



CYCLE ACTION AUCKLAND NEWSLETTER, ISSUE 16, FEB-MAR2004

Cycling advocacy news, events, and activities in the Auckland region
PO Box 91-301, Auckland. Email: secretary@caa.org.nz Web: www.caa.org.nz

CAA's new website

We now have our own website to inform people about what CAA is, and what we're doing. Visit it at www.caa.org.nz.

CAA Schools Essay Contest - last chance!

Topic: "The Bicycle: Reclaiming the City"

CAA is running an essay contest for school students, forms 1-7. Be in to win a bike, a wind trainer and a roomful of other cycle stuff!

Entries close 13 Feb 2004. For details, download the flier from www.caa.org.nz. Inquiries to Dale 625 2490 or Lenny 522 2896, evenings.

BikeWise Week events

Feb 14 - 22, 2004

BikeWise Week is a national celebration of cycling that happens each February and is coordinated by BikeWise. To find out more about the following events, or get involved, please contact Lenny Bloksberg at:

09-522-2896 (home); 09-374-3760 (work); 027-290-7891 (mob) or events@caa.org.nz.

Free Breakfast

The Bikers' Breakfast is one of the main BikeWise Week events in Auckland. Free breakfast for all cyclists turning up at Aotea Square between 6-9 am on Weds 18 Feb. Spot prizes and entertainment. CAA will be operating a display booth at the Breakfast (7:30-8:30 am).

Lenny writes:

I need every cyclist to inundate the Bikers Breakfast. I want mobs of cyclists for the cameras and the Mayor. I want this to look like everyone in Auckland already does ride a bike so we can start talking about whether we need to set aside a small lane on the side for cars, since bikes have taken over... Okay, maybe next year, but I want lots of bikes at the Bikers Breakfast, and again at the Waterview Bridge opening lunch (see over).

Commuter Challenge

If Pro rally driver Steve Blomqvist in his car, someone on a bus, and some old codger on a bicycle left Lynn Mall at 7:30am to do battle with Auckland rush hour traffic, who would get to work in the city first?

No, it's not a joke, it's the Auckland Commuter Challenge, sponsored by Cycle Action Auckland and Bike Barn. On Wednesday, 18 February, there will be 4 simultaneous races.

A cyclist, race car driver, and bus rider will leave from each of 4 locations; Vauxhall School in the North, Mangere Bridge shops in the South, Sacred Heart College in the East, and Lynn Mall in the West to do battle with rush hour traffic.

Join the Hon. John Banks at the finish, at the Bikers' Breakfast in Aotea Square to find out what is the best way to beat Auckland traffic. CAA expects the bikes and busses to beat the cars hands down. Would you switch to riding a bus or a bike if it could save you 30 minutes a day?

Even if a few people switched, would it really make any difference? Transfund and LTSA have been studying the possibility. According to Dave Macdonald at Transfund, the problem with our roads is volume. You can build more roads, or you can promote alternatives to the private car.

The concept behind integrated transport is that you do both. If you get 5% of people on the bus, trains, car-pooling, riding bicycles, and walking, you reduce traffic by 25%. The cost of building roads goes up exponentially as load increases, so the savings are well over 25%.

The roads don't need to be empty to be free flowing. Transfund has found that they would have to spend \$2 to 3 million on roads to free up traffic compared to \$1 million on bus infrastructure. Even more, they would have to spend \$4 million on roads to free traffic up as much as spending just \$1 million on cycle paths.

The LTSA has made road safety a priority. Minister Paul Swain has stated a goal of reducing the road toll to 300 by 2010. Part of this can be accomplished by building safer roads, but part can be done by getting cars off the roads. According to the LTSA, in 2003, there were 366 motorist deaths, 7 cyclists and zero bus riders.

The LTSA counts 2.8 million motorists, and Statistics New Zealand reports 750,000 active cyclists. That means in 2003, there were 1.3 deaths per 10,000 motorists, 0.09 deaths per 10,000 cyclists, and zero deaths per 10,000 bus riders.

Transport Minister Paul Swain has implemented law changes to require each municipality to register an integrated transport strategy explaining how different transport options are being used to solve local problems. In addition, alternative transport options are now line items in the transport budget, along with roads.

If we can get more cars off the road, by making other transport modes more attractive, then we can free up traffic, and make our roads safer. Some people doubt the effectiveness of alternative transport modes, but the Cycle Action Auckland / Bike Barn Auckland Commuter Challenge intends to settle the score.

Will it be Start your engines or On your bike?
Be at the Bikers' breakfast to find out.

North Shore City Council event

NSCC is planning some exciting activities for Bike to Work Day this year on Wednesday February 18. Convoys of cyclists will be travelling from three parts of the city under police escort for a special free Bikers' Breakfast in the square at 1 The Strand in Takapuna.

Cyclists can meet at 7am on the grass reserve, corner of East Coast Road and Forrest Hill Road; Bayswater Primary School, Bayswater Avenue and Onewa Domain on Akoranga Drive to cycle into Takapuna with the escort.

Mayor George Wood will be joining the group from Forrest Hill Road. All cyclists are welcome at the breakfast from 7 to 8.30am and there'll be lots of giveaways: you could win a free bike. NSCC will also be giving out bags of goodies to cyclists using the ferries that day from Devonport, Bayswater and Birkenhead.

(NSCC website www.northshorecity.govt.nz).

Waterview Bridge opening

Auckland City Council is throwing a party, with free sausage sizzle lunch to celebrate the completion this bridge as well as the path through Unitec grounds. This is the last major link in the North-Western Cycle Way.

We need every able cyclist there to show them the bike paths are appreciated.

Join the Mayor and TV cameras at the new Cycle Bridge at the Waterview interchange from 11:00am-1:00pm on Thursday, 19 February to support cycling in the Auckland region.

Cunning Rides

February 29: Winery Wobble

Bring a pannier / bag and some cash for any wine you fall in love with (many wineries will deliver crates to your home, if it comes to that!). Don't forget picnic lunch, sunblock, water, tools/ spare tube, and raincoat.

March 28: special Waiheke trip!

Some keen CAA members are going to Waiheke on Saturday, and staying at the Onetangi YHA. Other members will take an early ferry on Sunday. We plan to ride and swim both days. Bring your togs! **RSVP and enquiries** to Mark Bracey, rides@caa.org.nz or tel 624 4319. Please tell Mark asap if you plan to come, to aid coordination.

Editor wanted

CAA is requires a new editor for the *CAA Newsletter*. The editor writes / commissions brief reports on CAA activities. Time commitment varies from about 5-10 hours per edition (6 issues per year). Contact Sally McAra at 8155033, chair@caa.org.nz.

*****February 26th CAA meeting *****

Temporary venue change

This month CAA will be meeting at Outhwaite Hall, Outhwaite Park (by the intersection of Carlton Gore and Park Rd, Grafton).

Meetings are on the
4th Thurs of the month, 6.30 - 8.30pm.