

# biketapu RIDE CENTRAL *Pedal Talk*

Issue #26



**Kia Ora** fellow cyclists, As I sit typing this looking out the window I realise that unfortunately winter is upon us, bugger it all, its definitely the time of year for multiple layers of merino, fat tyres and a good jacket. Once again, Taupo is the best place to be on your MTB bike, our pumice based soil doesn't produce as much mud and our trails are always pretty ride able.

This issue of Pedal Talk I thought it would be good to introduce our latest committee, we have a couple of newbies after the AGM. Seated left to right - Darryn Anderson (just joined us so I can't hurl too much abuse, Darryn has been helping out Cath) Julie Norris (Marketing and media website guru) Pete Masters (Craters Park manager and "go to" person for everything!) and Ian Jensen (Craters media and marketing and general smart arse) Standing left to right - Cath Oldfield (our Kids BT co-ordinator) Melissa Johnson (administrator, that's me!) Mark Gibson (Marketing and media, GLT) Rowan Sapsford (Chairperson, head honcho) Pam Anderson (secretary, doesn't have a red bikini!) Paul Davey (Has memory issues but seems to be a good bugger) and Karyn Hutton (our treasurer who does a fantastic job)

I would also like to take this opportunity while on the subject of good people, to say a BIG thank you to all those who volunteer their services, time and energy to helping us in any shape or form, we definitely appreciate all the help we receive and it all goes towards building a better cycling culture for Taupo which is what we are all about :)

Go enjoy your long weekend (Thank you the Queen) and I leave you with the words of a song.... "One day you'll leave this world behind, so live a life you will remember"

Cheers, Melissa

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## Words of Wisdom - from our leader

Hi everyone and welcome to the latest edition of Pedal Talk. the fact that you are getting this newsletter is because at some stage you have decided it was a good idea to join Bike Taupo, or you like the cut of our jib and have subscribed. In either case, thanks for your support and interest. We are a bunch of volunteers who like to ride bikes and get other people on bikes in and around Taupo and the more like minded people that we can connect with, then the more effective we can be in doing what we do. Speaking of which, we have recently been provided some much needed cash from some very nice people who also like what we do. Taupo District Council has upped our annual funding by 3k which is to go to Cath and Kids Bike Taupo, the Waikato Community Environment Enhancement Trust (WCEET) gave us 44k to do a whole bunch of enhancement work on the Orakau wetland next to the Orakau link of the Great Lake Trail, and just last week Taupo Moana Rotary spotted us 7k to upgrade the Bungee track to take out some of the climb. So a huge thanks to all of those groups and also a big thanks of those who donate through our website, at our trail heads or in the various boxes around town. You keep our wheels rolling and we could not do it without you.



As you will no doubt be aware, winter is here. The last couple of days have been perfect Taupo days, clear blue sky, no wind, snow on the mountains and a starting temperature around zero. These are the days that i live for and make for perfect days on your bike, be it on the road or off. Provided you have enough layers on it

does not get much better than that. But with winter we also need to be more aware of making sure that we are visible on our bikes when around town or on the open road, get your lights and hi-vis on and be a bit more aware of other road users who may be trying to clear the fog from their window than watching out for bikes. There will also be the odd tree down on our MTB tracks from time to time so if you see any please let the track crew know so that we can get out there and get them cleared.

I would also like to make mention of the fantastic work that was done up the road by the team in vegas with Crankworx. I spent a couple of days there when it was on and was blown away. Not only by the quality of the riding, in all disciplines, but also the work that was done to sculpt some beautiful courses that can only be described as works of art. Events like this raise the profile of biking generally and make more people sit up and take notice of the value of biking to our communities. So well done Dave and the team in vegas and I look forward to camping out again next year.

Hey that's all from me this time, thanks for reading and thanks again for your support. I will finish this with a quote from a visionary from the last century who must have visited Taupo in his time machine before he wrote this.

"Cycle tracks will abound in Utopia." ~ H.G. Wells

Rowan Sapsford



## Track Crew News

### Eastern track

There were a few repairs after the recent storm, but overall the tracks are in good shape. We gave the Huka Falls end of the Rotary Ride a tidy up as well as Kev's Track and part of the Wairakei Resort Track.

Bikers on the Aratiatia loop will be able to shave seconds off their times with the new improvements at the gate on the road near the power station.(see photo)

The trees are blasting away along the Rotary Ride, which is pleasing to see

Chad has been killing trees in the Totara Gully/Gut area and along the Rotary Ride

The Bungy track is getting a makeover, big THANKS to Rotary for \$7K of funding to take out the steep section of





grass hill on this track (which I am sure all the riders in the Cycle Challenge will be thanking them for) Work will commence on this around August.

The tracks were used by a large number of riders over Easter

## **Craters**

Work is well underway on the Wave Ride. Bruce and PD crews have built a base out of pumice to give us an idea of the required flow. Timber frame and decking will then be used to erect the structures upon this base. We are currently letting this settle and see how it rides.

The Kinda Grinder and an extension of Walters are both well under way. There has been plenty of positive feed back on the building of Kinda Grinder suggesting it will open up the western tracks to more use. Walters's extension is now open for riding and wiggling its way up the hill.

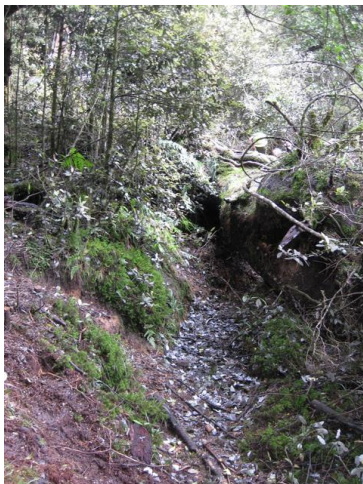


Budda is blasting its way downhill and looking great, the PD's have done a great job on this, big THANKS also to GroundEffect for kick start funds. Don't forget this is a grade 6 track so look before you leap! This track is now ride able but is still being worked upon. There is a walk about on Sunday to view proceedings and check out the jumps. If anybody is interested in being involved in this project you can contact our track crew or Nigel at Pack and Pedal.

Craters had never been so busy over the Easter period, great to see all the bikes out and about.

## **GLT**

The track is in good shape. There has been the odd tree down but otherwise the track is holding up well. Again, the tracks are getting plenty of use with plenty of traffic over Easter.



### **Te Iringa Track**

We've been working on the Te Iringa Track (as per photo) in the Kaimanawa forest park doing some trail maintenance funded by Trail fund through the 'Community Conservation Partnership Fund' (CCPF) from a joint application



between BT and the Hawkes Bay MTB Club. We have been clearing windfall and vegetation, water control and where possible reducing the amount of carrying/climbing. It is a grade 5 trail and listed as an 'epic' in the Kennett Brothers guide book. Well worth a visit for a day of adventure when the weather is a little warmer.

You can check it out here <http://www.greatlaketaupo.com/things-to-do/biking/trails/te-iringa/>

## Track Crew Contact Details

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

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



goodness! There were a few rainy days and it was the school holidays. I had to cancel a couple of holiday programmes, but ADDI managed a visit to Craters

April was much quieter for Cath and Bertha, thank

with the juniors and to Tongariro with their seniors.



Term 2 is ticking along nicely. We are concentrating on the 4-7 year age group. The focus is on getting everyone riding well on two wheels. When I go to a school, I sort out who needs the most help and take them off to the side and leave the others to do their thing with the teacher. Once everyone is riding pretty well, then I get them into games and on the obstacles. At St

Pats, Mountview and Tauhara we have booked 6 weeks which gives great continuity for those beginners too. Coming along regularly really makes a difference, and they catch up pretty quick. It gives us time if we are rained off as well.

I would like to go to more early childhood centres and work with the 4 year old kids. If we can get them riding before they get to school, it would be a whole lot easier. I had a session at My Treehut last week. We set up the ramp coming out of the back doors of the van. What a blast. Little George said 'This is Abracadabra!' I love those wee guys. Check out the photos.

I am asking the teachers of older kids to book adventures. Riding at school gets old pretty quick, when you have all the skills.



Thanks to Rowan for his TDC submission

n that has scored more \$\$\$ for KBT. I am talking to Dianna Harrison, the TDC Road Safety Coordinator. She wants to get biking road safety into the Intermediate. I'm happy to be involved and have suggested that it be a TDC initiative with KBT in support. I've

asked that they get the funding and organise the sessions. Perhaps KBT can be the 'pre-road specialists' and TDC/Police can focus on the road safety, with us providing bikes and a bit of woman-power? I have also suggested to her that there be a biking segment at their Driver Education days. Watch this space.

A highlight would have to be the Alternative Education kids from Turangi. There are 3-6 of them and we are exploring biking around the district. It is very valuable and these big kids are getting to see other ways of having fun. And of course, the Random Ratbags on Mondays at BMX are my favourites. Please come and see them, if you can. This stuff is not really grassroots. These guys are not going to become BMX racers or mountain bikers even, but they get to ride and show off and hang out. It's old school, community FUN.

I appreciate having Mark Gibson and Darryn Anderson as the Kids Bike Taupō executive people. I think that between the three of us, we will do a good job for the kids.

Kia Ora,

Cath Oldfield

KBT Coordinator

027 280 4005



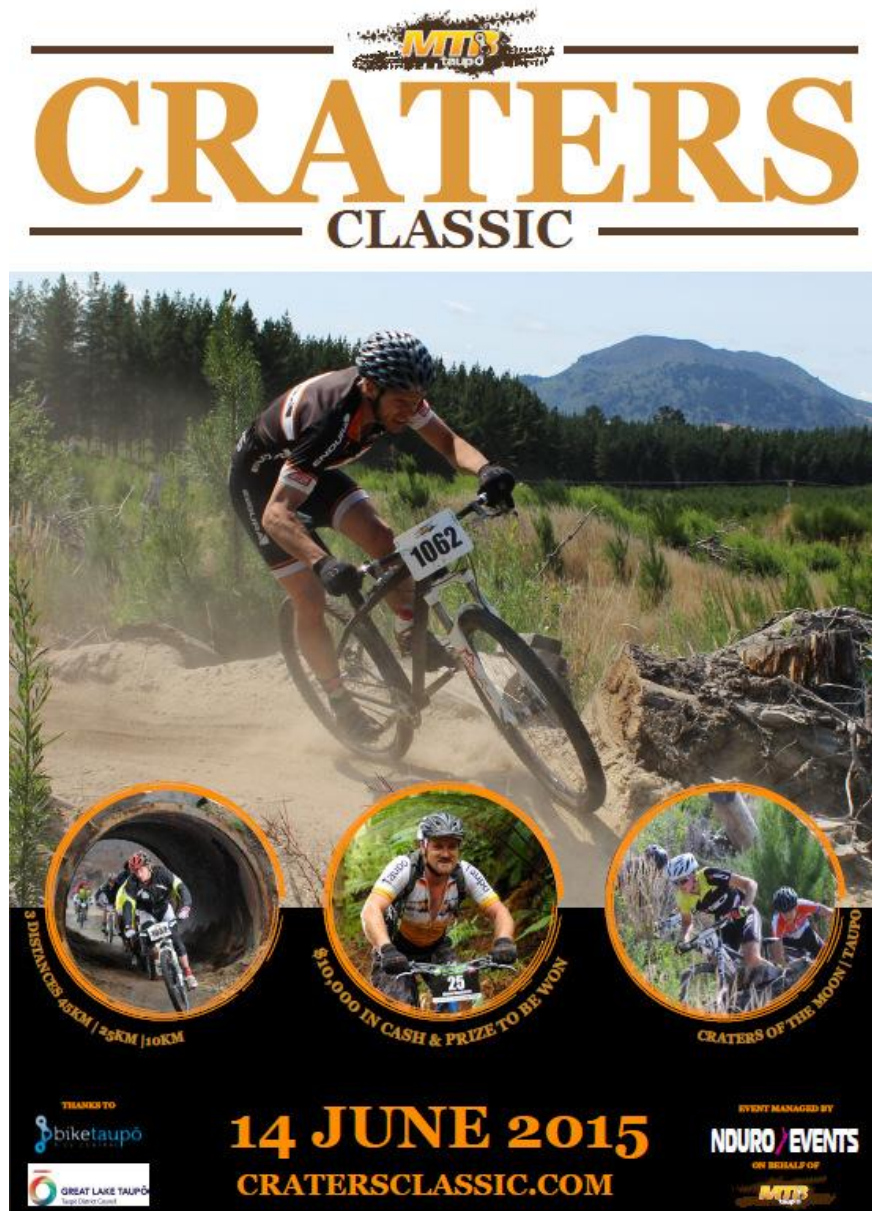
## Taupo Mountain Bike Club

### Craters Classic

14th June 2015

The Craters Classic has taken on a new look & feel the Taupo Mountain Bike Club is excited to partner with the NDURO events team from Rotorua, NDURO who run the hugely popular Whaka 100 Super D & NDURO winter series,

This year will see 3 new & exciting courses 45km 26km & 10km all challenging but not unachievable. This year will see prize money paid to the podium as well as a fantastic pool of spot prizes, the event is expected to sell out to an expected 200 riders, on line entries are open NOW

The poster for the Craters Classic 2015 features a central image of a mountain biker with number 1062 on their front fender, riding a dirt trail with a mountain in the background. Below this are three circular inset images: the first shows a rider in a tunnel with text '3 DISTANCES 45KM | 26KM | 10KM'; the second shows a rider with text '\$10,000 IN CASH & PRIZE TO BE WON'; the third shows two riders with text 'CRATERS OF THE MOON / TAUPO'. At the bottom, it says '14 JUNE 2015' and 'CRATERSCLASSIC.COM'. Logos for 'biketapu', 'GREAT LAKE TAUPO', and 'NDURO EVENTS' are also present.

**MTB TAUPO**

# CRATERS

## CLASSIC

1062

3 DISTANCES 45KM | 26KM | 10KM

\$10,000 IN CASH & PRIZE TO BE WON

CRATERS OF THE MOON / TAUPO

THANKS TO  
biketapu  
GREAT LAKE TAUPO  
Event Managed By  
NDURO EVENTS  
ON BEHALF OF  
MTB

**14 JUNE 2015**  
**CRATERSCLASSIC.COM**

The all-weather pumice trails of the craters MTB park are currently in mint condition, riding conditions are superb and as we say in Taupo, the more it rains the better they ride.

NDURO will have their timing team along with the music pumping providing a carnival atmosphere that NDURO are well renowned for.

The Craters Classic is suitable for all level of riders, only your fitness will dictate the distance you will challenge yourself with.

This year the Taupo MTB club Junior development squad which is made up of 11 – 15 year olds will take on the 25km course, So come on if you think you are not up to it why not come along and see if you can beat an 11 year old ?

Early Bird entries close this Friday 29th so do not delay and enter on line today

[www.cratersclassic.com](http://www.cratersclassic.com)

## Taupo Cycling Club

Sunday Morning social rides - These rides leave at 8:30 (faster group) and 9:00am (slower group) from outside Farmers, Tuwharetoa Street (Next to McDonalds drive thru) Taupo. There are 2 groups available, a slower group with average speed 20-25kmph distance approximately 30-40-50km, or faster group, average speed 26-30kmph, distance between 70-100+ km. We will regroup at designated points along the way. Please remember to bring 2 water bottles, food, spare tube & pump and most importantly some \$ for a coffee at the end of the ride. The Fern cafe in the Suncourt courtyard is a great spot plenty of places to park the bike, plenty of seating and is very sheltered.

These rides are a great way to experience the beauty of our district, and its always more fun riding with a group. These rides are a social pedal, not a race, which gives cyclists an opportunity to gather together for a pleasant Sunday morning ride. All visitors are welcome.

Thanks to Fern cafe, Suncourt Plaza, Tamamutu Street, for coffee, please bring \$ for this.

Everybody is welcome

Couple of good road cycling events coming up over next few months to help keep you motivated:-

Okoroire Mid Winter Fun Ride 40 km or 70km, starting and finishing at the Okoroire Hot Springs Hotel. Check it out here [www.funcycling.net](http://www.funcycling.net)

Winter Fun Rides from Dynamoevents, 9th, 16th and 23rd of August, 50km and 80km from Matamata, Hamilton and Cambridge, enter online at [dynamoevents.co.nz](http://dynamoevents.co.nz).



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

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



## Hub Cafe - bikers delight deal

### Pre bike fuel up breakie

Bacon and eggs on toast \$10

Or

### After bike treat YUM!!

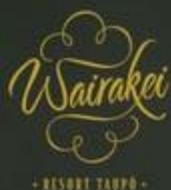
YUM YUM

Coffee and a muffin for \$7

For bike Taupo members only to the end of June

Like us on Facebook to get latest specials and keep up with events

Great deals, get in there people, located by the big blue and yellow helicopter on Huka Falls Road.



Ride from your room! Wairakei Resort now links to the new Wairakei Craters Mountain Bike Park.

Find out more **0800 737 678** | [www.wairakei.co.nz](http://www.wairakei.co.nz)



**Rowan Rowan Sapsford (Chairman)**

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**Events Calendars:**

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

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

[http://www.cyclingnz.com/cnz5\\_events.php](http://www.cyclingnz.com/cnz5_events.php)

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