

For Sure, it's a Tri-shaw along the Foreshore!

The annual community event, Focus on Franklin, has a new spin for its fifth year-literally!

The week before the action-packed festival, the spinning wheels of a tri-shaw will be seen heading out the Southern Outlet and over into the Huon Valley.

As a fund-raising effort for the Bike Kitchen, a charity bike repair group presently based in Taroona, the trishaw is looking for passengers in the downhill sections for a small donation. Money raised will go towards bike-less people in need of some healthy transport. One of the "Bike Kitchenhands" commented "Biking is such a healthy form of transport great opportunity for adults and children to be involved."

Once in the Huon Valley, the three-wheeled journey will proceed to Franklin to be available for transport on the last weekend in March, from one end of the long town to the other. Wendy Brown, one of the voluntary organisers of the events said that "activities would be spread throughout the town over the weekend, so the trishaw would be ideal."

HISTORIC CELEBRATION for FOCUS on FRANKLIN

Also, this year is a historic celebration as it is the riverside town's 175th anniversary. Founded in 1836, it was not until the 1850's that the first penny farthing arrival was recorded, on a wooden boat owned by Mr Leitch. It caused quite an air of excitement, as road transport was poorly developed, with only a bridle path in existence between Hobart and the South.

Wendy continued "Wooden boats and bikes are a highlight of this year's Focus as the town's survival and development was due to the natural feature of the Huon River, which offered a means of travelling to local communities. Cars were not seen in the valley until 1910, so bikes were a form of transport to help locals visit other towns. On Saturday, a river-based feature will be called 'Wonderland' which combines biking activities with a spectacular moving evening lit-boat parade."

THE MAIN EVENT

Throughout "The Main Event" - Saturday 26th March, there will be a range of activities, such as Egg Island Canal boat tours, dragonboat races, sailing displays and an inaugural bike dress parade for riders and their bikes, big and small. This will create more boating and peddling history.

One thing's for sure, it will be the first time a trishaw tackles the hills and valleys of the Huon, and winds up on the Franklin foreshore, so don't miss the opportunity to join in. For more information, ph 62663224 or visit www.focusonfranklin.org
