



Cycle Aware Wellington (CAW)

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Windy Wheels newsletter

October 2003

Bike to Work day plans double the fun

Planning for Bike to Work Day has started. The 2003 event attracted 450 riders to a free breakfast and entertainment in Civic Square, and organizers plan to double that number at the 2004 event.

National Bike Week is 14-22 Feb 2004. Bike to Work Day will be Wednesday 18th. We have a small and dedicated team, and we could always use some extras. For anyone who is interested in helping out in any way (no offers of help too small) please contact Marilyn at marilynnorthcotte@hotmail.com.

The early cyclist gets the shower



CAW member Celia Wade-Brown tries out the shower on Lambton Quay.

Wellington City Council will open the public showers attached to the ANZ Bank building on Lambton Quay an hour earlier at 7.30am for a trial period to meet the needs of commuting cyclists.

Councillor Celia Wade-Brown, Chair of the Council's Road Safety Reference Group and a frequent cyclist, says the arrangement will be under review to monitor demand and assess the case for future operations. "More and more people are commuting to work on bikes. However, many businesses and organisations in the CBD don't have shower facilities. If the usage justifies the early opening, there will be a case to stick with the opening hours."

A permanent change will depend on whether staff shifts and associated costs justify the demand, she adds. "Use it or lose it, 8.30am is too late to shower for most workers," Councillor Wade-Brown adds.

It costs \$1.20 to use the showers. Towels and soap can be hired from the attendant for \$2.20. The trial runs till November 14.

Transit NZ Cycling Projects

Stanley Chesterfield (Transit NZ's Wellington Cycling Champion) spoke at CAW's October meeting on Transit's plans. Projects include:

- Waikanae River overbridge, and some extra bits of shoulders. They are trying to get 1.5 metre shoulders on all state highways. Bridges are more difficult.
- Resealing of path on seaward side of SH1 between Pukerua Bay and Paekakariki is being done right now.
- Dowse Drive - Petone upgrade should happen in the next couple of years, and should have 2 metre shoulders throughout.
- Teihana Rd footbridge in Pukerua Bay is being shifted and rebuilt.
- Petone - Horokiwi: Transit has investigation funding for the coming year.
- Ngauranga Gorge facilities for downhill cyclists was discussed. Apparently Becca Boggs (WCC) has agreed to put a kerb ramp at Jarden Mile.
- Mt Victoria tunnel needs better links either end. WCC's area-wide safety project has SH1 (Basin Reserve to airport) as one of its projects for this year, so should be taken into account there.

Transit NZ is looking for our feedback on these projects. Send your comments to CAW's Technical and Planning expert David Laing (laingmaguire@xtra.co.nz).

NZ Cycling Conference, Auckland October 2003 Transport for Living

"Cycling is for everyone" was the key message from keynote speaker Steven Norris, former UK Minister of Transport, at the 4th NZ Cycling conference, held in Takapuna this month. Norris advocated shedding the lycra-clad road warrior image, ditching the helmet law, and promoting cycling as an every day mode of transport.

Compared to 4 years ago, when cycling was still on the fringes, it has now re-entered the mainstream. Central and local government agencies have draft strategy documents out for consultation, with cycling as a main component of their transport plans. These include:

- Ministry of Transport's 'Getting there on foot, by cycle';
- Greater Wellington's 'Cycle strategy'; and
- Land Transport Safety Authority's 'Pedestrian and Cyclist Safety Framework'.

Issues raised at the conference included the health benefits of cycling; skills training; and a collaborative effort from government agencies and local authorities with an interest in cycling.

There was also a clear anti-helmet law faction present. It is notable that for the first time since its introduction in 1994, the controversial helmet law will be reviewed in 2004, according to the LTSA draft strategy.

The conference offered something for everyone. The next event will be held in Wellington in 2005.



CAW members Jane Dawson and David Laing catch a ride from conference organiser Paul Doherty.



Ian Barlow from Porirua City Council collected a CAN Cycle-Friendly Award (best cycle facility project) for Ara Harakeke, a cycleway alongside State Highway One. It runs from the weigh station north of Plimmerton, to the railway line at the south end of Pukerua Bay.

Cyclists Welcome Release of Draft Strategy

The Cycling Advocates' Network (CAN) is welcoming the draft National Walking and Cycling Strategy 'Getting There', and wants New Zealanders to get in behind it.

"This is about giving people more choice about how they travel. For many journeys, the bicycle is an ideal way to get around, and we hope that the Strategy will create the conditions that enable people to use their bikes more", said CAN Chairperson Jane Dawson.

The release of the Strategy came on the eve of the 4th National Cycling Conference. The theme of the conference is "Cycling Strategies and How to Implement them".

CAN believes that there is still a lot of work to be done. "We would have liked to see an implementation plan included in the Strategy. The intentions are excellent, but unless there are goals set and action plans adopted, we have no great confidence that there will be significant changes in either the numbers of people cycling or the conditions they experience."

"In contrast to the NZ Strategy, the Australians set themselves a goal of doubling cycle use, and the UK's cycling strategy set a goal of quadrupling trips by bike. In the case of the UK, this goal has recently spurred them on to find new ways to ensure that their strategy is implemented. We would like to see ambitious goals set by the NZ Strategy, as well as a concrete commitment by Government to fund future implementation."

Further information about the draft National Walking and Cycling Strategy can be found on the Ministry of Transport website www.transport.govt.nz

Moving an oven by bike



(source: *Car-Free World, Austin TX*) When I moved into my new place in June it didn't have a stove, so I've just been cooking with a hot plate. But it's kind of hard to have someone over for dinner without an oven and a few burners. So I bought a used oven and hauled it home with my pedicab.

Before you start calling me crazy, how would you do this with a car? Easy, you couldn't. My pedicab can haul things you could never fit in a car (besides the oven, there's also my 88-key electronic piano). You could haul the oven with a truck, but most folks don't have trucks even if they own cars. You could borrow a truck, but why? In the time it would take me to call a friend with a truck, wait to hear back from them if they weren't around, go over and pick up the truck, use it, take it back, and then go back home, I could have already had the oven home by my own means. And I did.

I'm not suggesting that everyone has to go out and haul appliances with bikes. Just that if I can haul an oven across town by bike, can't everyone else bike to work at least once a week?

Events

Family Wheels Day Sunday 2 November, 10.00am-2.00pm, Civic Square

Contact Janet Mackay, tel 570 9142

If anyone wants to borrow our recumbent, trailer-bike and/or trailer for this event, they would be welcome. Contact Celia Wade-Brown, celia.wadebrown@greens.org.nz

Critical Mass ride

The Hallowe'en Critical Mass will be meeting at 5.30pm Friday 31 October at Civic Square. Come along for a fun ride around town. Extra points for hallowe'en costumes.

Taupo Cycle Challenge

Saturday 29 November, www.cyclechallenge.org.nz

Spring Green Bike Rally

A 27km ride through beautiful countryside at Gladstone, Wairarapa has been arranged for Sunday 16 November. Start and finish are at the Gladstone Sports ground, which is on Gladstone Road.

Last year's event attracted 200 riders. The route is on flat to undulating country roads, with one climb of about 100 metres over 3 km. It's scenic. At the start riders are given a quiz sheet and the answers to questions are all found on the route. Correctly filled forms go into a draw to win a bike.

Start time is 11am. Wellington riders are advised that as the Taste Martinborough event is also on this weekend, all trains are fully booked so you'll need to take SH2 over the Rimutakas. the finish there's a BBQ and other foods, spot prizes, and some entertainment. Entry is \$20 adults, \$5 children.

This event is organised by the Wairarapa branch of the Greens to encourage cycling and for fun and enjoyment. Entry forms can be downloaded from www.greens.org.nz/office/posters/BikeRally.pdf

Next CAW meeting

When: Tuesday, November 4, 2003, 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.

CAW

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The deadline for the next issue is Tuesday 11th Nov 2003.

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

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