

News from the board - February 2008

The inaugural Gear Up Girl riding event

A number of board members had the pleasure of participating in our inaugural Gear up Girl event on International Womens Day. Joining over 800 women at all levels of experience, some of us rode from Cronulla through to Homebush, while others supported the team at Olympic Park,.

The purpose of Gear Up Girl is to empower women and get them riding more often. The presence of women from all levels of government, including the NSW Minister for Climate Change, Verity Firth and the Federal Member for Parramatta, Julie Owens demonstrates how we are developing the commitment to this purpose at a strategic level.

What was also striking is how much fun we all had, despite the challenges of the flooded route and some tricky crossing points along the way! Many were riding in such an event for the first time, and having a positive and social experience is the key to helping in the behaviour change process.

The success of any event depends on the people organising it. We were all struck by the enthusiasm shown by the BNSW team members, volunteers and many others supporting the ride. The Board of Bicycle NSW would like to thank everyone for the teamwork and sheer hard work that led to such a fantastic outcome. To all of the team at BNSW, including those keeping things humming along in the "back office", our thanks for a job well done with good humour and terrific professionalism, often under pressure.

To the many volunteers signing up riders, handing out helmets, fixing broken bikes, managing other volunteers, directing riders or numerous other important tasks, we thank you for your "can do" attitude and invaluable contribution. Volunteers are the life blood of all of our events and we simply could not do them without you.

National Ride to School Day – March 12th 2008

Just like National Ride to Work Day in October last year this event came out of the combined efforts of the Bicycle Coalition members.

We all benefited from tie ups across Australia with media support and suppliers of equipment and prizes.

We were delighted to learn that the NSW Minister for Climate Change the Hon Verity Firth rode from Rozelle Public School, down Victoria Road and around the Glebe foreshore to Sydney Secondary College Blackwattle Bay Campus.

As with Gear up Girl, we strongly believe that having government Ministers and other politicians getting out into the community on their bikes is a key part of the process of getting the required infrastructure and community support behind encouraging more people to ride their bikes more often!

We are looking forward to building this initiative into part of the event calendar of every school in NSW.

Board Planning Review

Part of our governance responsibility includes setting the strategic direction for BNSW. We have started this process for 2008-9 with a review of the strategic plan developed in 2007. It was positive to see the fantastic results we have achieved in the key strategic areas established last year, and take the learnings from this together with developments in the external environment to refine and clarify direction going forward. Membership, constitutional reform and frameworks for collaboration with our stakeholders (such as the Bicycle Coalition) were all topics for rich debate and further work.

Congratulations to Alex Unwin and his team for the discipline they have applied to reshaping the organisation and establishing the network of relationships that contribute so much to our effectiveness in our role as the peak cycling body in NSW.

There is still much for us to do to deliver on our purpose of "More people cycling more often". We will keep you updated on the process and ask for your feedback about the plan in the coming months.

Once again...

We welcome the opportunity to have more frequent input and discussion with our members in 2008. We will endeavour to address your concerns, comments and feedback through president@bicyclensw.org.au