

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

October 2004

Last year when I wrote the chairs report we had about 250 members, were about to open the Rotary Ride, were sorting out a system for Wairakei and I said that we were talking to Transit about biking under SH1

Now we have 915 members, we opened the rotary Ride and this has turned out to be a huge success beyond what I ever thought it would be. We are very close on sorting out Wairakei and have only the maps to finalise and last, we are still talking to Transit. It took a year to get them to a meeting where the opening shot was NO. But we did make progress, and I am hopeful that we will prove that biking through a culvert that is half blocked with pumice and not maintained is better than dying on the intersection opposite Helistar!

This is what we are about, making it safer and getting more people biking. We have made people sit up and listen and have gained generous funding from the Council because of what we have achieved. I am sure that we are seeing more people biking because of the Rotary Ride and changes we did to Aratiatia and around Huka Falls.

The service agreement between Bike Taupo and the Council is a very important step for us as we now are being recognised as a provider of community facilities. We have responsibilities to provide, but I am quite comfortable with our ability to do this.

We have to keep it simple in the future and also keep with thinking that we are problem solvers not problem makers. This alone makes a huge difference to the way we are treated and has certainly opened doors for us.

Slowly biking facilities are improving in the community.

- We have more bike stands around town, a bridge at the control gates (We have been told they are going to change the on-off ramp).
- A path is being built along side the Waikato River down to, and will go on past, the treatment plant.
- Lanes are getting a coat of paint at the intersections.
- We are about to print a map of the Rotary ride, Aratiatia track. Plus the other side of the map will have the Wairakei Forest system.
- We have got the funding for the Red Woods track (between Huka Falls Road and State Highway One) and are now just waiting for the final land approval.

Some bikers will benefit from these improvements others not, but together all of us will be better off.

And lastly I want to thank all of the Committee and sub Committees. All told there are 16 different people keeping Bike Taupo going and we could not have got as far as we have without them. We have to remember we are doing it because we like belting around on a bike, and want others to be able to enjoy it safely as well for now and in the future.

Cheers

Pete Masters