

# Hello WAMOs

(Waipa Mountainbikers)

## ANACONDA TOMORROW

6pm tomorrow (Thursday) is the "Return of the Anaconda". Last time most folks were prevented (by the evil anaconda) from completing this ride, so it has returned by popular request. Leaving at 6pm from 762 Te Pahu road, the ride goes over the tar-seal hill on Limeworks Loop Road, left at the bridge up the track beside the Kaniwhaniwha Stream to the picnic area and back, on around the gravel section of Limeworks Loop Road, left into Fillery Road (gravel road) and up to the top of the big hill and back again to continue on around Limeworks loop road back to where we started. So it really consists of a trip around Limeworks Loop road with two side trips on the way.

Starting at 6 could leave it getting darkish at the end so it might pay to have lights to turn on towards the end if you have them. Great if there is someone who is prepared to offer to be tail-end Charlie and ride with whoever is slowest so nobody gets left on their own.

762 te Pahu road is quite easy to find when coming from the Te-Awamutu direction – you drive past the Te Pahu church and hall and then go uphill to the first driveway and house you see on the right hand side of the road. It is the only one on that side of the road, all by itself on the hilltop with young trees around and has a dull green letterbox.

## PUKETE SPAGHETTI COMING UP - TEAM-MATES NEEDED

Andy O'Regan is looking for team-mates for the Pukete Spaghetti for his Aliways (very cool aluminium joinery company) team for this event.

If you are keen to be in this team, phone Andy at **027 2000157**.

If Andy's team is full, why not arrange another team among yourselves for this interesting inaugural event to be held so close to home. Or, if you are fit-dude who can ride for 6 hours alone, just enter as a solo. Either way, it is way cheaper than doing the 6 hr at the Taupo day/night Thriller or Rotorua Moonride, and so much less travelling and drama, we Waikato locals are crazy not to take full advantage and get right into it. Maybe get a girls' team together, or an older-dudes team, or a team of super-racers to clean up the cash prize, or a business team. Help to make this first one a big success so it will go on and attract the whole country to future PukSpags. Entry forms and full information available here:

<http://www.hamiltonmtb.org.nz/pagefiles/spaghetti.html>

A great way to advertise for team-mates could be on our new forum. Remember to click the "watch forum" button (near top right) if it is your first visit there. Here's the address:

<http://www.vorb.org.nz/forum-61.html>

## WAMO SUBMISSION ON WAIPA CYCLING STRATEGY

The club put in a submission on the draft Cycling Strategy which the Waipa District Council is currently preparing. This is an important document as it covers a range of cycling initiatives in our area. In our submission we indicated our strong support of the strategy (there are some great ideas in there) but outlined our concern that the strategy made little mention of mountain biking. We suggested a number of changes, in particular that the council supports local community groups to investigate, develop and promote mountain biking on council land. We proposed that a small fund be made available to support community groups to achieve this. Our club president, Brendan Haigh, will speak on behalf of the club when submissions are considered by the WDC later this month.

## WAMO JOINS MOUNTAIN BIKE NEW ZEALAND

The club has submitted our application to become an affiliate member of Mountain Bike New Zealand (MTBNZ). This is the organisation which represents mountain biking in NZ and affiliation provides us with a number of benefits. MTBNZ supports clubs through a number of mechanisms, including expert guidance on club development, racing, trail development, land access and support for funding applications. A further benefit is that we now come under BikeNZ's public liability insurance policy, which provides \$5 million public liability cover and a \$1 million forest fire

extension. This covers all events sanctioned by the club (races, trail building, fun rides) and is a very handy thing when it come to negotiating access to land for riding and trail building. Thanks to all those people who have signed up as financial members - this costs \$120 per annum and without your support we could not have joined MTBNZ.

### **WAMO TRAIL BUILDING WORKSHOP**

If we are going to learn how to develop and maintain trails in our area we need some basic skills in trail building. We have submitted a proposal to the Waipa District Council (WDC) community grants scheme to fund a trail building workshop with trail guru Ric Balfour. Brett Purchase from Te A' Cycles has also provided support for our proposed workshop. Ric was a professional MTB trail designer / builder for the International Mountain Bike Association in North America and now manages the TECT All Terrain Park for the Western Bay of Plenty District Council. If we get the funding, we will run a one day course this spring. Priority will be given to club members. If the community grant does not come through, we be looking at further funding options, as this would be a great thing to run for the club.

### **UPDATE ON SAINSBURY RD**

The WDC forestry block at the top of Sainsbury Rd (Pirongia) is our preferred option for development of a dedicated MTB trail system in our area. This 400 hectare block contains some great terrain, easy access, stunning views and some impressive thickets of blackberry and gorse! After several days of recce work, we have identified a section of forest block which looks ideal for building our initial sections of trail. We are currently preparing a proposal to the WDC for how MTBing could be developed and managed on this land and will submit the proposal this month. Fingers crossed that we get the go-ahead. Ideally we would start work on this project later this summer to make use of the dry weather.

If you know of a person who is not receiving these WAMO emails but would like to, please ask them to send an email to [tui@tuiscope.co.nz](mailto:tui@tuiscope.co.nz). so we can put them on the list.

If you would like to be removed from this email list, just let us know by return email and your name will be removed immediately.

***Tui Allen***

Club Communications