



## News from the Board – March 2009

### City of Sydney CEO Monica Barone addresses the Board

The Board welcomed Monica Barone to the March Board meeting. As well as providing us with an update on the initiatives the City of Sydney is engaged in related to bicycle infrastructure and encouraging bicycle riding, Monica spoke to the Board about a number of specific plans the City of Sydney has for the education of new and existing riders, motorists and pedestrians. These programs are designed to increase safety of riders and other roads users as they make use of the rapidly growing number of new shared paths and other bicycle infrastructure that the City of Sydney is currently rolling out.

### Board Agenda and Activity Plan

There a number of regular Board activities which happen at a similar time each year. To help members keep track of these activities and input as appropriate we have published a summary on the Board pages of the website at

<http://www.bicyclensw.org.au/content/board-information>

## Your Board – Supporting Stakeholders in Cycling

### Joint meeting between Bicycle NSW and Bicycle Victoria Boards

This year the Bicycle Victoria Board Strategy retreat was held in Sydney to enable them to hold combined sessions with the Bicycle NSW Board developing the Bicycle Network, the national collaboration vehicle for organisations that have More People Cycling More Often as their purpose.

These sessions highlighted our shared purpose and revealed a number of shared assumptions and goals.

The outcome is still being shaped but we can say that both groups see More People Cycling More Often as encapsulating our commitment to work with and for both those who ride already and those who don't yet ride. The group agreed the purpose encompassed all types of riding, with the desire to reach everyone in society so that bike riding becomes normal.

It was also agreed it was essential to make a visible and measurable difference by working with government, business and the community, linking cycling to issues of community concern such as health and the environment.

Significant progress was made over the weekend in building the foundation on which the two independent organisations will work cooperatively to reach shared strategic goals.

The formal sessions were supplemented by an early morning bike ride along popular commuter routes around inner Sydney. The inevitable comparisons between the cities were made. The bike path over the Harbour Bridge has a section with 54 steps, and



while this is more than the 42 steps on the Yarra Path at Gipps Street, apparently Gipps Street is steeper!

There is no doubt that by working together we will eliminate both sets of steps, and other impediments to riding, more quickly than otherwise.

Life's better on a bike!

### **Getting out with local Bicycle Users Groups on the Tour De Hills**

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March was the day of the annual Tour de Hills, run by the Castle Hill Rotary Club out of the Dural Country Club to support the local St Gabriel's School for hearing impaired kids.

Board members, and our BUGs Council Chairman Graeme Edwards, enjoyed the challenge of various ride options – they don't call it the Hills District for nothing!

A highlight of the day is the lunch provided at the Dural Country Club after the event, and the opportunity to meet many enthusiastic participants – many of whom are Bicycle NSW members.

Such community rides are great initiatives that provide positive experiences of bike riding within local communities. We are grateful for the opportunity to both enjoy the day and thank all those who support "more People Cycling more Often" in so many different ways across the state.

### **New On Line Membership System**

Towards the end of last month members may have noticed that the Bicycle NSW membership payment and on line entry system has been updated. We have already received feedback that the change has improved user friendliness of the system. We expect over time that an increasing proportion of our members will choose to deal with Bicycle NSW on line, which not only reduces paper use and saves trees, but also saves money on postage and processing costs – leaving us with more resources to focus on getting more people cycling more often.

The new system will facilitate on line voting at our 2009 Annual General Meeting (see <http://www.bicyclensw.org.au/content/agm> for details), now possible thanks to the constitutional changes introduced to last year to allow members to be more involved in decisions that affect Bicycle NSW.

..... 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](mailto: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