



MEDIA RELEASE



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Date: Wednesday 10 August 2011

TAUMARUNUI KEY CYCLE TRAIL HUB

Ruapehu District Council (RDC) is inviting Taumarunui residents to celebrate the launch of the first three cycle touring routes under Nga Haerenga, The New Zealand Cycle Trail.

All three cycle routes link to Taumarunui and they will be the first in a series of new cycle rides, comprising of largely on-road cycle routes around New Zealand.

New Zealand Cycle Trail NZCT Senior Project Advisor Jude Ellis says the new cycle touring routes will encourage cyclists and cycle tourists to use more enjoyable cycling routes and steer them away from busy state highways and arterial routes.

"The routes will complement the Great Rides and offer cyclists some of the best on-road riding experiences available in New Zealand," she said.

RDC Team Leader Land Transport, Warren Furner says that as a central hub for three cycle touring routes there will be significant commercial opportunities for Taumarunui businesses that want to take advantage of an anticipated influx of domestic and international cyclists.

"You only need to look at the economic impact of the Otago Central Rail Trail to start to understand the type of benefits Taumarunui and Ruapehu District can look forward to," he said.

"The fantastic turnout we got at council's recent workshops in Taumarunui and Ohakune on taking advantage of the commercial opportunities available indicates that we can expect Ruapehu locals to start investing in cycle tourism."

"The main cycle touring route that we are celebrating opening on Saturday 20 August runs from Taumarunui through to New Plymouth including part of the Forgotten World Highway."

“The other two cycle touring routes which Taumarunui provides a hub for are from Taumarunui to Whakahoro linking to the Ruapehu-Whanganui Trails and from Taumarunui to Ongarue linking to the Pureora Timber Trail.”

Mr Furner added that as part of the opening celebrations a group of cyclists are riding the 180km cycle route from Taumarunui through to New Plymouth.

Event Details

Anyone wanting to be part of the celebrations should be down at the Memorial Hall on Hakiaha St, Taumarunui, from 10:00 am on Saturday 20th August.

Any keen cyclists are invited to join the ‘peloton’ in riding the first 14km through to the Lavender Farm Cafe or even all the way to New Plymouth if they wish where another celebration is planned.

For the kids there will be a ‘Decorate your Bike’ contest and where they will be asked to decorate their bikes with streamers, flags, balloons and whatever else they can imagine. The judging of ‘Decorate your Bike’ will be at 10:30 am and the riders will leave for the Lavender Farm Cafe and New Plymouth at 11:00 am.

For media inquiries or further information, please contact:

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