



Cycle Aware Wellington (CAW)

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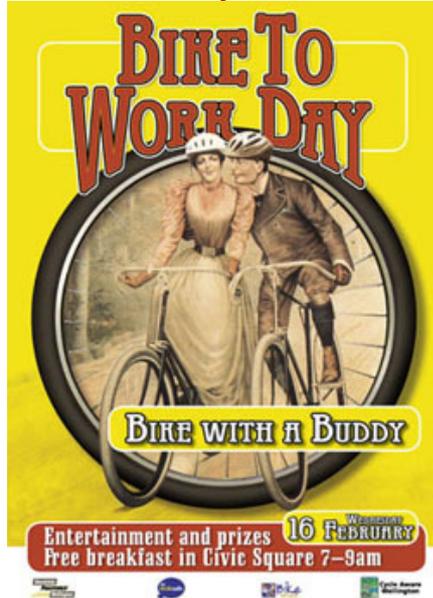
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Windy Wheels newsletter

January 2005

Bike to Work Day 2005



Work is underway for this highlight of the Wellington biking calendar – our free breakfast in Civic Square for cyclists on Wednesday 16 February. More than 500 came along in 2004. Celebrate the best way to get around with a yummy breakfast, free bike checks, goodie bags, prizes, entertainment and guest speakers. The event runs from 7–9am.

More and more people are cycling to work in Wellington, as census statistics and WCC cycle counts show. Currently around 2.5 per cent of Wellingtonians commute to work by bicycle. Organiser Marilyn Northcote says, "Bring a friend this year and turn them on to the fittest, fastest and funnest way to travel."

If anyone can help out as a volunteer on the day, please contact me at marilynnorthcote@hotmail.com. If you can help at one event this year, make it Bike to Work Day.

Critical Mass, Friday 28 January



Meet Friday 28 January at Civic Square at 5:30. 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.

Critical Mass is a monthly "unorganised coincidence" occurring in hundreds of cities worldwide. Cyclists ride in a group through the city streets to celebrate cycling, fossil-fuel-free transportation, redefining of the social space of our cities and reclaim autonomy in a car dominated society. It's heaps of fun too. Make new friends. Claim your place on the roads. Save the planet.

The revolution is coming and it's riding a bike. BYO music and costume. Invite a friend or 3.

Work on new Hutt cycle/walkway to begin soon

Work is expected to begin in the New Year on the cycleway/walkway from Point Howard to Seaview, following the success of a Hutt City Council bid for a Transfund subsidy.

Hutt City Council road asset manager Ron Muir says tenders were called for last weekend for the construction of the path, which will be used by cyclists and pedestrians, and for the barrier to protect the oil pipeline.

Mr Muir says the council was a frontrunner in applying for funding made available by a Transfund policy change that allows the government agency to support road margin projects. If all goes well construction should start in the New Year, he says. The costs of the project are to be distributed between Hutt City Council (\$475,000), Transfund (\$200,000) and oil companies (\$71,000).

Mr Muir says the Point Howard to Seaview part of the Eastern Bays Walkway was not a priority for the council but the construction timetable was modified to fit in with oil companies wanting to leave oil in the pipes between tanker visits.

New Zealand Oil Services representative John Banks says the oil companies will not proceed with their plan to leave oil in the pipes until all the work - including the erection of the crash barrier - is completed. Mr Muir says once work begins it will take about four months. To minimise disruption, road markings will probably be moved temporarily. And although there may be some delays - for example when cranes are used - two-way flow will be maintained at peak hours, he says.

[*Eastbourne Herald*, 26 November 2004]

Bike the Trail, Sunday 30 January

Bike the Trail is an easy flat 2.5 hour bike ride covering 25km of the Hutt River Trail from Harcourt Park in Upper Hutt to Hikoikoi Reserve in Petone. Or try the 1 hour 12km ride starting at Stokes Valley.

Entry is free. Start between 10am and 10.30am from Harcourt Park or 11am and 11.30am from Stokes Valley. Free transport is available for you and your bike back to your start point from 12.30pm.

Register in advance to help us plan by going to Events at www.gw.govt.nz or one of the bike shops mentioned below.

Free bike safety checks and registration available from: The Cycle Centre in Upper Hutt and V.I.C. Cycles and Toyworld & Avanti Family Cycle Centre in Hutt City. Approved cycle helmet must be worn. Under-14s must be accompanied by an adult aged 18 years or older (1 adult to 3 children). Spot prizes and certificates.

Contact: Greater Wellington on tel 803 0381 or cycling@gw.govt.nz.

Bike the Bays, Sunday 12 December



Greater Wellington's Ian Kirkman reports "Great Weather. Great Numbers. Great Day. Almost 400 children and adults took the opportunity to ride the 20km of the Miramar Peninsula in Bike the Bays 2004.

Riders had an absolutely wonderful time with a chance to appreciate the beauty of Wellington's coastline. This was made possible by a big team of people out there - marshals, organisers, aid stations, police - who all created a friendly, relaxed, safe atmosphere."

Dr Bike operated successfully. The help of CAW's bike doctors (Stephen, Simon, Jane and David) and other members was much appreciated.

Ian has asked if CAW can provide bike doctors for Bike the Trail on Sunday 30 January. Bike doctors are required at around 9:30 am at Harcourt Park (Upper Hutt) or around 10:30 am at Stokes Valley.

Contact Robert Ibell (dawbell@axtrix.co.nz, tel 972-2552) if you can help.

Lower Hutt cyclists to form group

A meeting of Hutt Valley cyclists, called by the Petone Recreation, Environment & Peace Centre, was held on 2 December with the aim of forming a cycling advocacy group in Lower Hutt. Around forty cyclists heard speakers from Hutt City Council, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Bike NZ, Cycle Aware Wellington, and the AA.

Hutt City Council is committed to have a working group as part of its cycling strategy. Attendees discussed problems faced by cyclists in the Hutt Valley, and agreed to reconvene in February 2005. Contact: Neil Newman, neil@livingsimply.co.nz tel 939 1133.

WCC's Cycling Projects

CAW members Robert Ibell and Patrick Morgan met WCC staff in December to discuss the Council's Cycling Projects for 2005/06. They are:

- Jarden Mile footpath ramp
- install cycle stands
- trial an advanced stop box at Bunny / Featherston Sts
- support for national cycling conference
- consultation/design work for 06/07 projects

These project total \$68,000. Spending for cycling will also come from other budgets: \$40,000 from road maintenance, and \$30,000 from road safety education.

It was a disappointing meeting, as many items on CAW's wish list may not be funded. These include:

- consult on and begin planning for Wellington cycle route network (we view it as extremely likely that a strategy will include a cycle route network)

- complete the Evans Bay cycle facility by closing the gap at Balaena Bay
- coloured seal on cycle lanes
- appoint full-time cycling officer
- cycle lanes on Ngaio Gorge/Kaiwharawhara Rds
- put staff time and resources into encouraging private businesses/government agencies to be cycle-friendly employers
- smooth seal on popular recreational routes - e.g. Makara loop and round the bays – needs to be justified by higher vehicle numbers. Not cost-effective for quiet cycle-friendly routes.
- on-road cycle lanes installed when road markings re-done – not funded

Support for cycling

We discussed the lack of political support for cycling projects, where these are opposed by retailers or residents (e.g. proposed Thorndon Quay cycle lanes). Parking is valued more than cycling by retailers and residents. Clearly Wellington cyclists need to build more support for what we want.

CAW's December meeting

Thanks Alastair for the talk and slide show about cycling trips in Vietnam and Cambodia.

CAW meeting

When: Tuesday, February 1, 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 stuck in and make Wellington a better place to bike.

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)

The deadline for the next issue is February 8 .

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

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