



News from the Board – August 2008

On Your Bike – Active Transport Conferences

Our Treasurer, Greg Krix attended the the “On Your Bike” cycling conference at Homebush Bay, along with many other BUG members and our Pushon editor, Jenni Gormley.

This was a Clean Air, Healthy Communities initiative, assisted by the New South Wales Government through its Environmental Trust with an aim to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions in NSW.

It was great to see speakers from such a wide areas of Government represented. The Hon. Verity Firth the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment announced some new initiatives to assist in planning a wider coordinated network around Sydney. Lisa Corbyn, Director General Department of Environment and Climate Change spoke about the on your on your bike conference.

The keynote address was by Christian Wolmar, who gave us a view on the experience in England in ramping up funding to assist cycling initiatives. We still have a long way to go to catch up but their experience has been one of rapidly building interest and funding. We can hope that we follow in their footsteps.

The Lord Mayor of Sydney Clover Moore spoke about the city of Sydney's continuing commitment to cycling. Other speakers included Libby Darlison and Peter McCue from the Premier's Council for Active Living, Matt Faber from the Roads and Traffic Authority, Elizabeth Hole from BNSW talking about the Ride2School and Ride2Work, Rod Katz, AustCycle and Amy Gillett Foundation.

We had a lesson on the training police cyclists go through from Sgt Matthew Bransdon, NSW Police. It is exciting to see this whole of Government approach to cycling taking shape. We hope to see this Conference repeated next year.

Thank you to all our local BUGs and individual members who attended the conferences.

Media

Board member Richard Birdsey was interviewed by Quentin Dempster for an ABC Stateline story on sustainable transport in Sydney. The story was triggered by the success of transport initiatives put in place for World Youth Day. The interview aired on 25 July and included messages on how cheap and convenient bikes are compared to other forms of transport, the importance of the NSW Government properly resourcing initiatives like Bike Plan 2010 and including active transport in infrastructure planning. Making cycling a viable alternative to motorised transport and integrating into public transport networks were also important messages.

We've had overwhelmingly positive feedback about the story from members, other bikers and cycling organisations. We will keep pushing these messages to the media and taking it to the government and community.

Richard also chatted with Clive Robinson on 2UE in a regular feature on places to ride in Sydney on Saturday 26 July. He described a weekend ride in the Blue Mountains from the Imperial Hotel in Mt Victoria to Jenolan Caves as a weekend trip with some good hills, great scenery and historic accommodation at either end. As this is a bit of a tougher ride well be interested to see how many riders take it up!



Tour De France Breakfasts

Tour De France breakfasts were held in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne. They were a huge success, with Tour rider Henk Vogels the keynote speaker flying to Australia especially for the series. Henk provided a great insight into what happens behind the scenes of the world's greatest bike race.

President Jenny Burn attended both Sydney and Brisbane Events. She was joined in Brisbane by the Presidents of the other bicycle coalition members, who took the opportunity to spend time talking about our shared interests and challenges.

The group was generously hosted by Bicycle Queensland, and toured some features of Brisbane's cycling infrastructure, including the recently opened city bike parking facility.

Clearly there is much to be learned through a deeper relationship and collaboration among our state groups, and the Presidents committed to continuing the conversation and seeking regular opportunities to meet and advance our shared interests at every level.

Gear Up Girl – Workshop

Another fantastic morning was held on Saturday 19th July - the Gear Up Girl workshops took on a new, more 'intimate' format including a different venue and smaller workshops.

Bicycle NSW President Jenny Burn welcomed the ladies over breakfast, and introduced the guest speaker Katrina Van Der Spiegel. Katrina is the current Australian Champion in 24 hour solo mountain biking and she has also just placed a fabulous second in the recent World Solo 24 Championships. Just as importantly, Katrina shared her inspiring story about "getting on her bike" and practical tips about the challenges of balancing work, family and a demanding training schedule. Everyone appreciated her getting up early on a Saturday to take the time to speak to our participants – a big thank you from us all to Katrina.

Fifty women then got stuck into the workshops, which included Practical Skills, Changing a Flat Tyre, Commuting and Cycle Safety, and Training and Nutrition. As one participant said "I have more confidence to give it a go and be more adventurous in my rides".

Bicycle NSW Annual General Meeting - 1 November 2008

Details of this year's AGM appear on the [AGM page](#) of the Bicycle NSW website. We are looking forward to briefing members on the significant developments in the external environment and range of changes in the operations of Bicycle NSW over the last 12 months and anticipate a full agenda! We welcome input and questions from members to the floor of the AGM - for the first time this year we have provided the facility for questions to be put on notice to the Board – these questions may be lodged via email to the secretary as detailed on the [AGM page](#) of the website.



Bicycle NSW Strategy Update

As reported in the March edition of News from the Board, we are currently undertaking a review and update of the Bicycle NSW Strategic Plan developed during 2007. We will be publishing the updated plan on the website before this year's AGM and will include more detail on the Board's "policy guidelines" that inform the 6 key strategies we identified in 2007.

Bicycle NSW Constitutional Review

The external lawyers have been formally briefed on this project and work has commenced on drafting. A summary of your feedback, the process to date and plans going forward are detailed on the [AGM page](#) of the Bicycle NSW website.

.....and 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 published on the [Board page](#) of the Bicycle NSW website