



Cycle Aware Wellington (CAW)

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Windy Wheels newsletter

January 2004

Freewheel with a Friend on Bike to Work Day



A frenzy of freewheelers will feast on free food! Bike to work on Wednesday 18 February and help yourself to a free breakfast.

Cycle Aware Wellington and Wellington City Council invite all cyclists to pedal on down to Civic Square between 7 and 9am for a free feed, entertainment and prizes. Once a year we gather to celebrate all the good things about biking. It's quick, cheap, healthy, zero-polluting and loads of fun.

This time we want you to bring a friend along so we can double our numbers. In 2003 we fed 450 bikers on a windy day, so for 2004 we plan to double the fun. A show of numbers helps us lobby for better and safer cycling in Wellington. Anyone who is interested in helping out in any way, please contact Marilyn at marilynnorthcotte@hotmail.com.

National Bike Wise Week 14-22 February

Family Cycle Ride, Hutt Valley, Sunday 25 January

Hutt City, Upper Hutt City and Greater Wellington are organising a family cycle ride for Sunday 25 January. The two and a half hour ride leaves Harcourt Park, Upper Hutt at 10 am and goes via the Hutt River Trail to Hikoikoi reserve on the seafront. A shorter ride leaves at the same time from Stokes Valley. There are bike checks at 9:30 at both starting points. Enquiries to Barbara Cantillon, Hutt City Road Safety Co-ordinator, on 570 6730, Barbara.Cantillon@huttcity.govt.nz

If you can help CAW's Dr Bike with bike checks, or if you able to do the ride as a support person, contact Barbara at Hutt City, or Robert Ibell of CAW on 385 2557, dawbell@actrix.gen.nz

13 February - Bike To School Day, Hutt City: prize for school with highest number of children riding to school. For more information, contact Barb Cantillon (details above).

14 February - Big Coast Mountain Bike Ride This is the last Big Coast. Contact Top Adventures 589 9181 or see www.topadventures.co.nz/bigcoast

15 February - Family Bike Day, Frank Kitts Park and waterfront, Wellington, 10am-2pm. Celebrate the start of Bikewise Week with fun, safety tips and wheels galore. Highlights include a slalom and obstacle course, family rides, safety and helmet checks, an opportunity to test your wet-weather riding skills, a cyclists' fashion parade and much more. For more information, contact Cristina Van Dam, 801 3251, cristina.van.dam@wcc.govt.nz

16-20 February - Bike To Work competition, Porirua. Contact Mark Kairua, 237 1493, MKairua@pcc.govt.nz

18 February - Bike To Work Day

Wellington: Free Bikers' Breakfast in Civic Square, 7-9am. - bike checks, entertainment, spot prizes... (Marilyn Northcotte 938 5885, marilynorthcotte@hotmail.com);

Hutt City: free breakfast for cyclists outside Council offices, Hutt Hospital and Waterloo Interchange, 7-9am.

21 February - Family Cycle Day

Te Rauparaha Park, Porirua. Obstacle courses, prizes. For more information, contact Mark Kairua (as above).

21 February - opening of 'Maidstone Max Downhill' a new Mountain Biking Track at Maidstone Park, Upper Hutt. The new track which courses through steep native bush and ferns is accessible from within Maidstone Park off Park Street or from Seymour Grove in Kingsley Heights. For more information contact Craig at Upper Hutt City Council on 527 2169.

22 February - Upper Hutt BMX club open day at the McLeod Park on McLeod Street, 1.45pm. Safety tips, bike and helmet checks provided. \$2 to have-a-go. Participants must wear safety gear, have a well-maintained bike, wear long pants and sleeves, with shoes and socks. Gloves are advised. (Mosh pegs are not allowed). For more information contact Helen Thorpe on 971 3772.

Makara Peak work parties

Sun 18 January - Time to give lower Leaping Lizard some serious TLC (Geoff Tilbrook, 499 4661, geofft@attglobal.net)

Sun 8 February - Head into Nikau Track to build one last bridge and armour the steep sections (Simon Kennett, 499-6376 wk, simon@kennett.co.nz)

All work parties start from the carpark on South Karori Road at 10am. No experience necessary and everyone is welcome. Tools and a light lunch are provided.

Mountain Bike Discovery Trail

7 February -10am - 1pm, free. For riders aged 9-16 yrs. Test your skills on our valley floor course at Stratton St with the Hutt Valley Mountain Bike Club. Maximum 20 riders. Bookings essential phone 526 4133 or email bookings@gw.govt.nz. Contact: Angela 526 4133.

For further information, see www.gw.govt.nz

Bush Cycle Tour, Mangatainoka, Wairarapa, Sunday 14th March

100km, 50km and 15km fun rides. Organised by the Pahiatua Lions

www.massey.ac.nz/~sglasgow/bushtour.htm

Business Bike Battle

Enter the nationwide Business Bike Battle. See www.bikewisebattle.co.nz for details and entry form.

Bike To Work Day - helpers needed in Hutt and Wellington

To save us some time ringing to pester you, please give us a call if you're able to help out at this year's BTWD events in Wellington and Hutt City on Wednesday 18 February.

In Wellington, tasks include handing out leaflets & providing encouragement at roadside stalls, or helping with registration, spot prizes, breakfasts etc. in Civic Square.

In the Hutt we need members to help council staff hand out breakfasts to cyclists outside the council offices, Hutt Hospital and the Waterloo Interchange.

If you can help, please ring Marilyn Northcotte on 938 5885, marilynorthcotte@hotmail.com; or Robert Ibell on 385 2557, dawbell@actrix.gen.nz

Whether you're a volunteer on the day or not, Freewheel with A Friend to work or school on the 18th.

Bike Doctors On Call

CAW has been asked to provide its Dr Bike free maintenance checks for three events in the next month or so:

- Sunday 25 Jan: Valley to the Sea Family Cycle Ride, Hutt Valley. Bike checks take place at the two departure points (Harcourt Park, Upper Hutt; and Stokes Valley) at 9:30 a.m.

- Sunday 15 Feb - Family Bike Day, Frank Kitts Park and waterfront, Wellington, 10am-2pm
- Saturday 21 Feb: Family Cycle Day, Te Rauparaha Park, Porirua.

The bike checks are easy and fun. Training and expenses provided if needed. If you can help (even if for only part of the time), please contact Robert Ibell on 385 2557, dawbell@actrix.gen.nz

Hutt River Trail develops

Hutt Valley Rotary Clubs and Greater Wellington Regional Council Flood Protection have developed the Trail over the last 10 years with considerable support from Hutt City Council and Upper Hutt City Council. Over the past two years key achievements on the Trail include: Hulls Creek footbridge; Stokes Valley footbridge; Estuary Bridge East underpass; Melling Bridge west underpass; 36 indicator signs and mapboards, total value \$140,000.

Rotary provided the largest portion of the funding and facilitated the joint sharing of the costs for all three footbridges. Currently they are focusing their energies on helping to link the Hutt River Trail with the Rimutaka Rail Trail. When completed it will be possible to walk or cycle from Cross Creek in the Wairarapa all the way to Petone Beach completely off-road - a distance of approximately 50kms. The key Rotarian driving the project is Robin Maud who has done an outstanding job pulling it all together. [Source: Greater Wellington Parks & Forests Community Newsletter, Dec 03]

Hutt City upgrades Hutt River cycle way

Hutt City Council has completed upgrading the eastern stop bank of the Hutt River, paving the path from Ava bridge to Estuary bridge.

"This is a combined project between Hutt City Council and Greater Wellington that links the inner city with Hikoikoi Reserve and the Petone foreshore," said Hutt City Transportation Engineer Rebecca Loader.

"The path forms part of the Hutt City Cycle Network and will make the river area more accessible to a wider range of the community. However, as a shared environment we expect all stopbank users (cyclists, runners, walkers, scooters etc) to 'Share with Care' and respect one another.

The works have been completed in time for the "Valley to Sea Family Cycle Ride", to be held on the 25th January.

Road marking changes on Wainuiomata Road

Road works in Wainuiomata Road are nearing completion and traffic should be aware that there have been changes to the road markings:

"We have defined a separate cycle lane between the parking lane and traffic lane," said Rebecca Loader. "Proceed with care when turning left across the cycle lane, especially at The Strand. Treat the bike as a vehicle and cross behind them.

There have been changes at the intersections - the turn pockets have been removed and there are two new give ways. Now that signs and new limit lines are installed cars turning right into Queen Street and into the Mall from Wainuiomata Road must give way to all oncoming traffic (i.e. left turners as well as straight through!).

This is a change from previously and will require patience from drivers. We have erected large Right Turn Vehicles Give Way signs and temporary warning signage. Even if others try to "let you in" we ask that drivers continue to give way and maybe point to the signs.

"Take it easy, be patient and follow the guidance of the signs and road markings". For further information contact Rebecca Loader, tel 570 6944

WCC and Cycle Friendly Employers

Patrick and Robert met with Wellington's mayor Kerry Prendergast and four Council officers on 14 January to encourage WCC to become a Cycle Friendly Employer (CFE) and to persuade other workplaces in the city to do the same.

We'd sent them the excellent Cycle Friendly Employer guide produced last year by SPARC (available on their website at www.sparc.govt.nz/publications/index.php#cycle) as a resource to use in-house and with other employers. WCC are already some way to becoming a CFE, having facilities like showers and a unit of bikes available for some staff to use. The bikes are used by Roding, Traffic and Transportation staff for site visits where work is going on around the city.

There was some reluctance on the part of the Council to promote cycling in the absence of a completed cycle route network. However, WCC will be coming back to us with a timetable for a formal decision on

becoming a CFE. They'll also be letting us know what they can do to promote Bike Week and CFE programmes to other employers this year, in conjunction with EECA and SPARC.

The Council intends doing a Cycling Strategy for the city once the city's broader Transport Strategy has been through public consultation. The Cycling Strategy will then lead to a work programme for a cycling route network in the city.

Old bike wanted

We're looking for an old-style one-speed step through bike, 26" wheel, to replace Diana's much-loved, but stolen bike. Contact Arie at Arie's Cyclery, 162 Riddiford St, Newtown, tel 939 2453.

CAW December meeting - Christmas Party and Slide Show

Thanks Marilyn for the great pics and talk on biking across Newfoundland.

Next CAW meeting - Christmas Party and Slide Show

When: Tuesday, February 3, 2004, 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

Cycle Aware Wellington, www.caw.org.nz, PO Box 11-964, Wellington

Secretary: Geoff Thomas, geoff.thomas@vuw.ac.nz, tel 463 6247

Windy Wheels is edited by Patrick Morgan, (www.morgan.net.nz/contact.php) tel 389 9393

The deadline for the next issue is Tuesday 10th Feb 2004.

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

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