



SPOKE

ADVOCACY - ADVICE - ADVENTURE

August September 2003

FOR ALL CYCLISTS

CYCLISTS FEATURE IN "LOOK FOUR WAYS" CAMPAIGN



Look four ways to share the road

Have you noticed the "Look four ways" poster? It has been placed on large billboards and taxis all around Hobart, and has been on local television.

The Road Safety Task Force are to be congratulated for highlighting the vulnerability of cyclists, motorcycle riders, and pedestrians.

Road Safety Task Force Chairman Paul Hogan at the campaign launch (mentioned in the last edition of Spoke) said that research highlighted the need for all users to take responsibility for road safety, rather than blame one particular group.

Assistant Police Commissioner Luppo Prins said, *"This campaign will help everyone think twice about their actions and how they could affect not only themselves, but other road users. This will hopefully*

lead to fewer injuries and fatalities."

"I LIKE THE BULLBARS, THEY'RE REALLY GOOD IN ACCIDENTS."

This is a quote from a four-wheel drive owner interviewed on a recent ABC Radio National Background Briefing report entitled *"The Cars that ate Cities"*. Research has found that people often buy a 4WD vehicle for the increased safety it provides. However statistics show this safety is at the expense of all other road users.

"Four wheel drives are an unstoppable phenomenon, protected by governments, they are the fastest growing class of passenger vehicle. Useful in the bush, they appeal to city dwellers who like the sense of power - and ignore fuel costs, pollution and safety concerns.

Who drives a 4 Wheel Drive? - "...They tend to be people who are insecure and vain, they're frequently nervous about their marriages, and uncomfortable about parenthood. They often lack confidence in their driving skills. Above all, they're apt to be self-centred and self-absorbed, with little interest in their neighbours or communities. No, that's not a cynic talking, that's the auto industry's own market researchers and executives..." - taken from the book "High and Mighty" by Keith Bradsher."

Read the full transcript at <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/talks/bbing/stories/s881845.htm>.

40 KM ZONE IN MOST OF SULLIVANS COVE

It was only six months ago that the Hobart Bicycle Advisory Committee was knocked back flat by DIER when representation was made to extend the 40 km from Battery Point. Impossible, never, was the message back then.

But now... the reduction to a 40 km zone in most of Sullivans Cove is an **initiative** of DIER who has investigated Council and resident(s) requests for a lower speed limit and made the decision in April this year. There are some relatively minor works and costs to the lowering of the speed limit to 40km/hr. It is estimated the work will be completed in about three to four months. There will be a publicity and education program.

Change, when it arrives, can come with great speed and from unexpected directions! - BT member Ken White.

Lets hope many more roads will have their speed limits reduced from 50 and 60 km/h to 40. Studies show that cyclists and pedestrians have a far greater chance of surviving a collision with a car travelling at 40 km/h than 50.

NOW HERE'S AN IDEA WHEN THEY PARK IN OUR BIKE LANES

Check out <http://velorution.blogspot.com/> and <http://www.subvertise.org/> for other ideas.



BICYCLE TASMANIA CONTACTS

Postal Address – Bicycle Tasmania, PO Box 1050, Sandy Bay 7060.

PRESIDENT: Tim Stredwick, timstredwick@trump.net.au 6266 4582 (h)

TREASURER: Kate Tamayo, kate.tamayo@optusnet.com.au

SECRETARY, WEBMASTER and stand-in "SPOKE" EDITOR: Andrew Heard, info@biketas.org.au

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Geraldine Lum, lum@utas.edu.au

Wayne Kelly, 03 62267168 (w), 03 62297902 (h), wayne.kelly@utas.edu.au

BICYCLE FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA REPRESENTATIVE: Adrian Sullivan, asullivan@gyc.tas.edu.au

GLENORCHY BICYCLE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE: Reg Williams, willg@southcom.com.au

CLARENCE BICYCLE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE: Graeme Byrd, graeme_byrd@optusnet.com.au

BRIGHTON BUG REPRESENTATIVE: Richard Nicholls, richard.nichols@fowles.com.au

LONDON MAYOR WANTS 30KPH SPEED LIMIT

London mayor Ken Livingstone (who has pushed through the congestion charge), was recently speaking at 'Cycling: a Capital Solution', a conference organised by the London Cycling Campaign, and others. The mayor wants a 30kph speed limit (currently at 50kph) in residential streets to be part of his election manifesto.

THE CARS VIRUS - SUCCESSOR TO THE SARS VIRUS

Simon Norton from <http://velorution.blogspot.com/> alerts us that a new virus known as CARS (Choose Automobiles, Reject Sense) has been identified. This virus has three main symptoms: -

1. CARS Infectees believe that people in cars are more important than other people.
2. CARS Infectees are blind to the downsides of car usage.
3. CARS Infectees have a tendency to reject alternative modes of surface travel other than the car.

The way CARS spreads is to infect people in power. They then discriminate against people without cars and thereby encourage other people to believe that cars are indispensable. Once this happens, they are well on the way to being full blown CARS infectees.

PARIS-BREST-PARIS (PBP)

Bicycle Tasmania's hard working president Tim Stredwick along with Paul Gregory and Rowan Burns are in France riding in the 1,200km Paris-Brest-Paris ride from August 18th to 22nd. Riders must complete the course within 80 hours. Paris-Brest-Paris is organised by the French club, Audax Club Parisien (ACP).

To qualify for entry to the PBP, Tim, Paul and Rowan had to complete four distances of 200, 300, 400 and 600 kilometres, during the first half of 2003.

We all wish this amazing trio the best of luck. Find out more at <http://www.audax.uk.net/handbook/pbp.htm>.

CYCLING-SOUTH PROPOSES NEW CYCLING-NORTH AND CYCLING-NORTH-WEST

At Bicycle Tasmania's July meeting, guest speaker Rowan Burns of Cycling South, circulated briefing paper "Cycling Development Tasmania", the working name for a proposal for setting up a board and secretariat to manage the existing CyclingSouth and establish similar units CyclingNorth and CyclingNorthWest where northern councils would be the stakeholders with an \$8,000 per annum fee.

A bound copy of the briefing paper is available from Bicycle Tasmania's library.

Rowan encourages Bicycle Tasmania to expand into the north of the state, and suggests a greater geographical spread of members would be attractive to potential event sponsors, as well as providing a larger funding base for obtaining public liability insurance.

Cycling Ranks as Tasmania's 6th Most Popular Recreational Activity

The Australian Bureau of Statistics through the Tasmanian Office of Sport and Recreation found that in 1998-99 cycling ranked as Tasmania's sixth most popular non-competitive physical activity behind walking, swimming, golf, aerobics and fishing.

Annually, cycling contributes an astonishing \$15 million to Tasmania's tourism industry with around 12,000 cycling visitors coming from around the world.

RIDE TO WORK - IT'S EASIER THAN YOU THINK!

Tim Stredwick has written a handbook on cycle commuting called "It's Easier Than You Think". It aims to dispel the myths, provide encouragement and information that will go a long way to ensure a smooth transition in the way you travel to work. If you have never contemplated cycle commuting or have already swapped your car for a bicycle for a few of your work related journeys "It's Easier Than You Think" will increase your knowledge of cycling.

Bicycle Tasmania is actively involved in encouraging cycle commuting. Why ride to work? Well first of all, it's easier than you think and makes a lot of sense when you consider that it can be fun, saves money and provides regular moderate exercise. "It's easier than you think" is full of detailed information on all aspects of utility cycling. Practical training is also available in the subjects covered in the handbook. These include, what type of bike to use, setting up for comfort and the selection of a suitable route, all aimed at making commuting as attractive, practical and efficient method of transport for every body. Employers benefit too by having a fitter, healthier and more productive workforce. Bicycle Tasmania provides advice as to how employers can become cycle friendly by provision of facilities in the workplace that encourage cycle commuting, such as secure cycle parking, showers and interest free bicycle loans.

Read the whole story at <http://www.biketast.org.au/BikeTas/EasierThanYouThink.pdf>.

SOON TO BE SEEN ON A BUMPER NEAR YOU - BT STICKERS

The Bicycle Tasmania executive have decided to get 500 "I'd rather be cycling" stickers produced for distribution to members and possible sale or give-away at information days.



W.H.O. SAYS ROAD TRAFFIC FAR DEADLIER THAN WARS

According to a World Health Organization report in 2000, far more people died from road deaths than war:

Road deaths	1,260,000
Suicide	815,000
Murder	520,000
Wars and conflicts	310,000

See <http://www.washingtonpost.com> for further details.

MORE ON LONDON'S CONGESTION CHARGE

The last edition of Spoke reported on the London congestion charge introduced on February 17th this year. Since then even more positive statistics have been collected.

- Predictions were that **congestion** would be **cut** by between **20% and 30%**, which would have raised at least **£130m** towards London's public transport.
- But the latest findings show the £5 daily charge to drive into central London has **reduced jams** by nearly **twice** that amount.
- Traffic speeds are up by one third, although the **average speed** is still only **11mph**, meaning the average driver is spending 13% less time in his car.
- 2,000 motorists have switched to the Tube at rush hour and 6,000 are taking the bus.
- An average of 98,000 motorists and 12,000 fleet vehicles pay the charge every day.

THE BAMBOO BICYCLE

"I am riding a bamboo bicycle through the main street of Christiania. Usually it takes quite a bit to make the roughies turn their heads - but this bamboo bicycle does the trick. It is beautiful, light and fast - and it is nice to touch.



As I park the bamboo bicycle in front of the Shop in order to have a black currant juice it feels almost as if I am dismounting a Harley right next to a café - several people come over to touch the frame and to check out how the bike is made.

"Where have you got that from?" they ask, here in the Paradise of Bicycles, the almost car-free town in the middle of Copenhagen.

So where have I got it from? - Well, from The Smithy next to The Grey Hall. The Smithy of Christiania has for the last 30 years been a furnace of innovation on the bicycle front. First came the Dursly-Pedersen bicycle whose rider feels like he is in a camel's saddle. Then came the bicycle trailer, which became

car free families way of transporting groceries on holidays and on weekdays, and at the moment The Smithy sells carrier bicycles for the transportation of children and many an odd purpose. And now the bamboo bicycle is being introduced.

The bicycle is one of the world's most brilliant inventions. It is hard to find a disadvantage (to the bicycle) - except the material it is made from. Light bicycles are made from aluminium, which is one of the most resource demanding materials that exist.

Bamboo is a resource of immense potential. And it is strong too. What makes it possible to build bicycles from it is that it is stronger than steel when strained in the longitudinal direction, 17% to be exact.

History teaches us that it was bamboo glowing in Edison's first electric bulb and that it was bamboo that kept the very first airplanes in Paris, constructed by Santos Dumont, together. Bamboo is

beneficial to the CO2 value of the atmosphere. While growing it emits more oxygen than the equivalent amount of wood pulp.

So please caress your bamboo bicycle gently while you marvel at the thought that bamboo keeps more than two billion people around the world employed, that it grows without fertilizer and that it can be used for almost everything - from tasty rice dishes to building material. Bamboo is a species of grass and every third year it can be harvested. It needs no replanting and it comes in sizes from small to extra large literally speaking: The biggest ones grow up to 60 meters tall."

Extracts from <http://www.americanbamboo.org/GeneralInfoPages/BambooBicycle.html> by Steen Heinsen.

“CONNECTING CYCLING” CONFERENCE, CANBERRA - NOVEMBER

A Conference on the Integration of Cycling with Travel Behaviour Change Programs, will be held in Canberra, on Thursday 20th and Friday 21st November 2003. The conference is being organised by the Bicycle Federation of Australia (BFA) and supported by the Cycling Promotion Fund and the International Association of Public Transport (UITP).

CONFERENCE TOPICS

The theme of the conference is travel behaviour change programs and topics will include:

- Different forms of travel behaviour change programs, including Travel Demand Management, Mobility Management and TravelSmart
- The context of behaviour change programs
- Best practice in travel behaviour change programs
- Choosing the setting for a behavioural intervention
- Incorporating travel behaviour change into your bike plan
- Funding options for programs
- Involvement of the cycling industry
- Working with public transport providers

AIMS OF THE CONFERENCE

- To expose policy makers, practitioners, cycling groups and enthusiasts to current thinking and best practice in travel behaviour change
- To provide information & resources on how to develop cost/effective programs to increase cycling and public transport usage
- To facilitate interaction between delegates

WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND

- You will take away from this conference strategies for getting effective projects and programs designed, funded, implemented and evaluated
- You will make contact with people who have runs on the board and will share their successes and failures and the reasons for them
- You can make people aware of your capabilities in crucial areas such as transport planning incorporating cycling, facility design, travel demand management, promotion of active transport, and integrating transport modes

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- • Federal and state politicians
- • Local government councillors
- • Policy makers
- • Officials from Federal, State & Local Government
- • Transport, land use & traffic planners and consultants
- • Public transport operators
- • Other practitioners
- • Representatives of cycling groups

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact Peter Strang, Executive Director, Bicycle Federation of Australia

Tel: (02) 6249 6761

Email: execdirector@bfa.asn.au

Web: www.bfa.asn.au

See <http://www.bfa.asn.au/DOTARS%20GOOD%20NEWS%20MAY%2003.pdf> for further details.

REQUEST FOR TRANSPORT IN WILDSIDE 2004

You may have seen posters at the various cycle stores around Hobart regarding this event. Bicycle Tasmania has had a request from three Queensland riders for transport during the event. Maybe you can help, their letter is printed below.

"Dear Sir / Madam, Myself and two others from Queensland have entered the Wildside MTB Race, January 30th to February 3rd 2004.

As the race is a point-to-point format there is a need to have a person with a vehicle to transport riders and equipment from the end of the days competition to overnight accommodation and back to the start the following day.

I was wondering if through your office you could assist us by helping to find a suitable local person, that we could employ, with transport to perform such a task?

Thank you for your consideration, I look forward to your reply by any of the following.

tui@bigpond.net.au

07 32555700 at work

07 33695182 at home

07 32555711 work fax

15 Jackdaw Street Bardon Qld. 4065

Bryan Wharton and Robyn Keast'

BT TO PRODUCE “CYCLING GUIDE TO HOBART” BOOKLET

Richard Nicholls is enthusiastically pushing ahead with a new initiative to produce a booklet for cyclists “The Cycling Guide to Hobart”. Richard is asking for all members to submit their favourite rides in and around Hobart. Contact Richard at richard.nichols@fowles.com.au for samples of existing routes that can be used as a template for your own work.

WEB-SITE READ BY ATTORNEY GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT OF NSW

It's encouraging to find out how far and wide the new Bicycle Tasmania web site www.biketas.org.au/ is being read.

We recently had an email from a departmental spokesperson from the Attorney General's Department of NSW. He had obviously read an article from the new BT FAQ section regarding the ridiculous situation of the NSW government shutting down cycle road racing. They were very keen that the BT Webmaster correct an error in the article and print a prominent notice to the fact. Oops!

BT didn't ascertain whether the spokesperson was a bicycle rider themselves.

Read for yourselves how Cycling NSW averted this potentially disastrous situation at

www.biketas.org.au/biketas/FAQ/0019%20TI%20NSW%20stops%20road%20racing.php

and

www.biketas.org.au/biketas/FAQ/0020%20TI%20NSW%20restarts%20road%20racing.php

CHANGE OF DATE FOR BICYCLE TASMANIA MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monthly meetings are now on the **third** Thursday of the month. Meetings are held at the Environment Centre, Bathurst Street, Hobart at 5.30pm. Everyone is most welcome to come along.

The agenda for the next meeting, and the minutes on the previous meeting are always available online at <http://www.biketas.org.au/BikeTas/minutes.php>.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This years Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, 16th October at 5.30pm at the New Sydney hotel in Bathurst Street (have booked 10 seats on 1st floor). So why not stay after the meeting for a meal together. **Note**, some diaries had the 16th as Hobart Show Day holiday. **This is incorrect**. The holiday is the following Thursday.