



Cycle Aware Wellington (CAW)

[Home](#)

[About us](#)

[Join](#)

[Events](#)

[Resources](#)

[Windy Wheels
newsletter](#)

[Links](#)

[Contact us](#)

Windy Wheels newsletter

April 2005

Submission on Draft Annual Plans

Sounds boring but it's an important part of letting local councils know what we need for safe and enjoyable cycling.

CAW members have been lobbying WCC members but we have not yet been successful in persuading them to include a \$250K cycling budget in the Draft Annual Plan. The vote on the proposal by Andy Foster and Celia Wade-Brown was lost 7:8. We'll be following up with a submission.

Our Annual Plan submissions from 2004 are on the website at <http://www.mountainbike.co.nz/politics/caw/resources.html>

Thanks to those people writing this year's submissions (Sridhar, John, and Murray). We still need people to do Greater Wgtn or Upper Hutt. If you want feedback on your submission before you send it in, I suggest you email the text to caw_discuss@yahoogroups.com

Do You Cycle Home From Work?

James.Player@wcc.govt.nz

Over the next few weeks Wellington City Council road safety co-ordinators and Police will be stopping cyclists on their way home from work to discuss visibility issues and new rules on bike lights.

The road safety team will also be handing out vouchers from local bike shops offering a 20% discount on lights and reflective safety gear.

Changes to the Road Code (2005 edition) require all bicycles to display a steady or flashing rear-facing red light that can be seen from a distance of 100 metres and a steady or flashing, white or amber, forward facing light that can be seen from a distance of 100 metres. (If two headlamps are used, only one may be flashing). Pedal reflectors and/or reflective clothing must also be used.

If you need a bike light and would like a voucher, call James Player on 801 3898.

For more information on Wellington City Council's road safety activities please visit www.wellington.govt.nz Be seen at night and cycle safely.

Cristina van Dam, Road Safety Co-ordinator, says, "We started the campaign with extremely positive comments. Cyclists in general were receptive to the reminders of having lights, they were happy that WCC and Police cared about their safety and we distributed lots of lighting discount vouchers, which is also very encouraging."

Bike to Work Day survey results

by Lou Gallagher

Hi there cycling enthusiasts.

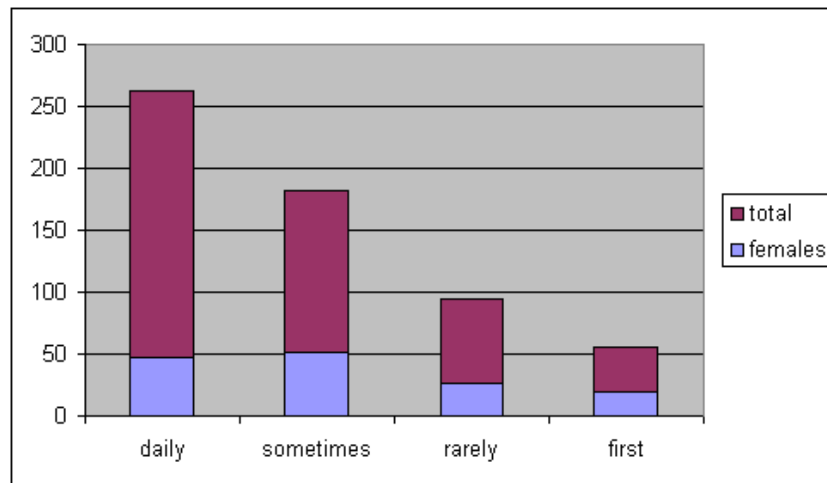
Here are a few results from our survey on Bike to Work Day that we would like to share with you.

The total number of questionnaires returned from participants was 446. It's true, there were twice as many males as females. [Women, this is the best exercise there is! It's cheaper than joining a gym, and it takes less time than driving a car.]

Most riders were in the 30–39 age group but people of all ages were represented.

Most riders reported being habitual bike users (see graph below), or engaging in daily activities on two wheels (215 riders). A total of 131 people reported being regular riders or riding weekly, 67 rode rarely and 36 rode for the first time on BTWD. Congratulations to those who chose this year's Bike to Work Day event for their inaugural ride.

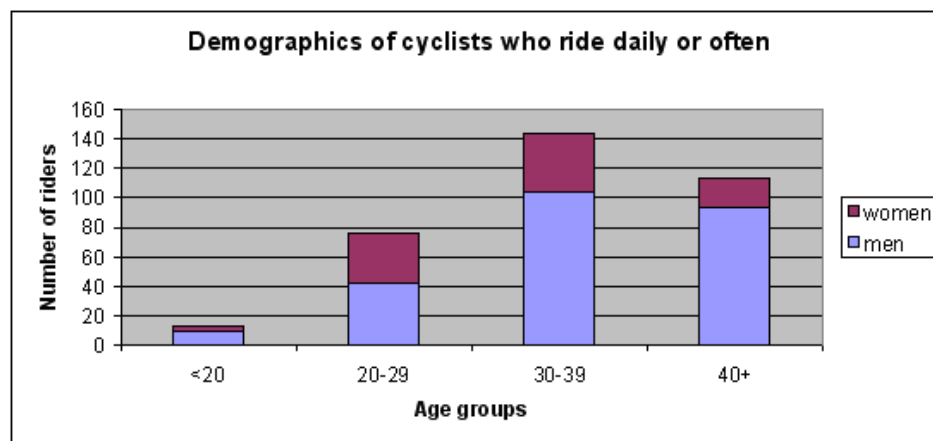
Riding frequency was not significantly associated with gender, but ladies – look at the appalling 20% we cut for the daily riding category! Surely there's room for improvement.



Riders came from all over the Wellington region, with representation from the following locations;
 Newtown/Island Bay (79)
 Miramar (77)
 Karori/Wadestown (67)
 Hutt Valley (58)
 Central City (51)
 Ngaio/Khandallah (43)
 Johnsonville (34)
 North State Highway 1 (15)
 Tawa (12)
 Makara (1)

From work we did last winter with the City Council, CAW estimates that the number of regular riders is much higher. From the Hutt in particular, there were an estimated 400 riders every day last winter.

As you can see in the graph below, people at Bike to Work Day who are riding daily or often were most likely to be over 30 years old. Is this because we have figured out that the most efficient way to get around and get exercise and save money (all at the same time) is to ride our bikes? Or is it the natural high we get from cruising down and sweating up the hills of Wellington? Could it be that we are concerned about environmentally sustainable transport? Maybe it's all of the above, I don't know.



The commuter craze is catching on as more and more people pick up the cycling habit. We're stacking up at the lights during commuting hours, and it feels GOOD! Pedal on, people.

Brent Efford (who is the Sustainability rep on the Regional Land Transport Committee, and the person CAW liaises with) is looking for contact details of people who wish to receive Greater Wellington (Regional Council)'s publication 'Transport Futures', and who would then be consulted about transport developments (e.g. the Western Corridor). If you are interested, please send an email to Brent <brent.efford@techmedia.co.nz> and ask him to put you on the list.

Renew now

Teresa, our Membership Secretary thanks all those who have renewed their membership of CAW for 2005. For those who haven't renewed, this will be your last Windy Wheels for the year.

The subscription year ended on December 31, 2004. We hope you will renew your membership by

completing and returning the [renewal form](#) together with your subscription. If you are able to make a donation we will put it to good use.

Alternatively, if you don't wish to renew, we would appreciate it if you could drop us a line and let us know why you do not want to continue your membership. In this case, you can send your comments either to the address below, or by email to: laingmaguire@paradise.net.nz

CAW has had another very good year. We had another successful Bike to Work Day. We had representation on the Regional Cycling Forum (Wellington Regional Council) and the Road Safety Reference Group (Wellington City Council), which allows us to directly voice your concerns to the relevant bodies in and around Wellington. We have also continued our regular monthly column on cycling and cycling issues – the “Bike News” page in *The Wellingtonian* newspaper. We also surveyed prospective councillors in the local and regional elections to understand their relevant standings on cycling-related issues.

The Technical and Planning sub-group made comments and submissions on many City Council plans and “improvements”. This included the annual plans for Wellington, Hutt City, Porirua and Regional Council, and other proposals too numerous to mention.

The Education and Safety sub-group have been less active this year, but are very pleased that the Council has now extended the Safer Routes scheme to a larger number of Wellington schools. The group also ran several workshops including a couple of adult skills courses, bicycle maintenance, and (for the third year running) one for traffic police officers, so they better understand cyclist safety issues. The group also partnered with the City Council to run safety campaigns including one focusing on the safety of individual cyclists (lights and helmets).

CAW has more exciting plans for this year, including another workshop with Wellington's traffic police, other workshops on safe cycling with various groups, and an adult cycling skills course. We are also currently working with the City Council to develop a program of road safety initiatives for the coming year.

Of course, we intend to continue making submissions to local bodies on other cycling issues that are relevant to Wellington riders, and to develop other strategies to make Wellington a great place to ride in!

As you can see, we are a busy group! However, we can only be as effective as you, the members, make us. If you are interested in any of our sub-groups or can offer your skills or time, please indicate this on the form. Also, if you have other suggestions on how we can be more effective on your behalf, please let us know.

CAN backpack covers for sale

Cycling Advocates' Network sells fluoro 'One Less Car' backpack covers. These are available to CAN members only – \$25 each! Large size fits a decent sized day bag (capable of carrying a couple of folders and the NZ Herald and pocket money and lunch). Also available in medium. Contact Bevan at [<bevanw@can.org.nz>](mailto:bevanw@can.org.nz).

News briefs

V8 Proposal CAW made a [submission](#) opposing WCC funding the proposed V8 event.

Cycle Parking WCC has installed some new cycle stands around town.

Cycling Events Check “[Events](#)” on the CAW website

Discussion forums Go to www.mountainbike.co.nz/forum/ for online discussion on advocacy, events, touring and more.

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CAW Annual General Meeting

When: Tuesday, 3 May, at 6pm

Where: Senior Citizens Room at the City Library on Victoria St. Take the steps up to Clark's cafe and then turn left to go past the lift doors.

What: Want better and safer cycling? Please consider standing for election – you get to learn about the nuts and bolts of how local politics works; it beats whinging; and best of all, work with some switched-on people.

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Secretary: Geoff Thomas, geoff.thomas@vuw.ac.nz, tel 463 6247

Windy Wheels is edited by [Patrick Morgan](#)

CAN Cycle Advocates' Network: www.can.org.nz

[top](#)