and week out, a big thanks to the parents for taking the time to bring them out.

A big thanks to our volunteers for turning up every week, for 10 weeks, you guys rock.

Junior Development

The Junior development group has been selected. Due to the quality of applicants we have increased the group from 10 riders to a wider group of 15, Carwyn May held the 1st skills training camp which was really well received, We will be entering the team into the Nduro winter series, The Craters Multi lap race "The Gambler" which is on the 9th May at the Craters. The junior development has many activities planned with social rides planned for Rotorua later next week, & rides such as the River Trails, Timber trails as well Skills training camps involving Bike set up , Nutrition, Race preparation. The outcome of being in the squad is having our juniors standing on the top step of the national podium, Watch this space.

The Gambler Multi Lap race 9th May 2015

Pack & Pedal & Giant Bicycles are proud to present “The Gambler” Formerly the clover points race This is a very unique fun 4 hour event, that caters for individuals teams & families, The race is made up of 4 different tracks ranging from 3 km – 12km

Each team or individual will receive varying points for each of the 4 trails completed over the 4 hour period, The team or person with the most points at the end is the champion, The name The Gambler reflects the strategy required to win the event, Last year the winner was not necessarily the fastest rider & they certainly did not ride the furthest distance, Their race strategy was the smartest.

So get your team together, On Line entries will Open
Thursday 9th April

Oxfam

The club once again helped out with this year’s Oxfam trail walk, a big thanks to all our volunteers that helped out to make this year’s event another fantastic success. The organisers have commented on the good job and service that we provide.

NZMTB XC & DH Nationals

These events were held in February Great to have hosted NZ s elite along with the large contingent of local riders filling up the podium in the age group categories. Some really close racing entertained the hundreds of spectators with Sam Gaze & Dirk Peters battling it out in the Mens Elite, Whilst Katie Fluker & Karen Hanlen were separated by seconds at the chequered flag in the women’s elite. A big shout out to Bruce Jaine & Bike Taupo for adding in those awesome technical rock garden and log sections, these obstacles certainly added some spice to the event. Gratifying to have many riders from all over the country commenting that the Taupo round was one of the best with great tracks and great hospitality.



Taupo Cycling Club

Tuesday 31st March was the last race of the season, the club put on a fun team race with a bbq, drinks and a small prizegiving. Check out there website for final placings.

As the racing Season comes to an end the club is keen to get a slower bunch ride going on Sundays. The first will be this Sunday at 9:00am meeting at Farmers with coffee after. The aim for the first ride (as it will be most weeks) is to complete a ride of 40 – 50k, reasonably flat, no racing, and no one is left behind. We will either wait for any member that is having a hard day or the better riders will double back or do the hill again. Barry looks forward to seeing you at 9:00am. You can contact Barry at barry@dbcon.co.nz



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

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

Great night out at the movies

Introducing- The BIG Bike Film Night



Dear outdoor movie lovers,

After the successful screening of the Big Bike Film, part of the exciting Rotorua Bike Festival last month, Liquid Events is thrilled to announce that it will be hitting the road to Taupo. It's all about celebrating cycling in all of its various shapes and forms; and on Thursday 23rd April at 7:45pm will see us hosting a screening at Starlight Cinema for a very special cause. We're proud to support the campaign to raise funds for the

repair of Taupo's Giant Bike; and proceeds from ticket sales will help go towards bringing back the Bike icon.

What is the Big Bike Film Night all about? As the Curator and an avid bike enthusiast I've sought out movies that are educational, entertaining and most importantly of all inspiring. The collection of short movies has everything an audience could want- action, drama, plenty of humour and even a hint of romance, making you want to fall in love with your bike all over again.

Comments from the Rotorua audience include:-

- "Fave was the one with the raaad dude exploring Kyrgyzstan- with 360 degrees of radness. Nice combination of adventure and fun. "
- "...my favourite movie was the Bike builder, he really sold me on owning a hand built bike. The soul of a custom made bike."
- It was very similar format to BANFF Film Festival. All the movies were excellent & interesting."

I know the local bike enthusiasts will come along to this Film Night. There is something here for everyone and we are screening ten short bike orientated movies over a 1 ½ hour period... ten, like the classic 10 speed bike.

The programme of films being shown is below. Trailers of the movies will be added to our Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/bigbikefilmnight>

Tickets are \$15.00, available from Starlight Cinema, and we will be having several spot prizes up for draw on the night.

A rip-snorting tribute to the humble bike

Wetness

Canada, Director | Coastal Crew, Length: 2 minutes

Classification: General

The only thing you hear going down the trail is your bike, you're tuned into every sound it makes. One of the most satisfying things is a tire pattering down the trail, squashing muck, sliding over roots and smashing puddles.

Wheelin'

USA, Director | JD Schuyler, Jason Drake, Luke Tate, and Jeremy Albert, Length: 6 minutes

Classification: General

Steve Carter is riding his high wheel (penne farthing) with grace.

Havana Bikes

Cuba, Directors | Ian Clark and Diego Vivanco, Length: 5 minutes

Classification: General

SUBTITLES

Ángel, a typical bike riding Habanero (hot blooded Latino), provides a brief insight into Cuban bicycle culture and the importance of bike mechanics in the capital as we come across both riders and repairmen.

Carlo Carlà - La Bicicletta

Italy, Directors | Bob Capone, Gianni and Marco Mazzotta, Length: 7 minutes

Classification: General

SUBTITLES

An intimate and moving portrait of the Italian frame builder Carlo Carlà, maybe the last frame builder in South Italy.

Liv Beyond: Shannon Galpin and the Afghanistan Women's Cycling Team

USA, Director | Sarah Menzies, Length: 7 minutes

Classification: Mature

Afghanistan is one of the most challenging places in the world to be a woman. Shannon Galpin, a 2013 National Geographic Adventurer of the Year and her non-profit organization support the Afghan National Women's Cycling

10 Things Every Mountain Biker Should Have Done

Switzerland, Director | Tom Malecha, Length: 5 minutes

Classification: General

A short compilation of experiences made by Tom on his bike during the past three years he found worth sharing.

How to make a sick Mountain Bike edit

Canada, Director | Director | Matt Dennison, Length: 4 minutes

Classification: General

You might know how to make a mountain bike film but do you know how to make a sick edit?

Flow

USA, Director | , Length: 3 minutes

Classification: General

Geophysicist Rex Flake on a high-adrenaline mountain bike ride through the Cascade Mountains as he identifies the flora, fauna, and geology of this cinematic region and explains how all these individual elements come together to create the experience of 'Flow'.

RAP BATTLE: Mountain Biker VS Road Biker

Canada, Director | Matt Dennison, Length: 3 minutes

Classification- Mature- coarse language and adult themes

Finally, the ultimate decider between the two biggest rivals in the cycling world has arrived.

Haute Route

Switzerland, Director | Tom Malecha, Length: 16 minutes

Classification: General

SUBTITLES

Two friends set out to ride the world's most famous ski tour between Chamonix, France to Zermatt, Switzerland- on their mountain bikes. Their story is about exhaustion, glaciers and big challenges of an unexpected kind.

The Road from Karakol

Kyrgyzstan, Director | Fitz Cahall, Length: 26 minutes

Classification: Parental Guidance- nudity

In the summer of 2011, alpinist Kyle Dempster set out across Kyrgyzstan's back roads on his bike. His goal - ride across the country via old Soviet roads while climbing as many of the country's impressive peaks as possible. The Road from

Bay2Bay Easter Special - Waihaha/Waihora



Chris Jolly outdoors is offering **15% discount** on Bay2Bay for Bike Taupo and Taupo Mountain Bike club members this Easter.

There is limited space left on the 3.00pm on Friday.

Saturday and Sunday the scheduled pickups are 1.30pm and 3.00pm.

Please call CJO on 07 3780623 or bookings@chrisjolly.co.nz.

Crankworx 2015

Round 1 of the world's biggest mountain bike tour has finished, but the success of Crankworx Rotorua still lingers.

Thousands over the last five days have watched the best mountain bike athletes in the world tackle the slopes at the Skyline Rotorua Gravity Park and through the Redwood Forest.

Event director Tak Mutu said he's had positive feedback from athletes and spectators alike. "The athletes have loved it. Those guys are buzzing. Every athlete I've spoken to, and I've spoken to a couple of hundred so far, have all said they want to come back next year," Mr Mutu said.

"They're loving the tracks here in Rotorua, the dirt, the type of trails, how the trails are so good for a pro and are also really good for a novice. And the amount of trails we have here, just the sheer volume."





"They've also loved the crowd here at Crankworx, how supportive they've been - definitely a lot of locals but we do have a strong contingent of international visitors, a lot from Australia and some from North America who have just come over for Crankworx."

Mr Mutu said the event was also being praised for how accessible it was. "[Speaking to athletes] they've said that every Enduro race should be spectator friendly like we have it. It was awesome,

tonnes of people watching which doesn't usually happen because Enduro races were so remote. Sam Blenkinsop said the downhill race was massive and the Enduro race felt like a world cup event," he said.

Other professionals heaped accolades on the course, according to specialist mountain bike website Spoke Magazine.

"The track is incredible. It would be suitable for a World Cup event and I think a lot of the riders will be saying it's one of their favourites. I hope in the next few years it will be used for a World Cup," British racing specialist Rachel Atherton said,



"The vibe here is awesome," British professional racer

Brendan Fairclough said.



Mr Mutu said overall they were very satisfied how everything went. "It's a first-year event and it has well exceeded the expectations. Our door sales are yet to be tabulated but on our website alone we have had 5000 tickets sold. The exhibitors are also all happy with many of them almost selling out."

The event had 120 volunteers who worked "tirelessly" to help things run smoothly.

Mr Mutu said there were plans with Skyline to recognise their effort. "We couldn't have done it without them. We had a few pull out so [others] did double the duty and they were amazing. We probably had 120 of the 200-odd applied working and they were phenomenal."

Crankworx signed a 3 year deal to be in Rotorua for 2015-2017

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Events Calendars:

<http://www.dynamoevents.co.nz>

<http://www.bikenz.org.nz>

http://www.cyclingnz.com/cnz5_events.php

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