



## Cycle Aware Wellington (CAW)

[Home](#)

[About us](#)

[Join](#)

[Events](#)

[Resources](#)

[Windy Wheels  
newsletter](#)

[Links](#)

[Contact us](#)

### Windy Wheels newsletter

February 2002

#### Bike up your life - National Bike Wise Week 16-24 February 2002

National Bike Wise Week promises to be bigger and better than ever before. There will be more than 200 organisations getting involved and running various cycling activities in your area. Bike to Work Days are planned all over New Zealand for Wednesday 20 February, where people who bike to work can celebrate with a free breakfast. Cycle skill days, bike rides and family fun days are some other events set to go off during the week. Contact CAW member Marilyn Northcote to lend a hand, at tel 938 5885 or [northgalt@paradise.net.nz](mailto:northgalt@paradise.net.nz)

#### Bike Wise Business Battle

Interested in winning a sumptuous morning tea or a meal for two? Why not take part in a fun competition that's free and easy to enter, will help you wear off those extra Christmas kilos, requires very little organisation, plus has great prizes....

More at [www.bikewise.co.nz](http://www.bikewise.co.nz)

#### Employment opportunity: Be a Kiwisport Deliverer

Cycling New Zealand wishes to formally seek expressions of interest from people who are interested in delivering the Kiwi Cycling programme on behalf of Cycling New Zealand.

This role is to deliver the Kiwi Cycling Programme to years 5/6 and 7/8 school children. This role is rewarding personally and for the school children that complete the course. The course is skills based, and will assist the kids in their everyday riding ability. Full training will be given to the successful applicants. A set fee is paid for the delivery of the course, once all documentation has been received.

This is not a full time position and the hours required can be variable, but are likely to be undertaken during school time.

The person will be a self-starter, has good leadership and strong communication skills to succeed in this position. They also possess the ability to teach children at the age group the programme is delivered to.

Contact Katrina at Cycling New Zealand, tel 473 8386 or email [katrina@cyclingnz.org.nz](mailto:katrina@cyclingnz.org.nz)

#### Meet Celia Wade-Brown

Who are the people in CAW and why do we get involved?

##### *Your name and job?*

Celia Wade-Brown, Green Wellington City Councillor, Southern Ward

##### *Where do you live?*

Island Bay

##### *Why do you ride?*

To enjoy the fresh air in the country or along the coast, to tread lightly on the earth, to get past traffic jams, to have fun with the family and so I can still eat chocolate biscuits.

##### *What do you ride?*

10-year-old Avanti Illusion hybrid, with panniers, front carrier and attachments for trailers.

##### *What is your involvement in CAW and why?*

I went to my first meeting back in 1994(ish). I have joined in events and been an advocate for cyclists on WCC. Cycling is a brilliant way of getting round Wellington. It needs minimal parking space, keeps the air clean, and keeps people fitter. But the conditions need improvement - more cycle routes, including some through parks and Town Belt, some along coastal routes and where there isn't room; and traffic calming so cars and lorries are only going about 30 km/h.

Celia's ankle is recovering well from a car driver not seeing her and running into her one evening in October on Adelaide Road. Good lighting along Wellington streets is another priority for cyclists.

## Events calendar

February 20, Wednesday - Bike to Work Day - free breakfast at Civic Square, 7-9 am.

February 22 Friday - Critical Mass, 5:30pm, Civic Square, Wellington  
Bring your bike, skates, blades or scooter for a celebration of things human-powered. We'll go for a short ride around town spreading good cheer.

March 3 Sunday - Karapoti Classic mountain bike race  
50 km of honest grunt in the bush-clad Akatarawas, 10 km north of Upper Hutt. Also the more genteel Karapoti Challenge, 20 km circuit. More at [www.mountainbike.co.nz](http://www.mountainbike.co.nz) or phone the Kennett Bros on 499 6376. You will never be the same again.

## Next CAW meeting

When: Tuesday, March 5th, at 6pm

Where: to be confirmed - check with Alan Whiting tel 384 2201

Who: you, me, your mates

Why: It's fun and you get to work in a positive way with some great people.

Guest speaker: Patrick Morgan will show and tell on "What I did with my holidays - a day in the life of a mountain bike guidebook researcher".

## Notes from February's CAW meeting

Thanks to everyone who showed up

### 1. Cycling Upside-down

Celia Wade-Brown gave an illustrated talk on her experiences of cycling in England, Jersey, Holland and Belgium. She mentioned several types of cycle route in England: bridleways towpaths, disused railways, and roads that are 'no exit except for cyclists'. Sustrans is charity in UK which has planned the cycling network. They connected up existing bits to make continuous routes. They aimed for 5000 miles, did more like 10,000. Can be used on foot, by bike, pushchair or wheelchair. It is used for recreation and commuting, with the focus on being near communities and public transport. Routes include drinking fountains, way markers, and public art.

Lots of surfaces are really slow, so nice for recreation but not so good for commuting. Some ideas that Celia liked were: seats, art and music (e.g. percussion installations for public use), technicalities (e.g. ramps for pushing bikes up steps), car-free city centres (e.g. Oxford; retailers now pleased with it because their profits are up), and 20 km/hr areas.

Problems Celia encountered were glass, thorns, loose gravel, poor lighting, cars parked on cycle lanes, flooding, high traffic volumes, roundabout designs, hills (even in England) and MUD! Trains and bikes: a good network, but not good connections.

Holland: Celia rode the LF1 route down from North Holland to Bruges. Found that Holland is not as flat as one thinks, and the wind was not helpful! Everyone seems to cycle in Holland, you don't wear special clothes to bike, don't have to be young and fit. Huge range of child seats available.

Celia finished with some pictures of more unusual bikes, e.g. a cycle sound system, an ice-cream trike. In following discussion, Celia explained (in her role as Councillor) that transport issues are dealt with by two council committees: Built & Natural Environment deals with the 'big picture' future strategic stuff; City Infrastructure deals with the infrastructure management stuff e.g. provision of paths, resealing. There is strong devolution of decision-making to committees.

### 2. WCC Intersection Campaign

Jane Dawson described police training workshop, held end January. Led by David Laing, included 25 police, plus CAW people, Transit, WCC engineers. Organised by WCC road safety co-ordinators. Initial discussion of problems faced by cyclists, then bike ride through some nasty intersections, then debrief. Police quite vocal on rights and wrongs of cyclists before ride, but seemed more understanding afterwards. Next phase is targeting motorist behaviour at selected intersections. Leaflets being handed out, going in letterboxes, police stopping motorists and giving advice.

Suggestions made that leaflets and pictures of intersections could go to Dominion, where there has been recent flurry of letters about cycling.

### 3. CAW-WCC relations

Alan Whiting reported that two WCC cycling projects probably won't happen this year, but that he found that out just by chance. Suggested having regular meetings with WCC to keep in touch with what's

happening.

Celia Wade-Brown said Annual Plan prioritising is beginning now. CAW will apply to speak at next infrastructure meeting, and will let council officers know what we are going to say beforehand, so we are not working against them.

**Book Review: The Immortal Class: Bike Messengers and the Cult of Human Power**

By Travis Hugh Culley, Villard, 324 pages, available at Wellington Public Library

Reviewed by Sandy Zipp on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

Bike messengers (=couriers) seem out of place in the streets of our downtowns. Despised and envied by the "suits" they serve all day, messengers are simultaneously outside commerce and nothing more than commerce. They thumb their noses at workaday propriety while turning their very bodies into mere shuttles for the push and pull of business transaction. Their sweaty labour seems almost anachronistic in our supposed new clean keyboard utopia, some relic from a decidedly archaic world where information has to assume material form to move. And yet they're the communications system of the real-world network, transmitters coursing across the spaces between nodes on the grid.

In this book, Culley delivers a powerful articulation of the politics drawn from his labour. Careening back and forth between anti-car polemic, road-warrior tall tales and two-wheeling prose poetry, Culley's memoir does threaten to fly apart from the force of his own enthusiasm. Nevertheless, he fits together the strands of these expressive worlds like he might an intertwined series of pickups and dropoffs across the Chicago Loop. "The bicycle," he writes, "is a revolution, an assault on civilian territory, intent on taking, from the ground up, responsibility for the shape of our cities. It is a mutiny, challenging the ever-one-way street. The bicycle is a philosophy, a way of life, and I am using it like a hammer to change the world and to redeem our war-torn cities."

*"Bike to live, live to bike."*

[top](#)