

The history of Heart Children's involvement with the Wattyl Lake Taupo Cycle Challenge.

Our fabulous relationship with the Lake Taupo Cycle Challenge began in 2004 when we were presented with the opportunity to sponsor the Heart Ride. Heart Children jumped at the chance and from here our relationship has grown from strength to strength.

In 2005 Heart Children was recognised as the Official Charity of the Wattyl Lake Taupo Cycle Challenge Nicholas Ward fronted our campaign. This was also the year that Bevan Docherty got involved. He is now a valued support of the heart kids and has ridden with them every year since!



In 2006 celebrating 30 years of the Cycle Challenge Heart Children had 30 heart kids participate in the 5km heart ride and the support from the general public and media was incredible. In particular the training diary of heart child Finn Little which ran regularly on Campbell Live. The highlight of this day was having our brave heart kids able to take part in New Zealand's second largest outdoor event awesome! Sir Richard Hadlee patron of the Zipper Kidz Club rode with the kids and spoke on our behalf in front of the 40,000 strong crowd at the Prize giving.



Building on the strength of 2006 Heart Children had 31 heart kids take on the 5km challenge in 2007 with the support for these kids growing. The support from the participants in the Cycle Challenge is awesome and as 10 year old Zac Lutter got up and spoke to a crowd of 40,000 people about his 10 surgeries to date you could have heard a pin drop.





Finley Schumacher-Sundberg was the youngest ever rider in the Wattyl Lake Taupo Cycle Challenge in 2008 at just three years of age and also a media star, taking front page of the Dominion Post!

In 2009 along with 30 brave heart kids riding the 5km heart ride we will also have an Adult congenital heart team riding the Linfox Tarmac Team Relay. This is exciting for Heart Children as we talk about the expansion of our services to cater for youth and young adults with congenital heart disease.

The Wattyl Lake Taupo Cycle Challenge is an event with soul and huge community spirit and we are honoured to be a part of it.

