

News from the Board – April 2008

The latest chapter in the Great Escapade story

Earlier this month Bicycle NSW Treasurer Greg Krix joined over 1200 riders on the Great Escapade over 12 days from Lithgow to Newcastle. President Jenny Burn was there to see the riders off on the first few days of the ride, featuring hilly days and cool nights – with the weather warming and terrain levelling by the finish.

For the first time since the first NSW rides in the early 1990s, Bicycle Victoria partnered with Bicycle NSW playing a central role in the operational delivery of the 2008 Great Escapade, making use of purpose built equipment, multi-day ride organisational resources and an experienced staff and volunteer team. The latter included many long term Bicycle NSW volunteers who were able to pass on valuable local knowledge. The Board is very grateful for the continued contribution of all our volunteers.

The decision to partner Bicycle Victoria in the 2008 Great Escapade was made late in 2006. This allowed adequate time for planning and organization among the many stakeholders along the route. The result was a great event engaging with local communities and relevant state and local government agencies.

From a Bicycle NSW perspective the decision to work in partnership with Bicycle Victoria was made for 3 key reasons:

- To reduce the level of risk to Bicycle NSW, in both an operational and financial sense.
- To foster stronger ties with bicycle organisations around Australia, giving rise to the formation of the Bicycle Coalition www.bicyclecoalition.com.au in September of last year.
- To allow Bicycle NSW to concentrate on other priorities to help get more people riding bikes more often via a range of new programmes and initiatives such as:
 - ✓ Ride2School <http://www.bicyclensw.org.au/RideToSchool.asp>
 - ✓ Ride to Work <http://www.bicyclensw.org.au/Ride2Work.asp> and
 - ✓ The very successful Gear up Girl event conducted for the first time in March this year. <http://www.gearupgirl.com.au/>

In 2009 Bicycle NSW are planning build on the success of this year's Great Escapade and work in partnership with Bicycle Victoria and our other Bicycle Coalition partners on a range of events, including the March/April 2009 Great

Escapade in Western Australia. Accordingly Bicycle NSW do not expect to organise a multi day ride in NSW during 2009, but do we expect the Great Escapade to return to NSW in coming years.

Finally...

As always we welcome the opportunity for input and discussion with our members. We will endeavour to address your concerns, comments and feedback through 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 at <http://www.bicyclensw.org.au/BicycleNSWBoard.asp>