



Reinventing the wheel... so to speak



Rachel Brown pedals the virtues of New Zealand's latest alternative transport-mode businesses.

In the past five years we've seen a change in vehicle technologies, the introduction of the Honda and Toyota hybrid vehicles (which notably win the AA and EECA Energywise Rally year-on-year) and seen the adoption and adoration by those who drive them – including cab drivers who rave about the fuel savings they experience with their hybrids.

But now we're reinventing the wheel with a growing range of alternative transport-mode businesses rolling into New Zealand.

In the build up to Bike Wise month (February) I spoke with Julian Hulls, director of Next Bike. Chatting about his 'commuter' rates not only made it clear that they're a great option for us to get our hands on a few extra bikes for Go By Bike day on February 18th, but that the model of public bike rentals is booming internationally.

Nearly 60 cities have public bike programmes and 15 of them use the Next Bike model. Julian has the Australia and New Zealand licence for this German technology, which allows people to register, pick up a bike from a bike station, phone the details of the bike in (which gives them the unlock code), and when they're done, call in the return. The rental is paid for

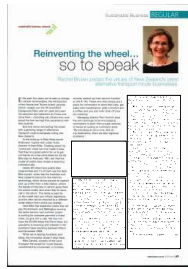
on the credit card you initially registered, and the bike can be returned to a different rental station from where you started.

Next Bike has expansion plans that will see Christchurch and Wellington running the same service next summer (Julian is looking for business partners in these cities, so give him a call). We may not have the 20,000 bikes that Paris does, but popularity is booming with interest in the Auckland bikes doubling between March and November 2008.

While we're talking Auckland, and bikes, the innovation doesn't stop there.

Bike Central, winners of the Land Transport NZ award for 'cycle-friendly commitment by a business' in October, recently started up their second location at 305 K' Rd. These one-stop-shops are a place for commuters to store their bike, get basic bike maintenance, grab a shower and a coffee, and you can even drop off your dry-cleaning.

Managing director Paul Sumich says the aim continues to be encouraging commuters to ditch their private vehicles in favour of cycling or running to work. "By providing an all-in-one, end-of-trip destination, there are less logistical problems".



Yes, they're trying to remove all your excuses for not commuting by more healthy means. If people are getting more exercise there is a social benefit and if there are fewer cars on the road there are reduced CO2 emissions. It's a win-win.

One of Paul's side activities is BikeCabs or Tikki Tikkis. These are Auckland's pedal-powered rickshaws – working the CBD area and offering a total guilt-free mode of transport. Rides can be booked in advance or flagged down randomly, and already 14 are cruising the streets.

The new kid on the block is Baxi, the Wellington based bike-taxi. Co-founder Vicky Ha is proud to be part of a movement towards alternatives. Launched in late October 2008 Vicky explains that a lot of congestion is short-haul and personal transport options that can squeeze past others in the CBD are a bonus and the way of the future.

"I think New Zealand is getting there, thank God!" explains the pedal enthusiast.

Baxi now has six of these Tauranga-made bikes on the roads and rider, Henry Scharf from Arizona, is proud to be one of the company's "professional tricycle drivers." Fortunately for him they stick to the flat parts of the city. Henry not only peddles the passengers, but also the advertising on the 'carriage' back and sides.

Paul Sumich also offers ad space on his BikeCabs: "It's a highly effective and different way to get your message out there, particularly if your message is a green one!"

For those going further afield (or wearing their best suits), the Cityhop option just keeps booming. Eighteen

months ago Cityhop was in Auckland only and had five vehicles. Now, the short-term point-to-point rental service also operates in Wellington and Christchurch. They have 30 cars and over 260 members, with around 3000 drivers.

Victoria Carter, CEO, explains the case for why businesses sign up: "A lot of businesses think that being sustainable is going to cost them money, but the businesses that are joining all comment on the money they are saving by using Cityhop rather than taxis. Plus, they arrive at their meetings walking the talk."

These are all innovative businesses where personal transport doesn't have to be dependent on a private vehicle. All the costs of vehicle maintenance and registration are removed, and the evident scope for this shift away from possessions in favour of rentals and convenient alternatives is an exciting wave for New Zealand.

Perhaps it's time you were on yer bike!

Rachel Brown is CEO of the Sustainable Business Network. For more information go to www.sustainable.org.nz

“We're reinventing the wheel with a growing range of alternative transport-mode businesses.”



Mayor seeks cycling mob for big ride

BY DAVID BRUCE

WAITAKI Mayor Alex FAMILTON wants Oamaru citizens to join him in a massive group cycling excursion — hopefully by more cyclists than from any other New Zealand town or city.

Pedallers of all ages are being urged to join Mr FAMILTON on February 20 at 6pm for a 5km cycling ride as part of Bike Wise month.

The Mayoral Challenge gives New Zealand cities and towns the chance to vie for getting the most people out for a bike ride with their mayor. One point is earned for each participating cyclist, with extra points for celebrities, business leaders, councillors and journalists.

Jan Keown, of the Heart Foundation's North Otago Branch, said the challenge was a great opportunity to have fun and be active while showing support for the Waitaki region.

Last year, 200 cyclists took part across all the events, but this year it was hoped Oamaru could do better.

"We want New Zealand to know that Waitaki is a cycle-madness force to be reckoned with," she said.

Cyclists can bike the route at

their own pace and are encouraged to simply enjoy the ride and the atmosphere.

Other events have been organised across the Waitaki district to entice people out of their cars, off their couches, and on to their bikes instead.

Sport Waitaki spokesperson Grahame Johnston said people were looking for ways to become more active, save money and lessen their impact on the environment. Cycling was the perfect way to do all three.

Events have a heavy emphasis on fun and have been designed to suit anybody.

Cycling activities organised in the Waitaki for the month include:

- Go by Bike Day on Thursday, February 12, at the Feel Good Thursday Heart Foundation event (in the Oamaru Harbour-Tyne Street area).

- Mayoral Challenge, in the Cruise the Coast Event on February 20 (also in the Oamaru Harbour-Tyne Street area).

- Duntroon Get On Your Bike Event (in the Elephant Rocks-Tokarahi-Duntroon area) on March 1, the last event of the Lion Foundation Summer Starter Series and Bike Wise month.



Bike to breakfast

The Go By Bike Breakfast has a new location for 2009.

The breakfast will be held this year at the Eastern Viaduct outside the Maritime Museum entrance.

Everyone who arrives on a bike between 6.30am and 9am on February 18 will receive a free breakfast as well as spot prizes, live performances and free bike

checks. More FM radio host Jon Bridges will anchor the programme of entertainment for the morning and says the waterfront will be a fantastic spot for breakfast.

"This is always a great morning and it just gets bigger and better every year."

The event is part of Bike Wise month, a nationally coordinated

month of cycling activities throughout February.

It will be followed the next day by the Kids Bike Ride event at Western Springs.

Other Bike Wise activities include the popular Bike Wise Battle where organisations compete against each other to see who can get the most staff cycling and clock up the most kilometres.



Bike brekkie moved

Auckland City Council's annual Go By Bike breakfast has a new location this year.

The celebration of cycling will be on February 18 at the Eastern Viaduct, Viaduct Harbour.

Everyone who turns up on a bike between 6.30am and 9am receives a free breakfast. There will be performances and displays, spot prizes and free bike checks.

People don't need to be regular cyclists to attend the breakfast, or even need to own a bicycle since it is easy and cheap to hire one in the city centre.

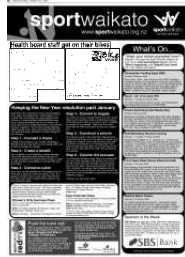
Children can join in the fun the next day at

the Kid's Bike Ride at Western Springs.

There will be bands, obstacle courses, free bike and helmet checks and prizes. The free event is suitable for children up to the age of 14.

These annual events are part of Bike Wise Month, a nationally coordinated month of cycling activities and promotion that runs from February 1 to 28.

The council aims to make the Go By Bike event as sustainable as possible and last year the majority of waste created by the breakfast was composted or recycled. For details go to www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/events.



Health board staff get on their bikes

Waikato District Health Board (DHB) is supporting Bike Wise Month by encouraging its 6000-odd staff to get on a bike and get involved.

The DHB has a number of keen bikers who have already formed a Bicycle User Group - an enthusiastic network of recreational cyclists that share ideas, events and tips for good places to cycle.

Throughout the month, the group and other DHB staff will be encouraged to take part in the Bike Wise Battle and Go By Bike Day.

The DHB has also organised a few of its own events with local bike shops visiting Waikato Hospital during February to answer any questions DHB staff may have about bikes and the best gear for the job.

Other information and local events to be promoted to Waikato DHB staff include

- Twin Dams race
- Black Stump bike ride
- REV 120

- Paeroa Cycle Challenge
- Bike buddy system
- Cycle routes to work
- Hamilton cycle routes
- Shower and parking facilities at work.



As part of the national Healthy Eating Healthy Action project, Waikato DHB is committed to fostering a healthy workplace and achieving a healthy environment for staff.

Chief executive Craig Climo and board chair Jerry Rickman will support Bike Wise Month by taking part in the Go By Bike Day 'Pitstop in the Park' event with Sport Waikato on 18 February.

To sign yourself, family, friends or workmates for the **Sport Waikato 'Pitstop in the Park'** go to www.sportwaikato.org.nz.



Getting wise on bikes

BATTLE lines are being drawn between Central Otago businesses as they prepare for the month-long annual Bike Wise business battle.

The nationwide competition runs through February as part of Bike Wise month and aims to encourage people who don't normally ride to work, to hop on and give it a go.

Central Otago and Queenstown-Lakes District community road safety adviser Jo Robinson said teams which register for the competition would compete against others from similar-sized workplaces to see which could get the highest percentage of staff on their bikes.

The battle is a highlight of Bike Wise month, a nationwide campaign aimed at getting more Kiwis on their bikes, she said.



On yer bike: Proving even sheep can ride bikes at last year's Mayoral Challenge in Alexandra as part of Bike Wise month was Shrek the merino sheep from Tarras.

Mrs Robinson also said that while the battle would run for the month, the two local events held as part of Bike Wise month

would be held over a week.

The popular Bike Wise breakfasts, which also aimed to encourage people to bike to work and school, would begin on February 17 in Arrowtown, followed by Cromwell on February 18, Wanaka on February 19 and Alexandra on February 20.

The Mayoral challenge will also be held again this year, with Central Otago District Mayor Malcolm Macpherson cycling a 2km course in Cromwell, starting and finishing at Cromwell Primary School.

The public was invited to join him on his ride and cyclists were also encouraged to dress up as a celebrity. There would be a prize for the most recognizable celebrity. At both of the events, lots of spot prizes would be up for grabs, including a bike at the Mayoral challenge.



Mayoral bike challenge in Tararua

Dig out the helmets and start cycling because 'getting on ya bike' in Tararua will be serious business this year.

Sport Tararua is getting behind Bike Wise month in February planning two Mayoral Cycle Challenges, a Business Battle and a Go By Bike Day.

However, it won't be too serious, advises Sport Tararua coordinator Pip Hubbard. "To get the maximum benefit from cycling remember the three F's," she says. "Fitter, faster and free."

It's ideal for all age groups and is a low impact sport. According to research, it will burn off the equivalent of 5kg of fat per year for those who take

a 15-minute ride five times a week.

To get faster start cycling to the shops – it is quicker than finding the car keys, parking and then walking to the shop.

Bike riding saves money too – up to \$100 a week in car costs – says the Automobile Association.

Pip Hubbard is urging Tararua residents to take up the challenge and support next month's initiatives.

Combining the two Mayoral Challenges with Bike Wise month is a district 'first', she says.

■ Southern Mayoral Challenge, Pahiatua, Sunday February 22.



Bike Wise Battle challenge issued

by John Maslin

john.maslin@wanganuichronicle.co.nz

Getting bums off office chairs and on to bike seats is the target of the annual Bike Wise Battle, and the call has gone out to Wanganui businesses to get involved.

The Bike Wise Battle aims to get organisations across the country competing with others of similar size to get the highest percentage of staff on their bikes at least once during February's Bike Wise Month.

Glenda Leitao, Horizons Regional Council's Wanganui-based road safe co-ordinator, said the "battle" aimed to show people cycling was a viable, enjoyable way to get to work.

Mrs Leitao said participants only need to cycle for 2km or 10 minutes, and they can do it anywhere, anytime they feel comfortable. Progressive cycling tallies are registered on the Bike Wise Battle website so teams can see how they're doing, and pedal "more passionately" if they need to keep ahead.

"The emphasis is on having fun as a group and becoming more active in the workplace," she said.

She said most people take part to support their workmates but many find they like it, and keep biking after the event.

Last year more than 600 organisations vied for the title of New Zealand's most cycle-friendly workplace, and more than 11,000 participants took part with even more cyclists expected to take part this year.

■ The Bike Wise Battle is funded by NZ Transport Agency, the Ministry of Health and Sparc, with prizes provided by sponsors. The more cycling a participant does, the higher their chances of winning, and all participants go into a draw to win one of three Avanti bike spot prizes. Visit www.bikewise.co.nz to register or to find more information about Bike Wise month activities in Wanganui.



ON YA BIKES: The team at Sport Wanganui are in the saddle and ready to take up the Bike Wise Battle. From left are Sue Elliott, Kenny Halliday, Gemma Wilson, Jordan Farrington, Danny Jonas, Shane Maher and Travis White.

PICTURE / GRAEME MITCHELL-ANYON 270109WCGMABIKES



Wisen up, it's bike month

Two-wheelers being dusted off for annual riding event



**MORE ACTIVE
MORE OFTEN**

THIS February is Bike Wise Month and people in the Western Bay are being invited to experience the joys of life in the cycle lane.

Events are organised across the Western Bay to entice people out of their cars, off their couches, and on to their bikes instead.

The annual cycling celebration has become so popular that a full month is now needed to accommodate more than 500 events held around the country. Sport Bay of Plenty's Penny Mitropoulos, says Western Bay is no exception to the nationwide trend.

"People in the Western Bay are looking for ways to become more active, save money and lessen their impact on the environment, and cycling is the perfect way to do all three.

"Commuter bike sales are up and the increase in people cycling to work is quite noticeable."

She says Bike Wise Month is about lifting cycling's profile and getting more Kiwis to realise how enjoyable and convenient it is.

"Bike Wise Month events have

a heavy emphasis on fun, and they're designed to suit anyone.

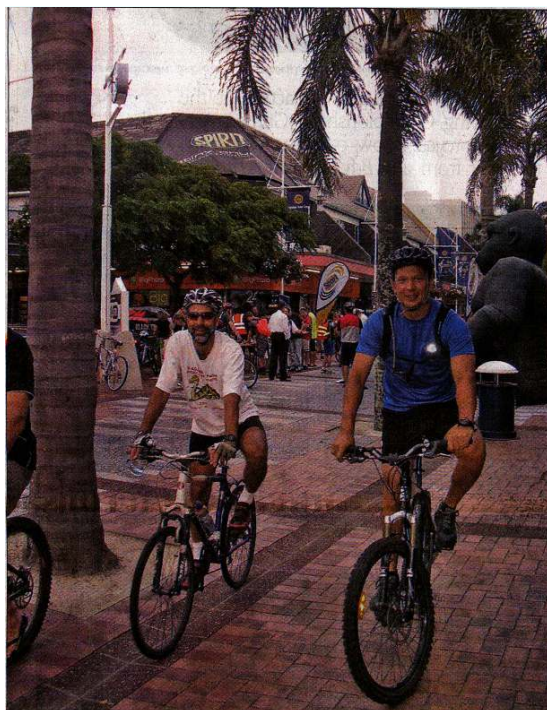
"You don't have to be a hardened pro or own any special gear. Just dust off your bike, grab a helmet, round up the kids, and come along.

"Be warned, though, you may be surprised at the passion for pedalling you develop. It's the most fun you can have on two wheels."

Cycling activities in the Western Bay during February include: Tour de Katikati, Workplace Commuter Cycling Challenges, Pedal Papamoa, Cycle your Local Reserves, Nervous Nellies and Nigels for beginners and Bike Basic workshops.

Bike Wise Month is funded by the NZ Transport Agency and the Ministry of Health and supported by Environment Bay of Plenty, Sport Bay of Plenty and Tauranga City Council.

For more information on Bike Wise month, pick up a calendar at the BNZ stores near you, or contact Penny at Sport Bay of Plenty on 07 5780016 ext 829 for more details.



SPOKEN FOR: Some men go along for the ride at last year's Go By Bike Day.

PICTURE / SUPPLIED



OUR PEOPLE

Get set for Bike Wise month

It's time to dust off those old bikes hanging in the garage, check the tyres are pumped up, brakes are working and make good use of it because February is Bike Wise Month. For those a bit wary about pedaling their way through town, there will be a free Nervous Nellies and Nigels Cycling Safety Workshop held at Froude St on Wednesday February 18 at 6pm.

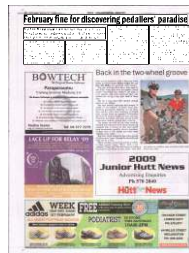
Swim Lake Taupo

It's not too late to sign up for the 2009 Across Lake Taupo swim on Saturday, February 28. The course is 4.2km long, taking swimmers from Acacia Bay to 3-Mile Bay. Start time is 7am and hundreds of people are expected to take part in the event that began back in the 1970s. Entries are open right up until 30 minutes before the start but a late fee will apply after Friday, February 20. Wetsuits are optional. Visit www.acrossthelakeswim.co.nz to register online.

A jousting we will go

The Taupo Medieval Tournament is taking place at Spa Park on January 31 and February 1. Events include jousting and foot combat. Adult admission is \$10 for one day or \$16 for two. Children under 5 are free and children 5-12 \$6 for one day and \$10 for two.

■ *Community groups, service organisations, schools — we want to hear what you are up to. Send your news to readers@dailypost.co.nz*



February fine for discovering pedallers' paradise

Rob Zorn, Petone resident and member of Bike Wise, reckons the Hutt Valley is a "pedaller's paradise". And there's no better time to get into it than February – Bike Wise Month. He writes:

Bike Wise Month is the perfect time to leave the gas-guzzler at home and reacquaint yourself with the joys of two-wheeled travel.

More Kiwis are doing just that. In recognition of the growing popularity of cycling, Bike Wise will run for a whole month, rather than a week, this year. During February tens of thousands of pedal-passionate Kiwis are expected to take part in more than 500 events, including *Go By Bike Day*, regional Mayoral Challenges and the *Bike Wise Battle*, where hundreds of businesses compete for the title of the most cycle-friendly workplace.

With riding tracks aplenty, Lower Hutt is a cyclist's paradise - from the 29km Hutt River Trail to the Pencarrow coastal ride and the hilly off-road tracks of Wainuimata.

There's even something for pint-sized pedallers. Avalon Park's new kids' cycle track is a fabulous place to teach your children to ride. Opened last year, the 450-metre track, the first of its kind in the North Island, has an asphalt and chip-seal surface, give-way and stop signs, a railway

crossing, two roundabouts and three speed humps – a realistic and safe environment for learner riders.

Volatile fuel prices and economic uncertainty are driving many people to swap the gas pedal for bike pedal. More bikes are being bought for commuting, especially since Trans Metro allowed bikes to travel free on trains.

Bruce McCardle, of VIC Cycles, says all sorts of people are buying bikes and gloomy economic forecasts don't appear to have dented sales.

So, if you've been considering getting back into the saddle, Bike Wise Month is the ideal time to give it a go. Think of the money you could save on fuel and parking by leaving the car in the garage. Your waistline will show benefit too. Cycling is the ideal aerobic sport, improving cardiovascular fitness without wear and tear on the joints. It's also good for the health of the planet. Far better to leave a faint tyre print instead of a nasty carbon footprint on Hutt Valley's highways and byways.

For event details check out www.bikewise.co.nz.



On yer bike, Katikati

By MERLE FOSTER

FEBRUARY is Bike Wise Month and for Katikati residents the message is “on yer bike”.

A range of activities is being peddled to speed up the lifestyles of Katikati locals.

Sport Bay of Plenty active living co-ordinator Penny Mitropoulos says it is all about getting people active on bikes, whether it be riding to work or families going out together — mum and dad getting on their bikes with the kids.

“For Katikati we’re trying to set up cycling groups and we want to encourage people that even though the main road is a bit unsafe, more people on bikes will make motorists more aware of cyclists which in turn will increase safety,” Penny says.

Katch Katikati promotions manager Jane Burke has decided to get on a bike to improve her fitness, and hopes to ride to work as much as she can during February.

“It is harder on the main road, but if you keep left the traffic is pretty careful to look out for you and it feels good to get out on a bike,” she says.

The first scheduled event is the Tour de Katikati on February 1, from 9.30am starting at Katikati Memorial Hall on Main St.

The ride is a flat beginners’ cycle round town, open to those aged 10 and up — just bring a bike, helmet and water bottle and contact Sport BOP for a booking.

A workplace commuter challenge offers a chance for individuals or teams to cycle



210109MF9

BICYCLE BELLES: Katch Katikati co-ordinator Jane Burke (left), with Shona Roberts (centre) and Veronica Lewis, branch manager of BNZ, a Bike Wise Month sponsor.

through an outrageous virtual map from Sport BOP to add kilometres up daily and enter a Bike Wise Business Battle.

Once a business registers on the Bike Wise website they can compete for a small towns award.

“If Katikati got itself sorted

out for this maybe they’d be able to make another landmark for the town — to become a cycle and mural town,” Penny says.

Other bike events for Katikati include Nervous Nellies and Nigels on February 24 and Go By Bike Day on February 25.



Bike Wise Battle is back for another round in '09



Bike Wise Battle is back in 2009 and will run for the whole of February.

Spokesperson Niki Carling said it was easy to be part of the battle.

“Just get as many of your colleagues as possible to hop on a bike during the ‘battle’ period,” she said.

Participants can ride wherever they feel most comfortable for just 10 minutes or two kilometres.

The organisations with the highest percentage of participation will win vouchers for a morning tea shout.

Registrations through www.bikewise.co.nz can be made at any time from now until the end of February. However teams which log on early will have a greater chance to win spot prizes.



On yer bike rallying cry for businesses

by **Kristin Macfarlane**
 kristin.macfarlane@dailypost.co.nz

Niki Carling says it would be safer to cycle around Rotorua if more people took it up.

February is Bike Month and the Rotorua District Council transport safety and sustainability co-ordinator is challenging Rotorua businesses and organisations to get as many people at their work places riding bikes.

A Bikewise Battle is taking place as part of Bike Month, which runs from February 1 to 28. The battle is a free, fun competition that encourages organisations to compete against each other to see

"Just because you've only got two employees doesn't mean you can't give it a go."

Niki Carling

who can get the highest percentage of staff to cycle during Bike Month.

The competition also had added long-term benefits, Ms Carling said.

"The more people we can get to cycle, the safer it will be as an activity.

"If you are a cyclist, the more you go out and do it, the more demands we can make as cyclists."

Ms Carling said people registered in the competition only needed to ride a bike for at least 10 minutes or 2km over the month.



CYCLE READY: Rotorua's Niki Carling is issuing a challenge to local businesses and organisations to get on their bikes for the Bikewise Battle as part of Bike Month in February.

PICTURE / BEN FRASER 220109BF1C

THE BIKE WISE BATTLE

- Runs between February 1 and 28
- Businesses will compete against other organisations of the same size to see which can get the highest per percentage of staff cycling during the month
- People only need to ride for at least 2km or 10 minutes during the battle
- The organisations with the highest percentage of participation will win vouchers for a morning tea shout
- Registrations can be made until the end of February

This could even be done in a lunch break.

Businesses would be up against other organisations of a similar size.

"Just because you've only got two employees doesn't mean you can't give it a go," Ms Carling said.

Last year about 12 businesses and organisations in Rotorua registered for the Bike Wise Battle. This year Ms Carling said she wanted more.

■ Businesses and organisations keen to be part of the battle can register at www.bikewise.co.nz.



Plenty of events to keep fit

We're almost through January already and we should be into the swing of things by now with our physical activity, but if you need a little bit of help check out these events happening next month.

Cycling

■ **Bike Wise Battle** – a competition encouraging organisations to see how many of their staff can get out there cycling. It runs throughout February with activities such as Go

By Bike Day.

■ **Mountain Bike Summer Series** – mountain biking for everyone in the family, over four Thursdays (from the 12th).

■ **Mayoral Cycle Challenges** – family fun rides with your mayor, in Palmerston North, Feilding and Tararua.

Walking

■ **Manawatu Striders Super Seven Series** – Tuesdays at 6.15pm,

whether conditions are wet or fine, from the Hockey Pavilion on Manawaroa Street.

■ **Seven Wonders of the Manawatu** – half and full-day walks each

weekend through some of the region's parks, tracks and estuaries.

■ **4444 a Cure** – a fun run/walk fundraiser for Relay for Life organised by Feilding High School. Walk or run for 4km or 8.5km each Thursday from FAHS gym, starting at 5.30pm.



A Wi bit of Advice
Wi Ormsby

Netball

■ **Netball Manawatu Twilight Competition** – mixed netball each Tuesday at Vautier Park.

Triathlons

■ **Palmy I Tri'd the Tri series** – fun for the kids at Skoglund Park from February 9.

■ **Go Active Kids Triathlon**, February 22 at the Levin Aquatic Centre and Domain.

If you would like to know more, check out www.sportmanawatu.org.nz or call us on 0800 ACTIVE (0800 228483).

■ **Wi Ormsby is Green Prescription (GRx) manager at Sport Manawatu.** The GRx programme offers nutrition and health advice as well as walking, aqua aerobics and gym circuits.



Get set for pushbike mania in February

By **FELICITY ROOKES**

felicity.rookes@tnl.co.nz

BUCKLE the bike helmets and rediscover a passion for pushbikes.

Several bike-themed events, dubbed The Wild West Fest, have been planned throughout February around New Plymouth to mark national Bikewise Month.

The month is designed to encourage people of all ages to jump on a bicycle and get active.

New Plymouth District Council sustainable transport co-ordinator Nathaniel Benefield said the 16 bike-themed community activities should be a lot of fun.

"It's all about enjoyment and encouraging people to give cycling a go and, if they're already cyclist, to get on their bike even more often," he said.

The Wild West Fest will officially

open February 1 at the Marfell BMX Club. The launch will be opened by Mayor Peter Tennent and includes workshops for beginners and experienced riders and a bike sell and swap meet.

Other events are The Bikewise Business Battle, the mountain bike experience, mountain bike orienteering, the Bikewise Mayoral Challenge and Wild West Street Party.

"We've got events for mountain bikers, families, workers and those who'd like to try a bit of orienteering with their cycling, as well as cycle-themed art for children, documentaries about cycling and a car-free street party," Mr Benefield said.

For event information phone the NPDC on (06) 759 6060.



Manawatu Standard
Saturday 17/1/2009
Page: 3
Section: General News
Region: Palmerston North Manawatu
Type: Provincial
Size: 28.03 sq.cms.
Published: MTWTFS-

Brief: BIKEWISE(W

Businesses: on your bike!

Registrations are now open for the Bike Wise Business Battle, a free competition where organisations across New Zealand compete to get the highest percentage of staff on their bikes at least once in February (Bike Wise Month). Participants only need to cycle for two kilometres or 10 minutes, and they can do it anywhere, at any time. Palmerston North City Council has won the large organisation category in Manawatu-Wanganui for the past two years. To register or for more information visit www.sportmanawatu.org.nz.



Wheely big month coming up

by Kristin Macfarlane

Rotorua residents are being urged to get on their bikes next month.

February is Bike Wise Month, featuring a range of events aimed at promoting and encouraging cycling.

Rotorua District Council transport safety and sustainability co-ordinator Niki Carling says the month is seen as one of many initiatives to help promote sustainable transport options in the city.

The council is organising events in

Rotorua, starting with the Mayoral Challenge on February 1, which will be held under the sails in the Whakarewarewa Forest.

The family event is aimed at beginner bikers and will take participants on a flat mountainbike track for about 45 minutes. To take part, simply turn up on the day — with a bike and a helmet.

On February 18 Go By Bike Day encourages people to cycle to work, rewarding them with a free breakfast in the City Focus.

Also part of the Bike Wise programme is the Business Battle where businesses enter and encourage their staff to cycle to and from work.

Ms Carling said it was about getting as many people involved as possible.

“It isn’t about distances travelled, but rather about the number of people who take part,” she said.

Ms Carling said the council would be challenging other organisations in the Rotorua district to also join up.



ON YER BIKE: Rotorua residents are being urged to get cycling for Bike Wise Month in February.

PICTURE / FILE A—291007KT6