



Bicycle User Group

Chain Mail

Number 1

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The Secretary
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Wahroonga 2076

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Hi there!

Welcome to **Chain mail**, our news update. At the last Bike North (BN) meeting we agreed to trial several new ideas, this bi-monthly news update being one. We will keep you informed with news, general information and upcoming events. Let us know what you think. Send suggestions or, better still, contributions on any cycling related topic to Sue Saczko at the address above (or 9489 3380).



Executive Director of BNSW

Congratulations to our BN president, Neil Tonkin, who is now interim Executive Director of Bicycle New South Wales. We understand if you can't spend so much time at BN! We'll certainly keep in touch and give Bicycle New South Wales plenty of support.



New stock - famous purple T-Shirts!!

Wow!! Get in early for this one. Everyone must have heard about our purple promotional BN T-Shirts by now. When we line up in the big events such as Cycle Sydney we make a real sight. Buy a shirt for \$10, what a bargain!! Don't be left out. Contact Vicki to get yours (9484 5030).

Bike North Handy Home Hint: Don't wash your purple T-shirt with your best whites.



Improved Working Groups

We've decided on regular meeting times for our working groups so all members can choose which of our activities to get involved in. Check out the **Working Groups** section then contact the convenor. There's a lot of variety so come along to and get involved with at least one group. Don't fret, you can keep up to date with other groups through **Chain Mail**.



Satisfying your needs

We want to know what you want from BN so we can make sure your needs are met. A questionnaire is enclosed with this edition of **Chain Mail**. Please bring it / send it back to Doug (29 Alison St, Eastwood 2122).

Successful Purple Mail-Out !

We sent nearly 800 invitation letters to all Bicycle New South Wales members in our postcode areas. There sure are a lot of bikes stashed in garages out there! Sue has been flooded with new members. How many members do we have? **128** and still counting! To those who receive this as their first communication from BN -- **a huge welcome**. We look forward to seeing you on the rides and working groups.

By the way, thanks to all those who came to the envelope stuffing work day. (It was also a great BBQ that night, thanks Neil.)



Council Bicycle Committees

Sue and Doug recently attended the Bicycle Sub-Committee of the North Sydney Traffic Committee to promote our Cycleways along Railways Proposal. The experience was, surprisingly, not boring at all and we enjoyed a very positive environment to discuss cycling issues. Unlike other committees **cycling is all they talk about**. We think all councils should create separate committees which ensures that bicycle issues are always on the agenda of the traffic committee and then Council.



NSROC ?

All the councils in the BN area are members of the Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils. Working through this body will allow BN to encourage consistent policies on bicycles across our entire area. It also gives us another lobbying point.



Bike Parking Facilities

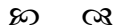
BN members Stuart Wilson and David Argent are just completing a bike parking survey at all our railway stations. Stay tuned for the interesting results...



Tracks - a great idea

Around the world there are organisations interested in converting old railway easements, into recreational trails for walking and cycling, hence their name Rails-to-Trails.

Tracks, the Australian version, is just getting started. BN member John Drake is a member of Tracks so give call him for the latest details (9868 4228).



Hit the internet

Many BN members have found email to be a cheap, easy and quick way to keep in touch. If you have an email address which you can use for BN email then let Sue know. It also saves a great deal of postage as we can email all the minutes, agendas and other stuff to heaps of people in a few minutes on-line.

If you don't have an email address yet, but are thinking of linking to the internet then we encourage you to do so and become involved in our email discussions. For more information contact Doug (9887 1478).

There are plenty of cycling links on the World Wide Web. Start at BNSW
<http://www.ozemail.com.au/~bikensw>
or Bike North's temporary page at
http://www.ocs.mq.edu.au/~dstewart/bike_nth/



NOTES FOR YOUR DIARY

Check the enclosed Ride Calendar for BN organised rides for July, August, September and October. Also don't forget Push On (in the middle of Australian Cyclist) for lots of other BUG rides.

Next BN meeting - the AGM



Sunday 24 August at 9am. Meet at Putney park and bring your picnic (or BBQ) lunch and your bikes. Look for us down on the lower level near the water. First item is an easy 15km ride to Bicentennial Park and back. A very pleasant and safe ride for those who haven't done the route. Then we'll hold the AGM under a tree at around 12 noon, followed by lunch and a lazy afternoon in the sun on a blanket. Everyone should come along to this gathering.



Cycle Sydney - Special Event



Join the hoards of purple "T-shirted" BN members at Bicycle New South Wales' premier cycling promotion day. Over 5,000 riders will join together to ride on closed roads from North Sydney to Parramatta. Encourage all your friends and workmates to come along. This is a fun day with closed lanes and many cycleway sections with plenty of rest stops. If you only do one ride this year, make it this one! See you there on **Saturday 21**

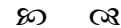
September, (the Spring Equinox). Contact Doug (9887 1478) for more info.



G.E.A.R. weekend away



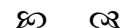
The Great East Australian Rally is based at Burradoo near Bowral and, over the long weekend in October (3rd-6th), you can join day rides that loop out and back; both on and off roads. Either camp out or stay inside with the other wimps. For more information contact West Sydney Cyclists on 9608 1125.



RECENT RIDES

Saturday Sojourns

It's dawn and a small group of BN members are pulling on their knicks and filling their water bottles. Jump on the bike and while warming their legs they are freezing their fingers in making their way to the meeting place at Eastwood Station. Our popular Saturday rides don't stop in Winter and everyone looks forward to the **compulsory tea and cake** at the half way point. A recent highlight was hot chocolate at the Airport Hilton, conveniently placed adjacent to the Ryde - Kurnell Cycleway. We almost always avoid major traffic routes and get plenty of time to chat. Keep an eye on our programs to see when we cycle and come and join us, at least once.



A Blayney Good Ride

Ten BN members recently did a weekend ride around central west NSW. After driving over the mountains, we spent the first night at Blayney. An early start saw a good covering of ice on our bikes parked outside. Brrrrr!! The reward for our 75km of slogging hills was a candle-lit dinner for 10 in a wonderful restaurant in Millthorpe, then back to the warm pub bar. Only 55km the next day to finish the loop. We had lots of fun, and did lots of slow dirt (well, rocks, mud, all that sort of stuff really, cows, sheep, paddocks etc). But, there were practically no cars!! We met and chatted to lots of lovely country people. Keep an eye on our program for the next country excursion.



Critical Mass the city

You may have heard of critical mass and wondered what it is about. A "spontaneous" gathering of cyclists who form a large enough mass to maintain an adequate road space for everyone to ride safely. The 100 or more cyclists keep together in one single group and cycle quite slowly for an hour or two. The

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routes vary but they always start from the Archibald Fountain in Hyde Park North at 5:30pm on the last Friday of the month.

It is certainly a completely different experience from any other type of cycling. Although Critical Mass is not a BN activity several BN members regularly attend. If it takes your fancy or you are just curious then maybe we'll see you there. Come along and join in. On your first rides I recommend you stay in the centre of the mass and just get used to riding with so many cycles about and see how it works. For more information contact Marshall on 9427 3503.

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WORKING GROUPS

BN is not yet one year old but we have already achieved a tremendous amount. I guess we are all amazed. Our working groups have made this possible. This section of **Chain Mail** lets you know what is happening and how to get involved in our advocacy work. Set out below are the major working achievements so far.

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If anyone is not a member of **Bicycle New South Wales** then we suggest you join up and support the body that works for you.

BN Executive

Neil Tonkin (9869 2568)

The Executive consists of the President, Secretary, and the convenors of all the working groups. The aim is to provide coordination across groups and deal with whole group issues. The executive meets every two months, about one month after the general BN Meeting.

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Hornsby Council Group

Craig Grimmond (9482 3060)

Current highlights:

- Council Bike Plan is being review by SKM consultant (and BN member) Mark Waugh. Significant new cycling routes will be identified.
- Epping Station to Terrys Ck route has been planned.
- Hornsby Council will support our **Railways Proposal**.

Craig's household has another new cyclist and perhaps our youngest BN member. Congratulations!! As a result his time is more limited but the group is going very strongly, Craig will welcome any volunteers from the Hornsby area. Call him up to find out when the next meeting is on.

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Hunters Hill Council Group

Ron Gouder (9817 1813)

Current issues are:

- Gladesville Bridge access, suggested tunnel to connect to shared footpath on eastern side.
- Extension to Parramatta Valley Cycleway (PVC) from Punt Rd via Gladesville Hospital
- Council Bike Plan to be written
- Pittwater Road traffic calming

We need extra volunteers for this group. Contact Ron to find out about the next meeting.

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Ku-ring-gai Council Group

Convenor: position vacant

Current highlights:

- The Kissing Point Road cycleway from the Station to Browns Waterhole is under way in conjunction with Ryde.
- Council supports our **Railways Proposal**
- Recent work with local Chamber of Commerce on a proposed underpass at Turramurra Station
- Pentecost Ave flowerbeds have been realigned to create a cycleway

We require a new convenor for this group. John Watts and Sue Saczko have done much of this work, but are willing to stand aside for a Ku-ring-gai resident who has some spare time to help us out. Contact Sue (9489 3380).

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BN Favourite Rides

Mark Waugh(9484 5962)

This group is making a map by compiling the preferred, recommended or favourite cycling routes from all our members. Routes classified as recreational or commuting will be combined on a computer and given to BN members and also forwarded to Bicycle New South Wales where they will be joined across Sydney. **Everyone is requested to forward their favourite routes to Mark.** If you're interested in maps, or routes contact Mark and join in.

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This space will be available in the next issue. Any contributions are welcome.

Ryde Council Group

Michael Chow (9874 1461)

We have a good working relationship with Councillors and Council staff. We have worked on:

- Morrison Road extension to PVC
- Shrimptons Creek proposal
- Terry's Ck to Macquarie University
- Vimiera Road cycleway
- Eastwood to Denistone cycleway

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Current issues are:

- Brown's Waterhole crossing (construction is imminent !). Ryde is managing the project.
- Underpass at De Burghs Bridge to Lane Cove National Park
- Traffic calming problems on Quarry Road have created squeeze points
- Pedestrian underpass at Eastwood Station

Contact Michael to find out about the next meeting after the end of July.

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Cycleway along the Railway Group

*Sue Saczko (9489 3380)
and Stuart Wilson (9498 1308)*

We meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 3 Kokoka Ave, Wahroonga to promote our vision of a major commuter and recreation cycleway along both Northern Railway lines using existing maintenance easements. We have:

- created and distributed a concept proposal
- taken the proposal to the Premier, Dept of Transport, House of Reps committee on Sport and Rec funding and wherever else they will listen
- gained support from Hornsby, Ku-ring-gai, and North Sydney Councils.

Current discussion is on how to get funding to do a pre-feasibility study (is there anyone reading with a spare \$40,000?) and how to promote the proposal through petitions, letters and displays. If you have some creative ideas on how to promote this proposal or how to raise sponsorship then we want to see you. This is really the BN flagship project.

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Macquarie University Group

Doug Stewart (9887 1478)

The University is the hub of the current RTA bike plan, but is also a major drawcard for cyclists. We feel that the campus is a key point in our activities at present.

- We've given feedback on draft campus plan (which includes a bike access policy)
- We've discussed installing secure bike lockers and other facilities at key points
- We've planned continuation of external cycleways across campus.

Doug has acted as the de facto convenor in the absence of any other volunteers. Any staff or student member of the University would be welcome here. Contact Doug to find out about the next meeting (9887 1478)

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Events Working Group

*Exciting opportunity for a **new convenor***

This is a new group which will plan cycling events for BN. Events may vary from **social events**, short rides, through day rides to multi-day excursions. Most BN rides will be for small groups (four to a dozen) but one or two rare events may be large extravaganzas. These are the ones we really need help planning. If you are interested in planning and running events then please join up to this group. Contacts for the moment are Bruce (9809 0288) and Ron (9817 1813).

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Publicity Group

Doug Stewart (9887 1478)

This new group will have the job of planning, designing and distributing publicity for BN. We have a range of publicity material including:

- general pamphlet / membership form
- business cards with various messages
- A4 sized posters
- a world wide web site
- a 1.2m x 1m fabric BN banner

We need to develop a strategy of how to promote not only BN but cycling in general. If you have some ideas and skills in promotion or publicity then contact Doug to find out about the next meeting.

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Bicycle Parking Group

***Wanted:** convenor*

We have the job of reviewing current parking facilities in key locations such as railway stations, shopping centres and workplaces. As they are a key to more higher cycle use we aim to improve them in various ways. Contact David Argent (9876 4023) to find out what has happened and what might happen next.

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| Don't forget to fill in the Members Survey and return it to Doug . Why not do it now? |
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