



Cycle Aware Wellington (CAW)

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Windy Wheels newsletter

June 2002

The Political Cycle

With the election now announced, it is time for all good cyclists to come to the aid of CAW. A lot of policy decisions will now be put on hold until after the election, and unfortunately that includes the development of the NZ Transport Strategy and the recently-announced NZ Cycling Strategy, plus a lot of other things like Climate Change policy.

This is disappointing. We have been waiting too long for these things to be sorted out. If you are attending an election meeting, or happen to bump into your local candidates, ask them what they (and their party) are doing for cyclists. Ask them whether they will support a meaningful NZ Cycling Strategy **and** the funds to implement it. Ask them whether they will work to encourage people to use non-polluting transport options.

Contact us if you can help with raising the cycling issue during the election. Ideas, energy, money - anything!

New bus lanes open for bikes too

On 10 June Wellington City Council introduced bus lanes to Chaytor Street, Karori, Adelaide Road, Newtown and Kaiwharawhara Road, at the bottom of the Ngaio Gorge.

Bus lanes allow buses to move past banked-up traffic to the "front of the queue." Only buses and cyclists can use them. Bus lanes make getting to work faster and help provide a more reliable service for bus passengers. The bus lanes will operate morning peak hours 7am-9am and all day in Chaytor Street. More info at <http://www.wcc.govt.nz/news/projects/buslanes/>

New cycleway opens from Plimmerton to Pukerua Bay

A 3m wide cycle/ walkway named Te Ara Harakeke (The Flax Pathway) is now open on the western side of the Highway 1 north of Wellington. This pathway was funded jointly by Transit, Porirua City Council and Transfund, and is the first section of a cycleway Porirua City plans to build between Paremata and Pukerua Bay.

Help us identify hazards

CAW is writing to the local councils to give them detailed information on dangerous drain gratings, sites for cycle stands and other things that affect cyclists. We need your experience to tell us exactly where things need to be improved. Please tell us any or all of the following. **Contact Jane Dawson at** dawbell@actrix.gen.nz or tel 385 2557 with your ideas, and we'll approach the Council.

Do drains get you down?

Ever caught your wheel in a drain grating? WCC has replaced some of the dreaded wheel-catching gratings with a more cycle-friendly design. But many of the nasty ones are still around.

Stand by me

Where would you like to see cycle stands? Outside Reading cinema? In front of the Railway Station? Outside your office?

How many cyclists does it take to change a light?

Which traffic lights refuse to change for you? Which ones need to be adjusted to notice that there is a bike waiting to cross?

Other hazards

What other hazards have you noticed? Exact location and description of the problem, please.

Vehicles block bike paths

Don't get me started on this. They have the whole city to park in! Don'tcha hate it when they park on the meagre strips of asphalt set aside for biking, like the Hutt Road path? CAW is planning to print polite notices that we can use to remind drivers to keep off our space.

Mountain bikers' bible to be updated

"Classic New Zealand Mountain Bike Rides" is currently being updated. Email the Kennetts at bros@kennett.co.nz with any corrections or suggestions.

Events calendar

June 28 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.

Next CAW meeting

When: Tuesday, July 2nd, at 6pm

Where: Senior Citizens Room at the City Library. Take the steps up to Clarks and then turn left to go past the lift doors and the room is to the right.

Who: you, me, your mates

Why: We need you! The June meeting was almost inquorate (and boy is that painful) until Daryl rolled in, and a passing cyclist was 'induced' to attend. If more CAW members get involved we can achieve more.

"Think of bicycles as rideable art that can just about save the world." - Grant Petersen

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