

# Young have separate event

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"ON yer bike" is the cry from Adventure Wairoa... your mountain bike, that is.

The sporting group will again co-host the popular scenic mountainbike trek at Mahia on Saturday, January 28, and this time around young riders have a separate event.

Both bike treks are being organised by the Whangawehi Catchment Management Group — with assistance from Adventure Wairoa — and all riders in the region are encouraged to enter and "give it a go".

Adventure Wairoa representative Graeme Johnston says the group is excited about harnessing the district's natural sporting resources.

"We encourage all riders with a moderate level of fitness to have a go," he said.

"It's going to be a great day — and don't worry if 25 kilometres is too much. A shuttle bus will be there to take riders and their bikes back to the start/finish point at the Mahia Boating and Fishing Club."

The children's event is for those aged from five to 10 and includes about three kilometres of biking and fun challenges.

Mr Johnston says it's a great opportunity for all the family to take part and see the work being done by the Whangawehi Catchment Management Group.

Part of the \$10 entry fee will go towards the purchase of more trees.

"The Ministry of Primary Industries and the Coast Guard will also be in attendance to share information about water safety and sustainable fishing," he said.

"It's all about getting people active and enjoying the great outdoors."

Bikes depart from the Mahia Boating and Fishing Club at 10.30am sharp (children at 10.45am), with registration and safety briefing from 9.30am to 10am.

Riders should allow about four hours to complete the circuit.

The children's event will be shorter and participants will need supervision on their return.

"There will be a sausage sizzle, coffee cart, several food stalls and live entertainment after the bike ride," Mr Johnston said.

The adults' ride will cover 25 kilometres of gravel, forestry tracks, farmland and road over country usually off-limits to the public.

Mr Johnston says Adventure Wairoa sees the



□ **TEST RUN:** Adventure Wairoa representative Graeme Johnston checks out the track ahead of the Whangawehi Mountain Bike Ride.

Mahia mountainbike event as a chance to show people what the district has to offer and promote a fantastic project.

"It's also great for the children and helps to build their confidence."

Adventure Wairoa will hold the Wairoa Whanau Triathlon on Saturday, February 18. The race will start at the Wairoa Community Centre at 9am.

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