

CYCLE ACTION AUCKLAND NEWSLETTER, ISSUE 4, OCT-DEC 2001

Cycling advocacy news, events, and activities in the Auckland region
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NZ cycling conference

Adrian Croucher, Sally McAra, and Daniel Mohr attended this Christchurch conference. The Keynote speaker was Karel de Roy van Zuydewyn, who works as a traffic policy coordinator in Utrecht. Dutch people of all ages use their bikes for a range of activities, including commuting, errands, holidays, transporting goods, pets or kids. There are about 13.6 million bikes in Holland, and 16 million people. On average, 25% of daily trips are by bike, but for trips of 2.5–5kms, 35% use bikes, and 40% for trips under 2.5kms. Karel outlined some of the reasons cycling is so popular, emphasizing the importance of having a suitable infrastructure. He showed a video featuring Houten, a town criss-crossed by cycle routes, and only very limited car access. He recommended that the bike be promoted not just as a recreational toy, but as an “ordinary, but most useful means of transportation providing daily benefits to both the rider and to the environment”.

A political panel had MPs from 5 main parties, each of whom expressed varying degrees of knowledge about and support for cycling. Greens co-leader Rod Donald expressed the most commitment, being a keen and regular cyclist himself, while the ACT and National MPs both called for us to “convince” them why they should increase funding for cycling.

Other papers presented ranged from topics such as Rail Trails, Cycle Infrastructure, Adult Cycle Skills education, and Building a Cycle Friendly Nation. One of the most inspirational talks was by secondary school student, Pippa Pettigrew, presenting the results of a survey of 2000 secondary school students.

The Mayor of Christchurch, Gary Moore, who arrived in a 4-wheeled pedicab, opened a new cycleway by the railway line.

Recent Auckland conferences

The Sustainable Auckland congress and the Infrastructure Auckland workshop both had a

CAA presence, with Richard Conyngham and Judy Barfoot attending. Planners predict a 60% population increase in Auckland by 2025, which will obviously place ever-increasing pressure on city infrastructure, especially the transport system. As we’ve seen in the recent local body elections, there is a lot of pressure to build more roads, but this “solution” has associated problems of its own. Building more roads to meet present demand is likely to induce more traffic onto those roads, creating further demand in future, while further marginalizing alternative modes of transport. CAA tries to keep a presence at all such conferences, to remind planners about the numerous benefits associated with cycling. While these conferences were strong on the envisioning of new ideas, practical solutions were few. Nonetheless, our representatives managed to pop in some questions, making CAA’s presence felt.

Writing letters works!

There are now two Sheffield bike stands (inverted U shape) at Mt Eden Foodtown, thanks to Gretel Boswijk’s extensive research and letter writing. She’s now developing a kit to post on the CAN website, which will be for the use of anyone wishing to encourage other shopping centres and large organisations to install cycle stands.

Strategies

The Auckland Regional Land Transport Strategy aims to identify the future land transport needs of the Auckland Region. CAA’s submission, prepared by Gretel Boswijk, pointed out the overemphasis the strategy gives to the private car, at the expense of alternatives. It also needs to have more on the benefits of cycling, and recognise the possibilities of integrating cycling and public transport; designs for Light Rail must account for cyclist safety. It also stressed that CAA should be consulted for our expertise and practical experience.

Local body elections

Tony Bewlay compiled a quick survey of 123 candidates for ACC and ARC, and had a nearly 20% response rate, not bad for a last minute job. Most replies were favorable of cycling, but afraid of the perceived risks. Not one of the respondents admitted to commuting by bike, and few were aware of the ACC Cycling and Walking Strategy. A version of the results is being posted on the CAN website.

ACC projects

Auckland City is currently investigating several cycling routes. They are: Pikes Point (Adrian Croucher has sent comments on the plans to ACC); an Onehunga route and the new SH20 extension cycle route (5 CAA members investigated this on site and prepared a submission).

Monthly Cunning Rides

On the **last Sunday of each month**, CAA holds a ride to some point or another around the city, using mainly residential roads. *Mark Bracey* writes: My son is just about to get his second bike for his 5th birthday. He looks like Crunchy the Clown on his current bike. His new bike has five gears and he tells me he is looking forward to using them to climb all those steep hills when we go riding together, which we'll be doing as soon as he can stop safely. The roads may be busier than when I got my first bike but thanks to CAA's cunning rides I've learnt about lots of pleasant cycle routes, and my whole family can enjoy safe cycling together.

Northwest to Earthsong, Oct 28th. This month the CAA bike ride takes in the entire length of the NW Cycle Route, from the city to the end of the line at Lincoln, then on to the site of the "Earthsong" eco-neighbourhood in Ranui. Please **note the altered starting-off point for this month's ride**. Meet: 10 am, Auckland Domain, Park Rd entrance (next to the hospital). For more info, contact Bryan Pulham: email bryan.pulham@free.net.nz, phone 021 173 1772.

Nov 25th: Ride the **50km Cycle route**. Meet 10am at cnr Fort Lane and Fort St.

There's no CAA ride in **December**, but if you're interested in coming along on a Waiheke ride, or the Winery wobble out

West **early next year**, watch your email or call Gretel and Tony 638 6305, to find out what arrangements are being made.

Ride reports

Panmure ride: 'The Eastern Passage', 26/8/01. This ride took the now-familiar Mt Eden route to Ellerslie, tunneled under the motorway, and followed back-routes from there (including Marua Rd) to the Panmure Basin. The rain kindly held off until we were ensconced in a café for lunch. From there the trip deviated wildly from the advertised plan, taking an improvised route through Mt Wellington to Southdown, and a blast along the Pikes Point track, returning to town via Onehunga and One Tree Hill.

Airport ride: Turn up to the airport by bike! Check the route on the free ARC bike route map. We rode there in September, via our oft-used route south via Poronui St, Cornwall park & One Tree Hill, then old Mangere Bridge and the neglected, half-finished Mangere cycleway. We ate lunch at an airport lookout, and noted there were far fewer planes than a couple of weeks earlier when we'd done our reconnaissance ride, due to recent events. We returned via Ihumatao road, and passed through farmland back to Mangere. Afternoon tea was much enjoyed, at an Onehunga café.

Meetings and guest speakers

Our meetings continue to be on the 4th Thurs of the month, at 6.30-8.30pm in the Ellen Melville Room of the Pioneer Women's Hall in High Street, Auckland. We usually begin with a guest speaker, followed by any issues and business on the agenda. If you have any volunteers / suggestions for next year's speakers, please contact us. The guest speaker for **November 22nd is Daniel Mohr** of Adventure Cycles, who will be giving a talk about the ways working with bikes can benefit a whole community, called "Revitalisation of the City", which he recently presented at the New Zealand Cycling Conference. It includes a video about a small bike repair shop recently set up in Auckland.

See you there!