



Cycle Aware Wellington (CAW)

[Home](#)

[About us](#)

[Join](#)

[Events](#)

[Resources](#)

[Windy Wheels
newsletter](#)

[Links](#)

[Contact us](#)

Windy Wheels newsletter

May 2002

CAW Annual General Meeting, 7 May 2002, School of Architecture

CAW Chairperson David Laing reported that it had been a very good year, with lots of different activities taking place. The Technical and Planning Group made submissions on the 2001 Draft Annual Plans, was involved in the waterfront development process, Thorndon Quay and bus lanes consultation, and took Councillor Ian Hutchings for a ride up the Hutt Rd track.

Jane has been representing CAW on the Wellington Regional Cycle Forum. Several CAW members attended the Cycling Conference in Christchurch. Marilyn facilitated a teacher training workshop in cycling skills, which was well received. David facilitated a training workshop for police which was pretty successful - it has been suggested that it is repeated. Marilyn ran a very successful Bike To Work Day.

The Education and Safety Group has been running the intersection education campaign with WCC and police: 2 intersections done, 1 more coming up - good coverage in media. A cycling article has been running monthly in *Contact*. CAW has been involved in consultation on the Inner City Bypass design. David has represented CAW on the WCC Road Safety Reference Group. Hutt CC would like CAW to be part of their Road Safety Reference Group also.

Treasurer's Report

Many thanks to Jeff Galt for auditing the accounts. The final audited version was not yet available, but a provisional version was presented. The final version will be tabled at the June meeting.

Membership

We have one more member than last year! 80 members, 18 families, 2 clubs and growing ... makes 100 members!

Election of Officers

The following were elected unopposed and with a minimum of coercion:

Chair - David Laing, Alan Whiting

Secretary - Alan Whiting

Treasurer - David Laing

Membership Secretary - Teresa Maguire

Dr Bike Co-ordinator - no nominations

WCC Road Safety Reference Group - David Laing

Newsletter Editor - Patrick Morgan

CAN Contact - Robert Ibell

Regional Cycle Forum - Alan Whiting (Jane Dawson as backup)

'Contact' Feature Co-ordinator - Marilyn Northcote

The meeting then enjoyed a slide show by Dan Thorp, followed by socialising over food and drink.

Draft Annual Plans are our chance to push for better cycling

CAW will be making submissions on the annual plans of the cities in the Wellington Region and also on the Wellington Regional Council's plan. Members are encouraged to make their own submissions. Ask for more money to be spent on cycling infrastructure and education projects.

Help is also required with all of the CAW submissions, but particularly with the Hutt City, Upper Hutt and Porirua plans. Most committee members are based in Wellington City and are less familiar with the situation in these cities. Contact Alan Whiting as below.

Down with Speed

CAW has made a submission to LTSA (Land Transport Safety Authority) on the Setting of Speed Limits Rule. Contact Alan Whiting if you want to see a copy.

From *The Evening Post*, 8 May

"A 37 year old cyclist who suffered severe head injuries in an accident in Kelson, Lower Hutt, yesterday remaining in Wellington Hospital's intensive care unit today. Police said the man was cycling along Major Drive when he hit a newly installed concrete kerb extension beside a pedestrian crossing near Taieri Cres. They said the cyclist was wearing a helmet and the new kerb was well marked."

Could any CAW members who use this area contact Jane Dawson, tel 385 2557

Dan's Rocky Road

CAW member Dan Thorp (see *Windy Wheels* March 2002) has a passion for touring the Rocky Mountains. Here's some notes from his talk at our AGM.

For the last 16 years, Dan has cycle-toured in the north-west of the USA, taking 3-4 weeks to go back and forth along the Rockies. He starts in Glacier National Park (his favourite), goes through Yellowstone National Park (rather crowded) and finishes up in Rocky Mountain National Park.

Trains go through GNP and RMNP, so he can bike from one railway station to another. He has to turn his handlebars round, take the pedals off and put the bike in a box. Dan travels light, taking a pair of jeans, 2 t-shirts, 2 pairs of socks, 2 pairs of bike shorts and doing laundry in his hotel room - he doesn't carry camping gear. He also takes 3 water bottles, and sometimes needs more bottles in his carriers because he might have to travel 80 km at 36 degrees with no water supply available.

GNP is right on the edge of the plains and mountains, and climbs can be 1500 metres in a day but slopes are gentle - maybe 4 degrees. Dan goes to see the wildlife: black bears, mountain goats (friendly). He hasn't yet seen a cougar (he'd like to) but one killed a cyclist just after he'd been through one area.

YNP is a caldera, or collapsed volcano, so has hot springs and geysers etc. It also has bison. The vegetation changes dramatically with altitude - Dan showed pictures of Firestone Gorge which was dry lower down but quite lush at the top.

RMNP has a road which is 3-4000 metres up. This is why he does the trip in this direction: he has got acclimatised to high altitudes by this time. One has to cycle early in the day up here because there are thunderstorms in the afternoon and no protection.

Dan's goal when touring is to get to his hotel, eat dinner, see the sights and feel ready to do it all again the next day. He starts training about March to build up his fitness. The roads are generally good, with not much traffic and good wide shoulders, but he has had bottles thrown at him from cars. There are plenty of other cyclists, including tour groups. Dan cycles solo, but hooks up with others along the way to swap information. His wife is a 'bicycle widow' for the 3-4 weeks he is touring. She will cycle on the flat, but this route is not flat.

Meet Geoff Thomas

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

Your name and job?

Geoff Thomas, lecturer in Structures and Fire Safety at the School of Architecture, Victoria University of Wellington

Where do you live?

Khandallah

Why do you ride?

To get to work. Occasionally I go for rides in the weekends with my daughter on a child seat. In the past I was involved in time trials and road racing in Christchurch, as training for ice racing.

What do you ride?

Diamondback Vectra Pro. Until last year I had a Yak Balboa, which was sturdy and reliable but someone stole it from work.

What is your involvement in CAW and why?

I have just joined. I am interested in safer cycling after several accidents and incidents including having someone deliberately try to run me over. Unfortunately for him he chose to do it in front of the wharf police. He did not turn up in court so now there is a warrant out for his arrest.

What do you want to achieve? What's your dream (for cycling or otherwise)?

To ride to work without having some idiot cut me off, overtake dangerously, fail to give way etc.

Favourite ride? (local, NZ or overseas)

As I mostly ride to work my favourite bits are the bridle track in Kaiwharawhara (downhill) and the waterfront. In these areas, with the lack of cars I can relax while I'm riding.

Events calendar

May 31 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 karma.

June 2 Sunday - **CAN Do**, Christchurch

Our national body, Cycling Advocates Network has its annual get together in Christchurch on June 2. See Chainlinks for more info. If you intend to go, contact Jane Dawson at 385 2557 to ask about travel assistance.

"The bicycle is the most civilized conveyance known to man. Other forms of transport grow daily more nightmarish. Only the bicycle remains pure at heart." - Iris Murdoch

[top](#)