

HAURAKI HERALD

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Ready to ride the cycle trail

The Waihi 50+ Cycle Group's oldest member Barry Denton, 75, left, Paul Davenport, 74, Sport Waikato co-ordinator Julie Stephenson and Don Fraser, 69 are all ready for a fun bike ride to celebrate the second birthday of the group. More than 50 keen senior cyclists gathered for the event on Tuesday. The group membership has doubled in two years, showing the evidence that a new era of people of the third generation are getting more active.

Photo: JILL CLEAVE

■ More photos on P4 and 5.

Bleak future for old bridge

Senior 'teens' a riot to go riding with

By JILL CLEAVE

Decked out in 1950s regalia a gang of Waihi "seenagers" took to the Hauraki Rail Trail on Tuesday to celebrate two years of pedal power.

Group co-ordinators Jill and Paul Davenport, who have been avid bike riders for more than a decade, said they read an article in the *Hauraki Herald* about a bike ride in Thames and went along.

"We heard on that outing that if we wanted to start a senior cycling group in Waihi to let Julie Stephenson from Sport Waikato know so we did and the group has not looked back since," said Jill.

"We never look back, always ahead to our next outing," said Paul.

The Davenports have introduced 55 people to the wonder of the Central Otago Rail Trail taking a group down each year. The first meeting of the Waihi group had 30 riders attend and the number has grown to about 60 although not everyone goes on every ride.

"We ride on a Tuesday and a Saturday as a group and normally ride for an hour, stop off for a coffee and ride back again," said Jill.

To celebrate their two-year anniversary, group members gathered at the Waihi Railway Station and biked out to the Waikino Station Cafe for a "bit of a do" then loaded their bikes onto the train to return.

Maggie Read, 72, who has been a part of the group from day one, said there was room for people at every level of fitness in the group.

"Those who want to can do long rides but if others just want a short ride there is always someone to go with,"



Waihi 50+ Cycle Club inaugural members Jill and Paul Davenport, both 74, have been cycling New Zealand trails for the past decade and are responsible for 55 northerners taking to the Central Otago Rail Trail.

she said.

Stephenson said there was a new era of people of the third generation getting more active and the Waihi cycle group certainly proved this.

"They call themselves senior teenagers and they are a riot to ride with. There is always, always laughter and the feeling of being part of a very friendly and happy crowd of people," she said.

The group, with members from Waihi, Thames, Kerepehi, Patetonga and Paeroa, have ridden all over the country.

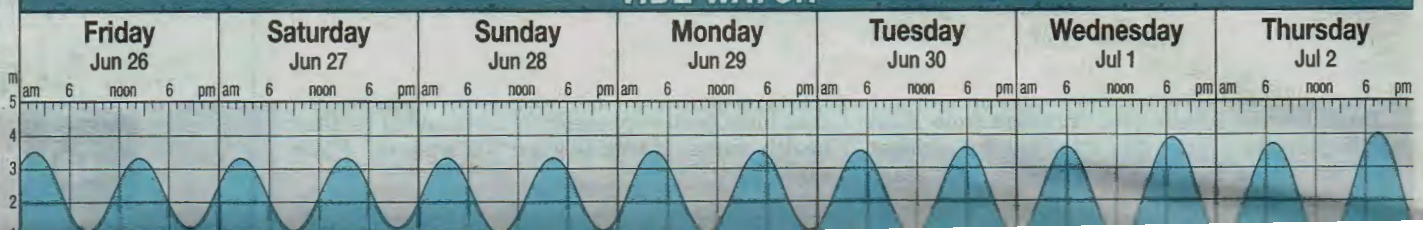
■ Visit the group's facebook page Waihi50+ and their website Waihi50plus@weebly.com for more information.-



Wendy Arthur, 65, ready to rock the ride in her leather jacket.

TIDE WATCH

Tide Data © LINZ





Some of the 50 members of the Waihi 50+ Cycle Group get ready to ride from Waihi to Waikino for a birthday luncheon to celebrate two years of happy cycling all over New Zealand. **Photos: JILL CLEAVE**



Pam Edwards, 69, hadn't been on a bicycle for years when the Waihi 50+ Cycle Group started up and now she feels like a kid again riding over the trails like being back on the farm.

New to Waihi, Fred, 67, and Clare, 60, Grace have been in the group for a couple of weeks and are finding it a great way to meet people and see a bit of the countryside at the same time.



Glamour and glitz and plenty of balloons as Bev Mulhem, 67, and Dave Evans, 66, get ready to ride.



The Waihi 50+ Cycle Group will have music where ever they ride as long as Barry Borchard, 74, is along for the ride with his harmonica.

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