



News from the Board – February 2009

Welcome to the 2009 Affiliated BUGs!

At the February 11th 2009 Board meeting we approved a recommendation from Graeme Edwards – Chair of the Bicycle NSW BUGs Council – for the formal affiliation of 35 local Bicycle User Groups in 2009. We are delighted by this response and appreciate the time and trouble taken by BUGs in completing their affiliation applications. There are still a number of BUGs who have yet to finalise and submit their applications for 2009 affiliation to Graeme, and we want to make it clear that the 2009 affiliation application process remains open. We look forward to considering additional recommendations for affiliation at subsequent Board meetings during the year.

Building the BUG Network

At the same meeting we also recommended to Graeme a number of areas that will be helpful to consider as we seek to build the number and effectiveness of BUGs through the development our affiliation framework going forward. We anticipate that many of our members and BUGs will have additional areas which merit consideration and so have asked Graeme to consult widely, through the BUG Council, in the development of recommendations to the Board in this respect. We welcome the input of members and all BUGs with ideas and experiences that may prove useful.

For details of upcoming meetings or to share your ideas you can contact Graeme Edwards direct at president@bikenorth.org.au

Developing the NSW Bike Plan

We are pleased with the rapid progress that has been made involving local Bicycle User Groups (BUGs) in the development of the NSW Bike Plan. Workshops were conducted in Metropolitan and Regional NSW and our submission has been made. A copy of the submission is available on the bicycle NSW website. The Board is very grateful for the support of our Advocacy Volunteer, Werner Steyer, and funding from the Bicycle NSW Environmental Trust in this regard. We are confident that the engagement of BUGs in the crucial early stages of planning will be a great help in creating a plan that will best serve our purpose of *more people cycling more often*.



Building a Bicycle Network that works

In recent months the Board have been giving increasing consideration to the question of having an effective national voice – in part responding to the changing role of the national government in funding “nation building” infrastructure as well as policies developed in response to the changing economic outlook.

In partnership with Bicycle Victoria we have created the Bicycle Network – based on our shared purpose - More People Cycling More Often. Both organizations are trying to achieve the same thing, so it makes sense for us to work together. We are currently taking the time to work with the Board of Bicycle Victoria to build a clearer picture of what the governing principles of the Bicycle Network should be, and what our immediate priorities for action are, in working together to get More People Cycling More Often.

We believe it is critical to lay sound foundations for what we want to become a sustainable and effective Bicycle Network that can involve other organizations and groups in the future.

Bicycle NSW - Corporate Memberships

For many years Bicycle NSW has worked in partnership with large corporate and public organisations – often in areas relating to major event sponsorship, training programme delivery and behaviour change programme sponsorship.

In recent months these relationships have extended into the membership area with two of our key partners, such that their staff can now join Bicycle NSW via specially tailored Corporate Membership arrangements that offer unique benefits to the organisation and also to Bicycle NSW. The organisations currently involved are the City of Sydney and Fairfax Media, and the arrangements are that these organisations subsidize the membership fees of their employees by payments direct to Bicycle NSW. We encourage any of our members who are interested in speaking with Bicycle NSW on behalf of their employer to create a similar customised corporate membership to get in touch with Chief Executive Alex Unwin at aunwin@bicyclensw.org.au

.....and as always we welcome the opportunity for input and discussion with our members. We will endeavour to address any concerns and comments you may have. We welcome your feedback and questions to president@bicyclensw.org.au

Please remember, the board exists to ensure that Bicycle NSW is well managed – we are not directly involved in day-to-day operations. You can find more information about the role we play published on the [Board page](#) of the Bicycle NSW website