

Lakes family looks forward to community

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LIFE couldn't get any more different for the trail-blazing Dye family who made history by becoming the first people to shift into Tauranga's huge Lakes development.

Not content with exchanging their Oroki lifestyle block for the city, they took the plunge two months ago and headed for the rawest edge of suburbia.

An info-graphic and updated details of The Lakes were published in yesterday's *Bay of Plenty Times*.

Russell and Kathryn Dye, with children Shannon, Ethan and Emma, gave up a quiet rural existence for the hurly burly of a development which will one day be home to 7000 people.

Oddly enough, the Dyes are really enjoying The Lakes, even though the neighbourhood is buzzing with tradesmen's vehicles, the sounds of building and the unrolling of new lawns.

"It is the newness of everything. It's interesting seeing things take shape and see what goes where — it's great," Mr Dye said.

Mrs Dye, a lifelong resident of Tauranga, is impressed with the design of The Lakes, in which reserves back up to homes, creating a feeling of openness rather than being "packed in like sardines".

With most houses in Landing Drive at various stages of completion, and their nearest neighbour only three weeks old, the Dyes are looking forward to when the community is really humming.

They are getting used to street lights again, and the areas being broken in for more houses and



EARLY SETTLERS: Conquering Tauranga's new urban frontier, The Lakes, are the Dye Family. From left Shannon (14), Kathryn, Russell, Ethan (12) and Emma (9).

PICTURE: JIMMY JOE 18/06/11/1280P

new roads further back in the development made a fascinating place for the family to cycle and walk in the cool of the evening.

Coolness is not something they have had much of since the heatwave hit Tauranga. The Dyes reckon their old home in the Oroki hills was 2-3°C cooler than The Lakes valley.

In the meantime, they continue

to break the ice for the thousands of others who will follow them into The Lakes.

Everyone they ring, such as Sky TV, rubbish collectors and couriers, have no idea where Landing Drive is because it isn't on maps. There was even doubt about their postal area — whether it was The Lakes, Tauriko or Pyes Pa. New Zealand Post decided it

was Pyes Pa.

Their modern four-bedroom, two-bathroom home with all the mod-cons is a big step up from their old house in Oroki.

The other big plus about The Lakes was how handy it is to everything. It is only a 10-minute drive along Cameron Rd to reach the furthest school attended by their children — Tauranga Girls'

College. "The only thing that is lacking here is a school bus," Mrs Dye said.

Another feature of life at The Lakes was how safe the family felt.

A security camera guarded the entrance to The Lakes and there was permanent night-time security while so many homes remain half-built.