



## Cycle Aware Wellington (CAW)

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### Windy Wheels newsletter

**August 2004**

#### Wellington City Council buys in to cycling research

The higher-than-national average number of night time crashes in Wellington (one in every four crashes for the nation's capital versus the one in five for the rest of New Zealand) has spurred Cristina van Dam (WCC) and Lou Gallagher (CAW) to join forces on cycling research in Wellington. The first challenge was to get a representative sample of dark-hour cyclists in the city. After canvassing the Hutt Road, Oriental Bay and the Waterfront, we have 45 keen cyclists who have filled in questionnaires and volunteered to take part in focus groups.

Focus groups will be conducted in the next few weeks to get information from cyclists on improving visibility of night-time riders and picking ideas for communicating with cyclists in the future. So far, respondents have only one thing in common - most of them read The Dominion Post.

More on this exciting research in the next edition of Windy Wheels - watch this space!

#### CAW goes to the movies

Brilliant afternoon sunshine on Sunday, August 8 did not deter the politically-minded from attending "The End of Suburbia" at the Paramount Theatre on Courtenay Place. Cycle Aware Wellington attended a stall at the show to recruit new members. The CAW banner was strung from the stairwell as the centre of attention. Other groups in attendance were the Green Party, the Sustainable Energy Forum, Transport 2000 Plus, Campaign for a Better City, Pacific Institute for Resource Management, and the Wind Energy Association.

#### Bike the Bays returns in 2005

WCC, in consultation with CAW, is planning the following cycle safety projects for 2004/05.

1. Police training day, date tba.
2. Cycling training in Tawa schools, training teachers or Kiwi Cycling, early 2005
3. Cycling skills at intermediate schools, proposed Tawa and Evans Bay, early 2005
4. Bike the Bays – a cruisy ride around Wellington's bays, date tba. CAW organised this excellent event for several years. With WCC support, we'll do it again.
5. Cycle lights campaign, based on current research (see above). WCC is to check what was done in Tauranga. March 2005
6. Share the road - use the middle of the lane. Message in local newspapers and possibly emails to cyclists and use of radio advertising. Also to motorists.
7. Adult cycling skill classes
8. Research in consultation with LTSA. LTSA is to conduct a literature review to come up with best practice examples of programmes and projects that improve motorist behaviour around cyclists.

#### Biking in Vietnam and Cambodia

CAW member Alastair Smith spent part of July teaching and travelling in Vietnam and Cambodia. Some observations on urban cycling in these countries:

- Vietnamese have discovered that give way rules are unnecessary: it's perfectly feasible for two streams of bicycle/motorcycle traffic to cross at right angles, so long as everyone has 360 degree vision. Which they do...
- It's practically compulsory to use official bicycle parks in Hanoi; police take a dim view of bicycles being parked against lampposts etc.
- Cambodia drives on the right, but a high proportion of vehicles are imported from Thailand and Japan, designed to drive on the left. Consequently cyclists have to be careful when trying to get eye contact with the driver, that they're not eyeballing the front seat passenger!
- At Angkor Tom, a unique bicycling skill is estimating whether you have enough speed/distance/time to overtake an elephant before it reaches the city gates (built to be exactly one elephant wide).
- Highway 5 from Battambang to Pnom Penh averages a snack stand every 200m, which is excellent for cycletouring. Maybe LTSA and Immigration could cooperate to achieve similar facilities on NZ highways!
- A sobering reality for would-be off road bikers in Cambodia is the continued presence of landmines: even near the main highway, mine clearance work is ongoing - estimated to be complete around 2050. For some pictures of cycling etc in Cambodia, see [http://www.vuw.ac.nz/staff/alastair\\_smith/tripix/Cambodia/](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/staff/alastair_smith/tripix/Cambodia/)

### **MfE consulting on draft Urban Planning**

The Ministry for the Environment has released their draft Urban Plan. You are invited to make submissions.

<http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/urban/draft-protocol-aug04/index.html>

### **Transporting your bike**

Info on airlines, airports, trains, packing your bike at <http://www.bikeaccess.net>

### **CAW meeting**

**When:** Tuesday, September 7, 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.

**What:** get involved in helping CAW make the world a better place for biking. We'll be planning how we can support WCC in their cycling safety programmes this year.

**CAW** Cycle Aware Wellington, [www.caw.org.nz](http://www.caw.org.nz), PO Box 11-964, Wellington

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The deadline for the next issue is Tuesday 14 September 2004.

**CAN** Cycle Advocates' Network: [www.can.org.nz](http://www.can.org.nz)

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