

Cycle Action eNews



July 2009

July Cycle Action Meeting – Exotic Cycling Travel!

Forget winter, and join us on Wednesday 22 July for coffee, cake, and intrepid traveller tales from Cathy Sheehan.



Would you go on a package tour to Pakistan? Cathy took a three week cycle tour of the Karakoram Highway, over the Khunjerab Pass to Kashgar and Kyrgyzstan, with UK company [Red Spokes](#), soon after the Red Mosque riot in Islamabad. Hear all about cycling in three mountainous Muslim areas and meeting Uighurs, Kyrgyz nomads and Hunzas. Her photos will inspire you!



After Cathy's presentation we'll have a brief discussion on Councils and their projects - how advocates can keep in the loop.

Time and Date – 7pm, Wednesday, 22 July.

Where - Long Room, Ground Floor, Freemans Bay Community Centre, 52 Hepburn St, (off Wellington St), Freemans Bay (click [here](#) for a map).

Annual General Meeting – Wed 23 September

Wait! Before your eyes glaze over... mark this in your diary for a good night of food, wine and rousing talk!

It's also your chance to join a smart team of cyclists and make your mark on cycling advocacy in Auckland. It doesn't take long to make a difference with others beside you!

As Co-Chairs we can say this, because we are seeing the results from our sharp committee members – they leave us breathless at times, so grab this chance!

Remember - it's not all boring meetings, nor big commitment. It's a way of contributing, in your own small way, to making Auckland a better place for cyclists. Join our merry team for fun, frivolity, friendship, currys/pizzas, wine, and beer! Great for developing good karma too.

Great Urban Rides - Update

Cycle Action has made a proposal to the Ministry of Tourism for Great Rides in Auckland in association with Julian Hulls, Director of [Nextbike](#). Read our proposal [here](#).

We have received an amazingly positive response to the proposal as everyone we have shared it with has been able to appreciate the huge potential in making Auckland part of the NZ Cycleway Project and a cycle friendly city for tourists and locals.



Unfortunately we already know our proposal is not going to be picked up as part of the first announcement of initial rides to receive funding (expected any day) but we have taken significant steps towards developing routes and gaining support.

We will next be seeking the official support of Auckland City Council as a potential co-funder and key stakeholder so we are ready to make an application once the Ministry announces the proposed funding criteria.

Thank you to those who have offered support, interest and feedback - we also welcome further feedback.

Please contact [Pippa](#) or [Julian](#) with any queries, comments, feedback, or if you would like to be on our contact list.

GetAcross – Progress!

An update from the GetAcross team:



We've had a productive meeting with NZTA and have committed to trying to work together in an open manner to build trust and a clear understanding of all the issues.

As a result of the protest, we've been advised of a strengthening solution for the clip-ons by Holmes Group Consulting (these people are real experts, see www.holmesgroup.com). NZTA have agreed to have their structural people consider it within the next few weeks.

We've also been approached about funding the walk/cycleway as a PPP. We'll investigate this and consider taking to the Ministry of Transport in the next month or so.

Tell the GetAcross team what you think. In case you missed the email broadcast:

If we don't make significant progress with the Transport Agency over the next few months, we may have to stage another Demonstration of Support. We'd like your views on this, please take our two-minute survey:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=sZfs1EpgGvTcralyriqoPQ_3d_3d

Connect to www.getacross.org.nz to add your name as a supporter, or to donate time or money for GetAcross.

And to whet your appetite for what could be, read the [article](#) in last week's Herald Travel section on cycling the Golden Gate Bridge – you'll be booking a ticket to San Francisco!

Whether it's Sydney, San Francisco or Vancouver, residents can walk and cycle their Harbour Bridges. You have to ask yourself, if **they** can do it, why can't **we**?

350 Day of Action 24 October

Cycle Action has teamed up with [Frocks on Bikes - Auckland](#) to coordinate a massive cycle event for the 350.org.nz day of climate change action on Saturday 24th October.



Planning is underway to mobilise all the different bike communities in Auckland for a carnival of cycling - 350 frocks on bikes, 350 fixed gear bikes, 350 BMXers, 350 mountain bikers, 350 kids on bikes, 350 lycra racers, 350 recreational tourers, 350 utility cyclists, 350 unicyclists! plus supporters all coming together to show how sustainable cycling is for reducing our carbon footprint.

If you are interested in getting involved please email Pippa or Jasmine at frocksonbikes.aucks@gmail.com.

Check out 350.org.nz for more information and details of other events.

Waiheke News

Waiheke is the island that more of us are visiting for a day or weekend of walking, cycling, and soaking up the relaxed pace of a land of vineyards and good food.

Cycle Action Waiheke members have been working with Council staff to score some great successes in the past year - the first cycle lane marked on the island and a new route combining eco-engineering with cycle friendly design. More projects are

planned, including safer routes to schools and the ferry, and a Great Ride to join the national cycleway.

If you live on the island, or are a regular visitor, think about joining the local cycle group. Contact [Tom Ransom](#).

Manukau Harbour Crossing – Walking and Cycling

Jim Jackson, Chair of [The Onehunga Enhancement Society](#) has asked us to get feedback from cyclists on a proposal from the NZ Transport Agency to replace the old Mangere pedestrian bridge. \$12m has been allocated for the project, and one of the three options on offer is to use the current temporary bridge further to the east. Jim says the local community is keen on this.

His full message is available [here](#).

If you want to work with Cycle Action Committee members on this project, contact chair@caa.org.nz, or you can contact Jim directly – jim@jackson.co.nz.

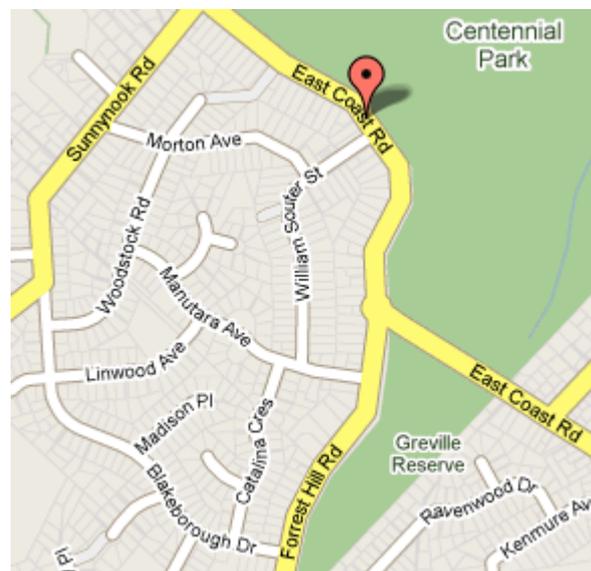
Shore News

East Coast Rd

Committee member Steve Southall was disconcerted to find some unwelcome changes to East Coast Rd north of the Forrest Hill roundabout. What had once been a single traffic lane in each direction with marked-off shoulders ideal for cyclists has now been replaced with a single northbound lane, a small flush median, and two southbound lanes, with the kerbside lane being a T3 transit lane. The shoulders? **GONE!**

So now cyclists share this busy road with motorists in traffic lanes – much more dangerous than before. What's particularly galling is that there was no consultation with cyclists on a road that's marked as part of the Shore's [Strategic Cycleway Network](#).

Our initial enquiries with Council staff have revealed they believe the new alignment to be adequately safe for cyclists given the generous lane widths. However we are waiting for a personal report from Council's cycling champions, accompanied by a formal safety audit.



We would like to see the shoulders reinstated as formal on-road cycle lanes, and believe there is sufficient width within the road reserve to do so. This will cater for the majority of commuter and sports cyclists using this route to travel between the Northern Bays and Takapuna/Devonport. We sincerely hope that Council's plans to implement off-road cycle paths (commendable in themselves for school children and recreational cyclists) doesn't allow Council to ride roughshod over the needs of high speed cyclists on arterial routes.

We'll keep you posted on Council's feedback, and our ongoing representations.

The power of submissions

Earlier in the year Cycle Action and 70 others made submissions on North Shore City Council's long term plan to retain investment in cycling infrastructure. While not retaining the full \$14m we were seeking, we have received the following official communication from Geoff Mason, General Manager of Infrastructure Services:

You expressed support for our strategic cycleways which we acknowledge with appreciation.

As a result of decisions made, an additional \$3.7m has been allocated for cycling projects.

Submissions really do work, and help to sway decision making in our favour (particularly as the motoring lobbies as so powerful and have implicit support from most Councillors). So when we ask you to make submissions in favour of cycling, please take a few minutes out of your busy schedule to do so. Numbers count, and it can be worth millions!

Cycle racks on the way

New stainless steel cycle racks will soon appear across Takapuna. The Takapuna Community Board is backing Council's proposal to install 35 racks at 17 sites, ranging from the Pump House, Sanders Ave, The Promenade, the Bruce Mason Centre, Hurstmere Green, The Strand, and near various bus shelters.

Nice to see the Council providing cycle-friendly facilities. Now we just need cycle-friendly streets to encourage new and cautious cyclists to get to them.

Stay Safe !! Light up in the Dark

Cycling in winter is an art – not just to stay dry but also to be seen!

It can be gloomy, even in the daytime, and especially in wet conditions. Motorists need to see us to give us our distance and space on the road, but we can be hard to see in these conditions.

Please wear **bright clothes** - get reflecting and show those bright lights!

Shared Spaces - Elliott and Darby Streets

Sue Evans and her urban design team at Auckland City are doing a brilliant job for pedestrians and cyclists in reclaiming the streets for us to wander, park our bikes, eat and linger. Their plans for Elliott St will give pedestrians the right of way over cars - Darby St will be a pedestrian mall, where cyclists are welcome too. More cycle parking is planned as well!



This is a fantastic initiative - and will lead into even more exciting plans for the streets and lanes east of Queen St - Fort St, Fort Lane, Commerce St etc.

We need to give a big boost of support for our first shared street for Elliott and pedestrian/cycling haven in Darby. Please review the [proposed upgrade](#) and be sure to have your say in support.

Give your [feedback](#) on-line by 5pm on Friday, 31 July.

Those flying fingers! Steaming computers!

That burst of energy for the Council long term planning documents geared us up for more Council projects – in the past month we have submitted comments on the 40km speed limit for Ponsonby Rd, new fast lanes for vehicles on Manukau Rd, and the Marine Events Centre near the viaduct. Check out our submission index [here](#).

We have also been to workshops on sustainable transport (ARTA General Manager Strategy and Planning - Auckland Peter Clark's [paper](#) is worth reading for inspiring news on public transport.

Google Maps Project

Cycle Action Committee member Steve Southall is working with ARTA to develop a set of Google Cycle Resource maps for the entire Auckland Region. Check out what can be done by looking at Steve's earlier work on the [Shore](#).



Steve is currently seeking cyclist feedback for cycle friendly (and not so friendly) locations anywhere from Wellsford to Pukekohe, including the Gulf Islands. If you missed the email that went out to Cycle Action's Members and Friends recently, contact [Steve](#) for a list of instructions on how you can add to the map. If you're already comfortable with adding information to Google Maps, jump straight to the input map [here](#).

Auckland Cycle Touring Association

This is a great chance to learn more about the cycling gems of the Auckland region – and meet a great friendly helpful gang of cyclists.

They know all the best routes, good coffee shops and travel at a pace so you can enjoy the landscape as well.

Check out the rides list at <http://www.acta.org.nz/rideprog.htm>

Cycle Action members and friends are always welcome to join our rides (and our membership.)

- John McKillop.



Auckland Cycle Touring Association
SOCIAL BIKE RIDES EVERY SATURDAY, SUNDAY & WEDNESDAY.

Stay Fit and Healthy Meet Interesting People
See the Countryside Find some great Cafés

Come cycling with ACTA

www.acta.org.nz
PHONE Annette 09-521 5964 or Gaye 09-523 2318



Support school cycling and the environment

The Takapuna Grammar School cycling team has paired up with CORE Technology Brokers to accept unwanted computer hardware for a small fee of \$25 per device. They have already raised \$800 and have bought three wind trainers for the cyclists.

So don't just chuck that old PC and monitor - they contain toxic materials that can leach out of landfills and harm the environment. Get it properly recycled, and take advantage of the TGS offer to give school cycling a boost as well. One caution - it's best to thoroughly "scrub" your hard disk before disposing of a computer - there are utilities downloadable from the Internet that can do this. Deleting files or reformatting is **not enough** as files with your personal information can still be recovered. No time for a utility? Drill through the disk drive, or take a hammer to it.

Dropoff to Gordon Laurie:
Core Technology Brokers Ltd
Unit C, 66 Barrys Point Rd,
Takapuna Beach, Auckland 0622

Weekdays 9am to 6pm

Good news from the NZTA

The NZTA has approved funding for various investigations for motorway cycle links in Auckland, and a number of cycleway links, especially in Manukau, got construction funding.

Investigations approved for:

- Sh1 Rodney East Silverdale to Orewa Walking and Cycling
- SH1 Warkworth WC
- SH16 Hobsonville Rd to Kennedy's Rd Cycleway
- SH16 Kingsland Cycleway
- SH16 Rodney District West : Parakai to Commercial Road
- SH16 Rodney North
- SH17- SH1 Connection (Greville Interchange)
- SH20B Puhinui Road cycle lane

Construction approved for:

- Cycle Routes 2008/09 (T I Drive - Boundary to Belinda)
- Cycle Routes 2008/09-Great Sth Rd (Weymouth Rd-Myers Road)
- 2008/09 East Coast Road Shared Pedestrian/Cycle Path
- Oceanview Road Cycleway (approved in part)
- Cycle Routes 2008/09 (GSR: Regent St. to Reagan Rd.)
- Cycle Routes 2007/08 (Te Irirangi Drive).

Cyclopedia

A series of explanatory articles on cycling things / technology or developments. This edition's item from Cycle Action Committee Member Max Robitzsch.

Hub Gears

The hub gear is a bicycle gear system popular in Europe for utility cycling. In it, all the gears are located within a big rear wheel hub, roughly the size of a large fist. Using a system of so-called "planetary gears" within the encapsulated hub, this strongly reduces the need for maintenance or adjustment - because the bicycle chain is fixed to front and rear sprocket, rather than having to move sideways



to differently sized versions. All other gear mechanics are sealed and safe from damage and dirt.

Shifting gears is generally smoother, and even possible while stopped (perfect for the city cyclist who is often stopped at an intersection). And you never have to worry about a chain jumping off. The ability to fit a chain guard to protect your trouser legs from being caught or being smeared with oil is an almost incidental advantage.

The main disadvantages were long considered their slightly lesser transmission efficiency (mostly a rumour these days - think manual vs automatic debate in sports cars) and the lack of a high speed range - though they now come with up to 14 speeds (common types having 7-8 speeds). If you often use your bicycle for daily use rather than mostly for sports, and if reliability is very important to you, consider one. The gears will likely last longer than the frame, as this writer has found several times. More from [Wikipedia](#).

Cycle Tripping

A series of articles about nice cycling trips in the Auckland Region (all sorts, both sporty and recreational). This edition's item from Cycle Action Committee Member Max Robitzsch.

Cycle Tripping - Waikaraka Cycleway (Onehunga/Manukau Harbour)

Difficulty: Easy **Safety:** Very Good **Distance:** 5km (one-way)

The Waikaraka Cycleway is a length of cycleway from Hillsborough (along State Highway 20) through Onehunga and along the Manukau Harbour to Southdown at the east end of harbour. This article is about the section between Onehunga and Southdown.

Starting out in Onehunga, you cycle down to the harbour along Onehunga Mall / Onehunga Harbour Road. Crossing at the bottom of Onehunga Harbour Road (before you come to the actual port), is probably the only point of this ride where you may feel a little unsafe. But once you reach the other side, you will be on a custom-built cycle path along the length of the Manukau Harbour.

On the way you will see Mangere Bridge (both the bridge and the suburb) on the other side, fields and industrial areas with a few interesting sights like "table mountains" made from containers - though there's also lots of greenery, and some nice benches to sit on and



enjoy the sun (if it is shining, obviously, which is a bit rarer at the time this is being written). The route is mostly level, with a rail overbridge being the only steep bit, making it ideal for a family outing - and there are no cars out here at all, perfect for kids.

Once you reach the eastern end, you can choose to turn back, either along the harbour again, or cut through the industrial areas of southern Auckland City - which is more pleasant on a Saturday or Sunday than you might think, because there is little traffic and the roads are wide, allowing others to overtake you without hassle. And then - to cap it off with a visit to a cafe in Onehunga!

[View](#) the map on the Auckland City website.

Good cycling news

Bike demand booming in Europe!

We are hearing that cycling is booming in Europe this summer, and the manufacturers are having trouble keeping up with the demand! Susie Mesure caught up with the tribes of British converts to two-wheeled transport. [More...](#)

Ordinary bikes for everyday cyclists

Find out where we can buy European style ordinary bikes for everyday cyclists here in Auckland – [More...](#)

Bizarre cycling news

Scrapings from the bottom drawer...

For blokes thinking of a cycling holiday in Sweden, watch out for marauding gangs of tattooed women! [More...](#) and the inevitable follow-up: [More...](#)

And in Germany even the oldest profession is doing its bit to save the planet! [More...](#)

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To find out more and about Cycle Action go to www.caa.org.nz

Barb Insull & Barb Cuthbert, Co-chairs Cycle Action

Please consider the environment before printing this newsletter (or turning that ignition key)