

# **eNews : Cycle Action – the Voice for Auckland Cyclists**

**June 2009**

## **June Cycle Action Meeting – Cancelled (so you can stay warm)**

It's cold, dark and the middle of winter so we thought we'd give you a break – no public meeting for June. But it's only a temporary respite – the July meeting is on as usual - 22 July in Freemans Bay.

### **GetAcross**

Well, what a day 24 May was! In case you were hiding in a cave and missed it, check out our website at <http://www.caa.org.nz/#Rally>. So what's next? Read the latest from Bevan Woodward.

### **People Power has spoken!**

Over 5,000 people streamed across the Auckland Harbour Bridge on Sunday, May24. Since the demonstration of support, another 1,000 supporters registered at [www.getacross.org.nz](http://www.getacross.org.nz)

It was an inspiring event, witness it here: <http://www.sportzvibes.com/vibes/>

### **Where to from here:**

We have been in contact with the CEO of the Transport Agency and hope to move forward in a productive and positive manner. However this will require the Transport Agency to move from their "won't do" to a "can do" attitude!

If we don't make significant progress with the Transport Agency in the next few months, we may have to stage another Demonstration of Support. We'd like your views on this...

What do you think?

What did you think of the Demonstration, would you attend if we have to stage another? Please take our two minute survey at [www.getacross.org.nz](http://www.getacross.org.nz)

Thanks!...

### **And an invitation**

It's time to celebrate our success on May 24, give you an update on the campaign and thank a bunch of key people who have helped us. Plus we'll show a video and some photos from the Demonstration.

Feel free to bring friends & family along....

**What:** A social celebration over a wine/beer/juice and nibbles!

**Where:** Freemans Bay Community Centre, Main Hall, 52 Hepburn St, Ponsonby

**When:** Tuesday, June 30, 7pm until 8:30 pm

**RSVP:** By June 26 to [andy.smith@clear.net.nz](mailto:andy.smith@clear.net.nz) In the great Kiwi tradition, guys bring a bottle, ladies a plate please!

I hope you can make it. It's your support that keeps this exciting campaign alive!

Thanks... Bevan

## **NZTA – sometimes they do the right thing**

With our common disagreements with the New Zealand Transport Agency about the importance of cycling, it can be easy to forget that parts of the Agency do take seriously their mandate to look after all modes of land transport. In fact, NZTA is poised to - possibly - undertake a number of projects that could have a massive impact on cycling in Auckland.

The proposed multi-million-dollar cycling facility upgrade and extension programme includes major improvements to the Northwestern Cycleway (such as extending it east through Spaghetti Junction, then down Grafton Gully towards Parnell and the lower CBD) as well as proposed cycleways along State Highway 1 south of Newmarket and a variety of other places such as near Westgate in Waitakere and on Puhinui Road towards the airport.

The downside? Most (but not all) of these projects are currently only in the investigation stages. But at least funding has been proposed in the current transport budget for the next three years, and if even a certain number of these projects go ahead, they would be likely to exceed the anaemic cycling investment by the current crop of local Councils, and create some useful new cycling links. Cycle Action submitted on the associated funding budget, and will be liaising with NZTA as closely as possible to make these projects a success.

## **Great Urban Rides**

Cycle Action has got together with Nextbike to draft a proposal for developing Great Rides in Auckland or what we like to call Great Urban Rides.

With the recent excitement about the concept of a national cycleway and the firm commitment to create a series of "Great Rides" we see a very real opportunity and a wide range of benefits in ensuring that Great Rides are developed in Auckland utilising existing and planned infrastructure to form a key part of the network.

Our proposal is available on our CAN site at <http://can.org.nz/system/files/Great+Urban+Rides+Discussion+Document+11+June+2009.pdf>. It details the proposed initial routes (three central circuits), and what practical steps we think are needed to make Great Urban Rides a reality. We will be looking to the Ministry of Tourism to include the Auckland rides as part of the first package of Great Rides to be announced at the end of June.

## Slower speeds on Ponsonby Rd

At last some action to slow traffic speeds on Ponsonby Rd to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists. Just in time to add to the allure of the Great Ride project, which we are proposing as part of the National Cycleway network!

Auckland City is proposing a 40 kph speed limit for the road, and is asking for public feedback. **Please take a minute to support this change by completing the on-line questionnaire** - it's only two quick pages!

<http://www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/council/projects/ponsonbyroad/default.asp>

The feedback period closes at 5pm on Monday, 13 July 2009.

The outcome of the consultation along with a formal recommendation will be presented to the council's Transport Committee on 6 August in order for the committee to make a decision.

## Submission Update

In April-May, Cycle Action went on a marathon - not the 42km type, but a writing one: All the City Councils of the region were updating their LTCCPs (Long Term Council Community Plans) at the same time - the documents which outline their financial budgets for their next 10-15 years.

Since many Councils thought the recession would be the perfect time to cut funding for bike paths and cycle lanes, Cycle Action needed to make the case for why cycling is not a luxury. Especially when the cuts proposed were often so harsh: some Councils (Auckland City and North Shore), were proposing 80% and more reduction in cycling funding - while total budgets were often reduced marginally at most.

Cycle Action submitted on all of the City Council plans, as well as that of the ARC. We followed up this intense period of research, writing and coordinating by going and speaking to our submissions in Council - heartened by the fact that other groups including the New Zealand Transport Agency (!) had also submitted against the Council cuts.

As one of our successes, we managed to have a significant part of the cuts at North Shore reinstated. While not a generous amount, the \$7.2 million to be spent in the

next 15 years were about double the \$3.7 million the Council had originally proposed. It shows that submissions CAN make a big difference! (And for those who wonder what difference it makes with the Super City coming - the sums for cycling in all the individual plans will for the baseline for the combined cycling funding in Auckland.)

## **Eden Park and the Rugby World Cup**

And not just the LTCCPs heard from Cycle Action. We submitted on the Eden Park stadium redevelopment and the proposed lack of any cycling provisions, and are pleased to report that the Eden Park Trust has now committed to providing bike stands near the main entrances of the stadium. So now while everyone else is stuck in gridlocked traffic, you'll be able to fly past on your bike on your way to the game and park at the Stadium!

## **Help us give cyclists a good image**

When we talk with Council committees about improvements for cyclists we often have to deal with the criticism "cyclists don't follow the road rules" – bike through red lights, don't give way, don't fall into single file when they should..... please do the right thing on the road and encourage your cycling mates to do the same as well. It's safer for you, and fosters goodwill amongst other road users (and decision makers).

Yes, we talk to them about how motorists exceed the speed limit, overtake too closely, and run red lights, but for some reason any cyclist misdemeanour is seized upon as a reason to withhold valuable cycling funding. So get out there and lead by example!

## **Biking pics needed**

Please send us any good pics of cycling and cyclists that you are happy for us to reproduce in our PR, advocacy and website communications.

Do we have a photographer amongst us who would be happy to take specific biking pics from time to time when we need them?

## **Frocks on Bikes**

<http://www.frocksonbikes.org/>  
[frocksonbikes@gmail.com](mailto:frocksonbikes@gmail.com)

We want to see more frocks on bikes activities in Auckland!! Who would like to help organise and take part in a Frocktober event – we can't let Wellington be the only ones to do arty stuff!!

Email Barb Insull [chair@caa.org.nz](mailto:chair@caa.org.nz)

## Social rides –cycling the talk!

More social rides coming up – when the shortest day has passed! Despite it being Mothers' Day with the threat of rain, a hardy group took on the Devonport Peninsula, including exploring the tunnels on North Head. This ride will likely be repeated next year.



To find out more and about Cycle Action go to [www.caa.org.nz](http://www.caa.org.nz)

See you at our next meeting (22 July) at The Long Room, Freemans Bay  
<http://www.caa.org.nz/meetings.html>

*Barb Insull & Barb Cuthbert, Co-chairs Cycle Action*