



Cycle Aware Wellington (CAW)

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Windy Wheels newsletter

May 2003

New Regional Cycling Map

Greater Wellington (the Regional Council) and the Regional Cycling Forum has developed a regional cycling map concept intended to cover the whole region. Things are at an early stage and CAW members are asked to offer any comments they have to CAW's man on the Regional Cycle Forum, Alan Whiting (alan@whiting.net.nz). Of particular interest might be:

- Things you feel are essential in the map
- Other cities' maps which have got it right or wrong when developing their cycle maps.
- Whether the focus should predominantly be on tourists (cycle-tourers or visitors taking a hire bike out for the day) or on locals unfamiliar with the best route to cycle.

Based on input so far, from the Regional Cycle Forum, Greater Wellington has devised the following high-level guidelines for the design: There should be 4 maps in the set, each double sided as follows:

	Side A	Side B
Map 1	Wellington City	Wellington City CBD
Map 2	Lower Hutt	Upper Hutt... Masterton
Map 3	Porirua	Kapiti Coast
Map 4	Regional	Key Mountain Bike Trails (?)

- There should be 5% overlap of map borders for Maps 1, 2 and 3.
- It would be good to have a black and white printer-friendly version for web access.
- The existing Christchurch map key is preferred in terms of road service levels. Other key symbols to be included: are: gradient, train connections, locker provisions, transport terminals (bus, ferry etc), tourist offices, particular wind gust areas.
- Where practical, there should be co-ordination between the style and symbols for the proposed cycling maps and the pedestrian maps, which currently are being developed by the WCC.

Feedback on Bikenews wanted

WCC, WRC, BikeWise and CAW are keen to get some idea of the readership of Bikenews, the monthly cycling feature in *Contact* newspaper. As a result, we are initiating a survey to run in Bikenews and Windy Wheels. The results will be tabulated and published in July. As an incentive to filling in the survey there will be the opportunity to win a \$250 gift voucher from Ground Effect. So, tell us what you like, don't like, would like to see, don't want to see etc. and be in to win the goodies from Ground Effect. Contact: Marilyn Northcotte - marilynnorthcotte@hotmail.com

Tandem or half-bike wanted

I would like to rent or borrow it for a trip over the Rimutaka Incline. The trip would be in the last week of May. Currently I'm in Aussie and will be back on the 19th. Contact Alec Kent, kiwimagic@clear.net.nz

CAW AGM Report

And what a fine meeting it was! Great to see so many people along to celebrate good progress, including:

- Bike To Work Day was another great success, with more people attending than ever before. Marilyn did a fantastic job of co-ordinating it, with assistance from WCC towards the end of the process. WCC have signalled that it will provide better support next year.
- Hutt City also did a Bike to Work Day this year, plus other Bike Week activities, including a fun-ride at which CAW did Dr Bike checks.
- Submissions were made on city and regional plans.
- CAW's Technical & Planning Group were active on waterfront development issues and making submissions.
- Alan and Jane were CAW reps on the Regional Cycle Forum.
- Marilyn ran another teacher training workshop, worked with Tawa schoolchildren on

roundabouts, set up an adult cycling skills course, and organised a bike maintenance class (taken by Simon).

- David and Marilyn ran a police training workshop, assisted by other members.
- David was the CAW rep on WCC's Road Safety Reference Group, and got action on funding for pilot "Safe Routes" programmes to run in two schools, with money for a co-ordinator.
- The monthly cycling page (Bikenews) in *Contact* newspaper is running smoothly (thanks again to Marilyn). It has expanded to a full page, sometimes more.
- Neil ran a meeting in Petone for people interested in getting active in sustainable transport issues. It was well attended, Jane spoke for CAW, and hopefully the follow-up will also be successful.
- Brent was the joint cycling, pedestrian and public transport rep on the Regional Land Transport Committee, and CAW received useful reports from him regularly during the year.
- CAW is also involved in a WCC project to develop a cycling strategy and set up a framework for future cycling projects.

Elections

The following people were elected to positions:

Chair - David Laing

Secretary - Geoff Thomas

Treasurer - David

Membership Secretary - Teresa

WCC Road Safety Group - David

Regional Cycle Forum - Alan

Newsletter Editor - Patrick

CAN Contact - Robert

Contact newspaper Co-ordinator - Marilyn

There were no nominees for the position of Dr Bike Co-ordinator - who wants to do this fun job? It involves co-ordinating a small group of Dr Bike volunteers, who help check bikes at local events.

Regional Cycling Strategy

Greater Wellington (a.k.a. the Regional Council) is developing a cycling strategy for the Wellington region, and they have got together a working group to assist in the process. CAW's rep on the group is Jane Dawson - please contact her if you have comments or suggestions (dawbell@actrix.gen.nz or tel 385 2557).

The strategy is just at the stage of deciding what exactly it can and should cover (in meeting-speak that means 'scoping the issues' and 'problem framing'). A vision, a set of goals and the purpose of the strategy have been discussed, and are now being considered by Council staff.

Other members of the working group are staff from all the local councils, Transit NZ, LTSA and Regional Public Health. The timetable for development of the strategy is tight, and it is expected to come out for public consultation later this year, maybe around September.

Want better bike parking in town?

In 2002 CAW asked WCC to erect more cycle stands around town. The response was dismal - two stands by the St James Theatre and one outside the Island Bay library.

We now hear that retailers don't want bike stands outside their shops. For that reason, the recent widening of the Lambton Quay footpath didn't include a single bike stand. Outrageous! If you want to see more bike stands around town, we suggest you tell your favourite store. Tell me too and we'll get something done.

Thong-clad biker has some eyes sore



Though he appears nearly naked from time to time, Joseph Gottschalk is legally covered.

"Don't they call that a thong? I think it's disgusting," said Norm Sutton, 66, of the undressed man who rides his bike around Southside Lions Park.

San Antonio Park Police have received several complaints over the past month about a man who cruises on a bicycle wearing only shoes and a thong — a swimsuit or undergarment that doesn't cover

the buttocks.

"This is unique, let me tell you. Normal general public doesn't do that," said Park Police Capt. Raymond Castro. "But he's within his civil rights and legal rights to wear his thong." According to state law, no offense is committed if the man has "his anus and genitals" covered, Castro said. Which the thong does, if nothing else.

Gottschalk, 52, an unemployed truck driver who dabbles in carpentry, is aware of his rights and compares riding nearly naked to driving the maximum legal speed limit. "We all claim to believe in the value of personal liberty, but we don't," he said. "No one person has the right to outrank the law and tell me what to wear."

Ivonne Castoreno, 33, said Gottschalk keeps to himself, but she changed her walking schedule after seeing him a couple of times. Her 13-year-old son was with her. What disturbs me is that he's doing this by a public park around small children," she said. "Look at this guy — you know, he's not hiding much. Keep it in the bedroom."

When asked about the criticism, he raised his arms high and averred that seeing the human body is not traumatic. "I am a person. How could it possibly harm anyone — child or not — to see a person? It can't," he said.

"He comes here often wearing the same black thong," said Marisa Ayala, 26, who like many others in the area enjoys walking in the park before the heat of the day sets in. "He doesn't look like he bothers anybody. He's just riding around."

Betty Seibold, 57, who lives down the street from Gottschalk, said she's seen him mow his lawn and wash his truck in the skimpy attire. "From an artistic perspective, he's attractive looking," said Seibold, a retired schoolteacher of 32 years. "He's in good shape. His behavior may seem strange to us, but we are all a little strange in different ways. We are all eccentric."

Just before getting back on his bicycle, Gottschalk clipped on his cell phone. "I am sane," he said. "Heck, I am better than sane. I basically love life. ... You gotta find some humor in life."

source: <http://news.mysanantonio.com>

Next exciting CAW meeting

When: Tuesday, June 3, 2003, 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.

Who: you and your biking mates.

Contacting CAW

Cycle Aware Wellington, PO Box 11-964, Wellington

Secretary: Geoff Thomas, tel 463 6247 (work)

Windy Wheels is edited by Patrick Morgan, tel 383 6006

The deadline for the next issue is Tuesday 10th June 2003.

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

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