

MASSIVE

**critical
mass**

April 1998

Critical Mass Sydney

CMass FM

Radio CMASS FM goes live tonight for the first time. The radio station will be broadcasting for the duration of Critical Mass ride broadcasting music and information about the Mass to riders people in cars and anyone with a radio within range who cares to tune in.

You can help get the message out by bringing along a boom-box or other radio to help those without radios also hear what's going on.

The frequency will be 90.9 MHz. Feel free to bring along large signs to hold up while corking saying "Tune in to CMASS FM 90.9." Also, if you're printing out new batches of flyers, add something to that effect.

We'll be periodically announcing our location so stragglers who miss the 5:30ish start of the ride might be able to tune in and find out where we are.

Volunteers to help out with the monthly recording of music and talking live on air should contact me by email <simon@rumble.waratah.id.au> or phone 0412 285 448.



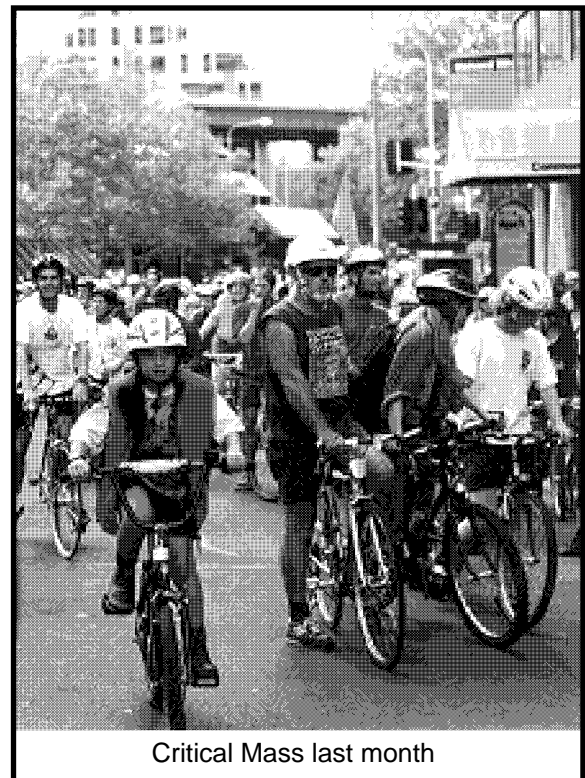
Simon Rumble

Reclaim the Streets

That's right Reclaim the Streets is on again! This time around Sydney will be linking up with other cities around Australia including Melbourne and Brisbane and the world.

In case you've been living in a cave (or perhaps a steel coffin?), Reclaim the Streets is a celebration of public space for people, not just cars. Those streets are made for walking, playing, laughing and dancing—not unsafe, polluting transport modes. It's time to stop the erosion of public space and reclaim it for people!

Join a thousand or so of your closest friends on Saturday 16th May at 1pm in Belmore Park, opposite Central Railway to reclaim a street. Various styles of music, play areas and dancing will be had for all. Bring yourself a couch, lie back and enjoy public space as it was meant to be.



Critical Mass last month

Banners and t-shirts

Let's make the next ride a big event with lots of banners, t-shirts and maybe even a critical mass designed "stunt" car. Come along to a banner and t-shirt printing and painting workshop at:

Republic Print, 1/167 Botany Road, Waterloo

When: Sunday 10th May 1pm onwards.

Nine Short Tips

For Spreading The Word Without Getting Smeared

1. Leave your ego at home.
2. Communicate: Carry some fliers around and give them to the people you are corking; most people out there actually support us and will appreciate feeling like they are part of what we're doing.
3. Don't make eye contact with motorists who are really angry.
4. Offer only passive resistance if you get pushed. Move on and let somebody else take your place.
5. Break up arguments. Encourage angry cyclists to move on and cool off. Offer to replace them at a cork.
6. Be human, accessible, humble, polite and firm.
7. If you feel yourself losing it, try to move on. When you shout at someone, they don't hear you.
8. If one of us gets hit or arrested, don't leave the spot until the trouble is resolved.
9. Follow the person in front of you. If there's no one in front of you, improvise. That's the fun bit. We don't have to follow a map, and we don't have any leaders. Enjoy!

Tony Savdie

The truth is out there

and it comes in a zine called True Wheel, a new zine devoted to the cyclist, not your lycra clad cyclist, but the commuting cyclist, the touring cyclist, the person that uses his bicycle every day.

You won't find reviews in True Wheel for bikes that cost \$5000.00 or for that latest titanium gizmo. What you will find is down to earth information, reviews on sensible bike parts (preferably under \$20.00), information on touring, information on bicycle advocacy and Critical Mass and much much more.

TRUE WHEEL will be available at the next Critical Mass and some bike shops (to be announced) it will cost only \$2.50 and will be a bi-monthly zine.

And you too can contribute, have your say get your name in print, just send any contribution to: TRUE WHEEL, PO Box M59, Missenden Rd, Camperdown NSW 2050

Andrew Dodds <adodds@aapt.com.au>

Know a good manager?

The RTA are advertising for a General Manager to build a bicycle network. If you know a good manager with skills in heading off car-mad inter-departmental fighting and pushing their weight around in a car-centric government department, let them know about this.

Enquiries regarding this position should be directed to Patrizia Anzellotti on telephone number (02) 9241 4355. An attractive remuneration package will be offered. Applications close 27 April so get in quick!



First ever Mass in Haifa, Israel this January.

Truth about motorways

We have asked the court to rule that the prospectus issued by the Macquarie Bank subsidiary, Macquarie Infrastructure Investment Management Ltd, to launch the float of the Infrastructure Trust of Australia, contained false and misleading statements in relation to the traffic figures (and therefore the revenue stream).

Among other effects which will interest cyclists is that if we succeed in this it will probably lead to a withdrawal of funds by the investors (and particularly by the superannuation funds).

The other side have tried various means to knock us out of court, initially by telling the judge that we had no investments in the road, and therefore had no direct interest. Our reply was that we were not pretending to have an interest, that it was a public interest case. We won that one.

It is Truth About Motorways' belief that the figures in the prospectus imply more cars on the road (more than 30% above) than the road has the capacity for. This is a far more easy thing to prove than arguments about demand.

There are other glaring anomalies in the planning documents which underpin parts of the prospectus. On one section, there are less cars after an on-ramp than before it. It is also implied in the methodology that people will be more likely to use the toll road if the toll is more expensive. Also that there will be more traffic on the (tolled) northbound than on the (untolled) southbound.

Apparently, motorists will love it (being tolled) that much.

I'll let you know when the next court appearance is. It would be good if the court room had lots of interested public in it, after all, it is a public interest case.

Charlie, Truth About Motorways



Fangin' it down George Street last month

I got connected

Get Connected conferred!; Friday 17 & Saturday 18 April 1998, Granville TAFE.

What a magic couple of days! Friday morning on the train out to Granville and I'm really excited about hearing David Engwicht. His book, *Towards an Ecocity*, is still one of my bibles. Off the train, onto the community bus and into the Granville TAFE (public transport access to the conference was well organised of course!).

A warm welcome to the conference from Christine (NCC) and Colin Gale (Darug Tribal Aboriginal Corporation). Jock Murray, Director General of the Department of Transport, was cautiously optimistic about change. It was great to see that some of the Government's transport 'heavy weights' supported the conference and were so keen to hear what we had to say.

David Engwicht then presented us with a view from 2008—very different to 1998 after a massive paradigm shift in transport had swept society. The few cars that were allowed on the streets carried health warnings above their exhaust pipes. Law demanded that drivers key in their excuse for making the trip, to be displayed in lights on top of the windscreen.

Almost everyone travelled by train, light rail, bicycle or on foot. How did the change happen? We carry within us the two paradigms—the speed-is-good

motorist and the speed-is-a-curse consumer of urbanity. We spend about an hour a day as the former and about 23 hours a day as the latter, yet the motorist paradigm prevails. Why? We've suppressed the 'consumer of urbanity' paradigm. Almost by magic, people, neighbourhoods, cities, governments, let their urbanity paradigms emerge and a silent revolution swept the cities of the world. Fantasy? Don't forget the non-smoking revolution.

More coffee, smiles, frantic exchanges and its off to the workshops for some facts, figures and debates over various transport issues.

After a short sleep, its back on the train for day two. In the morning our panel of four discussed State Government transport policy, transport for the disabled, the role of the environment movement in transport and the effectiveness of non-violent direct action (eg. Critical Mass and Reclaim the Streets).

More coffee, more chat and more workshops. No transport issue was left unturned. A big thanks to Christine, Rob, Rachel and all the tireless transport activists for a magic couple of days. Now its back on the train...

*I ain't goin' down to no racetrack, to see no sports car run.
I don't own no sports car, and I don't even care to have one.
I can walk anytime around the block.* - Bob Dylan

What is Critical Mass?

On the last Friday of every month cyclists, bladers and boarders meet for a rolling celebration of non-motorised transport. It's a welcoming space where people feel safe from the daily stress of sharing the roads with giant hunks of metal.

But Critical Mass is far more than a hour of freedom of movement once a month. Cruisy Sunday Mass rides also happen on the third Sunday of the month. These rides have been very small recently - so bring your kids, parents or dogs along to Hyde Park at midday and create your own social space. Critical Massers also meet to drink raspberry cocktails and discuss the current state of the world - particularly the world of cycle activism, ten days before each Friday ride - ie on the Tuesday night from 6pm at the Green Iguana cafe in King Street, near Sydney Uni. These meetings help make Critical Mass Sydney one of the biggest and most entertaining mass rides in the world. Come along!

Critical Mass also happens everyday when its participants share ideas on email or over a beer; contribute to the web sites - Sydney Critical Mass - <http://www.nccnsw.org.au/member/cmass/> and the Global Critical Mass page - <http://www.magna.com.au/~peace/globalcriticalmass.htm>; write letters to newspapers and politicians; print t-shirts and paint banners; write articles for local papers and magazines; are interviewed by the media; print and distribute flyers and posters in bike shops and cafes; chat to politicians; get involved in Bicycle New South Wales; design and print new flyers for giving out on rides; invent bicycle sound systems; organise media stunts; hold displays at cycling events; participate at transport conferences; write articles for and edit Massive (the Critical Mass Sydney newsletter) ... and so the list goes on

In short, Critical Mass defies the mediaphathetic seven second soundbite. It's what its participants make of it, so get active!

Critical contacts

Gabrielle Kuiper <gabrielle.kuiper@uts.edu.au>

| | |
|--|--|
| Voicemail of next ride, questions, comments: | 02.9614.0777 |
| Massive Newsletter: | 0412 285 448 simon@rumble.waratah.id.au |
| Critical Mass Web site: | www.nccnsw.org.au/member/cmass |
| Email news: | cmass-syd-news-request@nccnsw.org.au |
| Email discussion: (send an email with the word <i>subscribe</i> in the body of the message to join the email lists) | cmass-syd-talk-request@nccnsw.org.au |
| Four Link Plan: | www.rumble.net/4linkplan 02.9209.4357 |

Bike lanes "damage" road

Cyclist Manuela Crank had no conviction recorded after pleading guilty to a charge of malicious damage. The "malicious damage" involved was the act of painting bike lanes on Cleveland Street, Redfern, a vital East-West link for commuting cyclists. Personally it sounds like street improvement but nonetheless the Police dutifully marched Manuela off to court.

"The activity in which I took part was an expression of frustration experienced by the cycling community at the lack of a positive outcome from more conventional means of lobbying," Ms Crank said in a statement tendered to the court.

A word of warning for other street improvers:
Don't get caught!

Simon Rumble <simon@rumble.waratah.id.au>

Calendar

May

Saturday 16th 1pm
Reclaim the Streets, Belmore Park opposite Central.

Tuesday 19th 6:30pm
Meeting at Green Iguana cafe, King Street Newton to discuss tactics, strategy, actions and any other issues which people bring up. All welcome to have their say!

Sunday 16h 12 midday
Sunday Mass picnic. Bring a packed lunch for a leisurely ride followed by a nice picnic. Hyde Park Fountain.

Friday 30th 5:30pm
Regular Friday Critical Mass in all its grandiose and joyous glory.