

Because You Can't Just Do One!

The New Zealand Ironman

The place, Taupo, has never looked more beautiful, one of the top Ironman events on the calendar. Organisation, course, atmosphere, hospitality, camaraderie and the people are top drawer.



As before we had already booked our accommodation and Kathy, Adam and I were in some prestigious company. Next door we had race winner Cameron Brown (pic left), his wife and 5 month old son, two doors down were Karyn and Scott Balance and just over the way was Jan

Reheuler, the Czech who got the bronze in the Olympic Triathlon and on our other side was Cyril, a 56 year old Australian man doing his third NZ Ironman, and with enough worries to accommodate the 1075 athletes who had registered for the event.

Having arrived in Taupo 9 days before the start, there was little evidence of a major event, only a few locals running and cycling about, and Alex and myself. The last few days are supposed to be about taper, but as the day drew nearer and more athletes began to arrive, it seemed there were swimmers, runners and cyclists going very hard, each with their own plans and focus.

5 days to go, and things started to happen, the huge tent, which was to host the pre-race pasta blowout, the race brief and the awards, was being erected. The smaller tents for medical and massage were going up too. The carpets from the swim to the bike were being laid up that very steep hill and the run in chute, which all 1075 of us were hoping to come down, was also being built, with the last 50 metres downhill! Opposite our accommodation, the bike, run transition was appearing it was becoming a reality. One of the benefits of going to Taupo early is that



you can sight see and visit a plethora of places to suit everyone. The weather was gorgeous and with high-pressure fronts coming from Oz it looked like Taupo's 4th IM was going to have clement conditions.

by RGBB Member
Charlie Dryden



Two days left and Jock and myself had registered, a seemingly effortless task, given the small size of the Great Lake Centre and the number of people needing to register. Numbers got, bags got, electronic tag got. Of course it wouldn't be a true event if everything went too smoothly. For myself it was going fine, my new Cosmic Carbons looked resplendent on my bike, and were going to propel me to my 5:30 bike time. Alex was having a bit of ado with his wetsuit, as was Cyril. Alex bought a brand new Orca predator for NZ\$ 450, with an Orca sleeveless chucked in. However thinking he was bigger than he actually was he had convinced himself a size 6 was too small, until I tried his on and it fit me, (COS we're the same size) and a clinic by Bryan Rhodes (IM Malaysia winner) convinced him that he was just an average sized bloke and when you put them on correctly they will fit a treat. Cyril actually got Cameron Brown involved at the Ironman wetsuit stand but that's another story, buy me a beer and we'll see.