



THE VOICE OF CRITICAL MASS
FOR SYDNEY, MELBOURNE AND BRISBANE

it's really big!



Learn tips from other cyclists to make road cycling safer, like:

Welcome to another Massive and another ride!! We're over 5 years old now and so have to behave like grown-ups. Hah. Only if that means you can have fun as much as possible!!

This is the pre-Olympics issue, as you can get ready for the Olympics. Get that bike oiled up!! Apparently there's been a significant increase in people resurrecting their old deadly treadlies, in preparation for the city-wide gridlock widely expected to typify Sydney for two weeks (on the other hand that could be another Y2k Bug scare - remember that?? :). Still can't be a bad thing to see more cyclists.

So if you someone gamely struggling along and looking harassed in the gutter, stop next to them at the next lights and give them a friendly smile. Tell them about the Mass, give them a copy of Massive, let them know that staying on the bike instead of going back to their cars is a GOOD thing! And don't forget! - daylight savings starts this weekend!! Nope, I'm not kidding. Early so the 'Limpics can have nice long sunny evenings, lucky them. Lots of confused cows even earlier this year! Enjoy, and don't forget - cycling makes you sexy!!
Fiona Porteous, Massive editor.

Tonight we are riding to celebrate the opening of the Light Rail extension to Lilyfield and lobbying for MORE light rail - esp in the CBD, opposing the Cross City Tunnel and supporting the Aboriginal Tent Embassy. The route will follow some of the new extension of the light rail around Glebe and end in Victoria Park at the Tent Embassy. The rough route is as follows (no map, sorry peoples; find someone with a Sydways):

- Rough Route:**
- > Exit Right to College St
 - > straight 2 Wentworth Av
 - > right on Campbell St
 - > left on George St
 - > right on Hay St
 - > Left on Thomas St
 - > Right on Ultimo Rd
 - > Left on Darling St
 - > (could loop up Star City)
 - > Into Prymont Bridge Rd
 - > Bridge Rd
 - > Right on Ross St
 - > Minogue Cr
 - > The Cresnet
 - > Left on Johnston St
 - > Left Parramatta Rd
 - > Right on Missenden Rd
 - > Left on Carillon Av
 - > Left on City Rd
- Stop at Victoria Pk to visit the Tent Embassy

(please be marginally respectful to the people there)

About the Tent Embassy

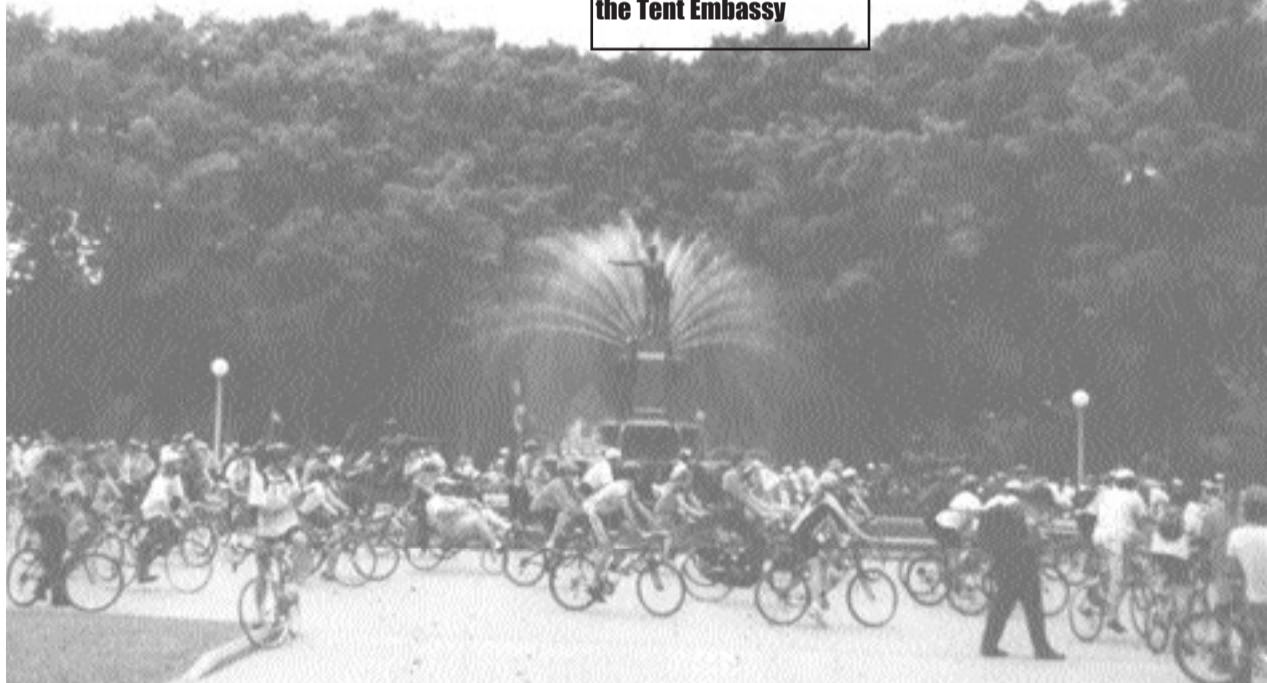
As of twelve o'clock 14th July 2000 organisers of the official Aboriginal Tent Embassy in Canberra began its historic(re)-establishment in Sydney. The Tent Embassy was set up in Victoria Park by Isabelle Coe, one of the original founders of the 28-year-old Canberra Tent Embassy. The Embassy's aim is to raise awareness of Aboriginal issues in the lead up to and during the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. It's hung on despite various "official" attempts to move it elsewhere - that is, somewhere less visible - and

deserve all the support all of us, not just Critical Massers, can give. The original Embassy was set up in Canberra to call for Justice and Sovereignty for Aboriginal peoples, and has set up this satellite camp in Sydney to raise the pressure on the Government to recognise and act on the past and present injustices faced by Aboriginal people.
<http://www.aboriginaltentembassy.com.au/main.htm>



About the Light Rail

The light rail opened in August 1997 with a much-needed run from Central through Pyrmont and, until two weeks ago, terminating just past the Fish Markets in Glebe. Not any longer!! It now runs all the way out to Lilyfield and there are already plans for running it even further out west, through Leichardt and beyond. Personally I think it should do a massive loop all the way around the city, coming in behind Macquarie St and terminating at the Opera House, thereby taking in all the interesting parts of Sydney (especially if it could go via Centennial Park somehow :). As a Balmain, ex-Glebe resident, I adore the light rail passionately (ok, also as an ex-Melbourne person who gets nostalgic for the



cmass cats spraying cycling pheromones to an avid crowd (?) at hyde park...

sound of tram bells), and Cmassers should like it too for two reasons: 1. It's clean, quiet, and goes to useful places (ie we approve of it on environmental grounds) 2. You can take your bike on it for free!! (I just confirmed that with the official people directly). The light rail operates within two zones - the first goes to Convention (Darling Harbour) and costs \$3.50 return to Central for an adult (and the bike's free). The second zone is the rest of the way out to Lilyfield. That'll cost you a mere \$4.50 return to Central, with your bike again free!!! That's cheaper than the bus (and beleches considerably fewer fumes)!!

Critical Mass now has a message bank service - the number is 9990-2911.

CMASS SAFETY
What's a Cork??

It's where a bunch of people block off an intersection to prevent cars getting through and breaking up the Mass. It's

easy to do - just plant yourself in front of any cars and stay there until the whole mass has moved through. It's also nice to hand out leaflets and take the time to explain to the driver what's happening and why.

Confrontation

Some drivers can get verbally and, rarely, physically aggressive about it all. The first rule in any confrontation is to keep calm. You won't get through to the person by getting aggressive yourself, and in fact you're unlikely to get through to them at all. Say your piece calm, preferably with good humour and a smile, and then RIDE AWAY. This is important. If you are threatened with physical violence, that's what the velocops are useful for. There's generally one in the immediate vicinity, or else get someone to find one and request their presence. DO NOT GET VIOLENT BACK. There's no point going to jail over it!!! We're here to have fun!! If your idea of fun is baiting people into an incoherent rage, then I'm afraid you're not welcome anyway. If you're not having fun, find someone nicer to talk to ... there are lots of us!



Ride to Work Day: Thurs 7 September (two weeks away). Get a free breakfast at **Observatory Hill Park** if riding a bike to work across the Bridge (630am to 9am). Another brekky/fly the banner/be seen during **Bike Week spot** at Hyde Park, Oxford St end. Drop in and help out. Volunteers wanted. **BigGlebeBikeDay: Sunday 3 Sept**, 10am-3pm. Bicentennial Park, Glebe Point. Fun bike day, events, prizes, MTB demo, BBQ, ride around Blackwattle Bay 1pm. Free entry.

- Make eye contact with cars at sidestreets, etc to ensure they've seen you.
- Use an airhorn, a loud whistle, or a loud "Oi!" when in any doubt they've seen you.
- Assume all drivers have a visibility problem with non-car shaped vehicles.
- ◁ Travel out from the curb to make you more visible, and to discourage cars from trying to squeeze past dangerously. (the Road User's Handbook suggests being at least 1m from the curb)
- Try and travel in a straight line so you are predictable - don't weave back into the curb every time there are no parked cars.
- Be visible, lights are crucial at night, & wear visible clothing. Avoid drivers' blind spots.
- Make your intentions clear by your body language and road position.
- Use a hook turn to turn right at busy intersections.

Mulga Bill Ride: September 10

Day in the country. Starts 930am Windsor Station. (742 train from Central will get u there). 65 km around the Hawkesbury area. Bring own lunch/buy in Windsor. Details: www.users.bigpond.net.au/lbug

You MUST go to <http://www.qwiktrip.org> and contribute!!! Simon Chalmers is the incredibly together and motivated person who's put this resource online. In his words:

"In conjunction with Telstra and Bicycle NSW, I have just completed a project to **publish locations of facilities in Sydney that support pedestrian/cyclist commuting.** These facilities include **lockers, showers, bike racks, irons, etc.** The database is on the web - **www.qwiktrip.org**.

"Thought you all may be interested in checking it out. I'll be very grateful for any assistance any of

“ you can provide in letting other interested people know about the site. There's no subversive motive behind my request - I'm just doing it as a 100% non-profit venture, because I support the cause. **The official "go live" date for the site is 1 September,** but I'm trying to get as many people hammering it/entering info, before then. Cycle / pedestrian commuting in Sydney already accounts for a remarkable proportion of Sydney commuters seeking alternatives. The NSW Government recently released these statistics:-

● Over 11,000 people ride to work on a typical weekday in Sydney;
● More people ride to work than go by taxi in Sydney;
● Almost 100,000 people use bikes to get to work in NSW; **Lets blow those stats out of the water over the Olympic period!**

Regards, Simon”
Simon Chalmers, m: 0418 643 542, p: 02 8356 9020

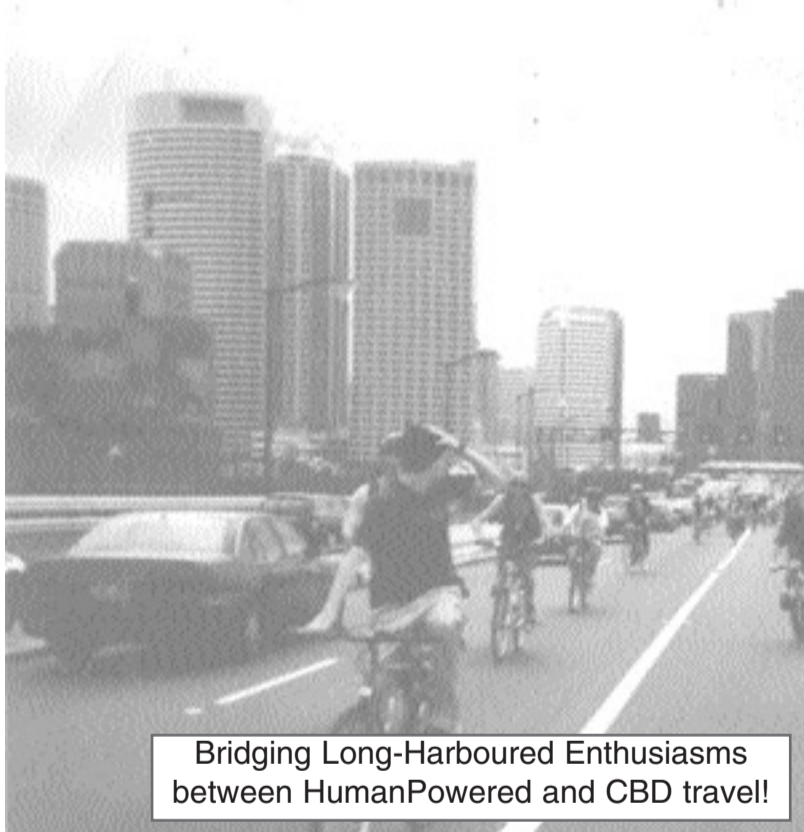
What a stunning ride last month eh? Party hard, party on.

Here's a snippet about the bands you saw and the place you were in ...THEE UNHOLY MASS

"By now you may be sitting back in the Kirk sipping on a vino and taking in the ambiance of this fine dis-establishment. Or you may be sitting at your breakfast table on Saturday morning with a ripping headache wondering why pleasure should have such a hefty price. Either way take a moment to send out some karmic credit to the boys and girls who put out on the night.

Gretyl Pinnager, otherwise affectionately known as **Madam Lash**, has generously offered the Mass her hospitality at the Kirk. Please lend your support on Sunday from 12pm til 5-ish at the Kirk working bee, which is sure to more social than sweaty. The day will end up with some music, food and toasts to the success of a great venue.

The bands entertaining you are Tamen, the furry, funky, freak brothers, and Renewtree, smoother than mother's milk on a desert highway. DJs sliding their needles gently while you romp and stomp are DJ Skunk, DJ Max, and maybe Michael MD. If you wish to book or recommend any of these guys please get their contacts from Brackets and Jam, ph. 9358 1300. **To all those who helped with the party and those who've made it a memorable occasion, bonza, cheers, power to ya!"**



Bridging Long-Harboured Enthusiasms between HumanPowered and CBD travel!



one of our most leisurely masses, rolling through the neighbourhood...

Lotsa Velocops!!

Critical Mass is being used as the training ground for the latest batch of bike-mounted police - both in non-violent activism issues as well as cycling ones. Seems even they have been won over to the possibilities inherent in having a small, mavoeverable, slender and city-friendly form of transport. Be nice to new group of 22 with us tonight and they'll start ensuring the cars are nice to cyclists in general (can you just imagine a car automatically running a cycling off the road,

only to find themselves pulled over at the next set of lights? I can't _wait_).

And a memory of the early Masses by one of the regular velocops: (NB this has been edited slightly from the original, with names removed as appropriate.

My First Mass, by Roscco Wilson, Senior Constable, City Central Police Station

On Friday 29 September 1995 I was working afternoon shift on the policepaddy wagon with a female Probationary Constable, (who shall remain nameless as she has since transferred from Sydney to another location & I have not seen her for quite a number of years). Over a hundred cyclists were observed riding south in George St, (How could you miss a sight like that) & because I was in the area & available for jobs at the time, I was dispatched by Sydney police radio to attend & see what the situation/problem was. I was elsewhere in the city before I received the radio call so I had no idea of the CMass ride until told about it by the police radio. I caught up with the rear of the group in Bathurst St & made my way through the group of what I estimated to be between 100 to 150 cyclists by using my lights & sirens as warning devices as I drove through the middle of the group. I managed to reach the front of the group in Liverpool St where I stopped the group in an effort to ascertain who the group was, what the demonstration was about if indeed that's what it actually was, where you were going, whether or not the demonstration was lawful & to investigate numerous traffic law breaches by cyclists that had been reported to me by police radio. You must realise that at this point in time in 1995 the police (which included me) had no idea of who or what Critical Mass were about, what your ideals were or what your gripes about lack of bike facilities were, etc, (which I might add are valid gripes). The police were totally in the dark about these issues because we had not been previously told of who you were or what you intended to do. Maybe things might of been different if we had been told??? Anyway as I spoke to the group it became clear to me that a certain male rider at the front of the group appeared to have some control (for want of a better word) over the group. I approached him & asked him what was going on & who he was. He was reluctant to tell me & turned to walk away. At this point in time the other cyclists had surrounded us. The cyclist I had been talking to started to walk away & I took hold of his shirt sleeve in effort to stop him & again ask what was going on. He immediately asked me if I was arresting him & I said no. (For all you legal boffins out there, this was not an attempt at making an arrest, merely an effort to speak with someone). When he realised that I was NOT going to arrest him, the situation calmed down & he told me who he was. At the time I decided that it wasn't a good move to make massive arrests, obviously we were outnumbered at odds of over 100 to 1. Numerous traffic laws had been broken such as running red lights, riding more than 2 abreast, etc, etc. But if we had made arrests, what on earth would we do with 150 bikes?? They certainly wouldn't fit in the back of the paddy wagon along with the 150 riders!! A logistical nightmare!! All's well that ends well, we followed the group until the finish where they ended up making speeches in Pitt St Mall & then the riders dispersed & went there own way. Since that time relations between CMass & police have changed dramatically. I'm glad to say that I have played a small part in that, although the credit must go to Dave Darcy who was the instigator & the energy behind the change in tactics & relations attitudes by the Police Department. But I think I can say that I have been there from the start & even back then when relations were non existent I had an open mind & could see the long term benefits for bike riders in Sydney. As you know I ride bikes as well.



Critical Mass have applied to the police commissioner for a permit to ride over the **Harbour Bridge on Sep 29 !** :) It will not be known for at least ten days whether or not this route will be approved so stay tuned to discussions on the Critical Mass email lists (details below) or **active-sydney** - see <http://www.active.org.au/sydney> or phone the new Critical Mass info line on **9990-2911**.

Where ever we go it's going to be **HUUUGE!!** Bring everyone! - your friends, family, fish and cats! Small cousins!! Total strangers you pick up off the street! (Is that enough enthusiasm Gab?) In order to make the Olympic Critical Mass as big, bold and beautiful as possible, we're holding a Critical Mass workshop for:

- * banner painting
- * Olympic preparations

* and writing the odd submission to the **Cross City Tunnel EIS** (submissions close **8 September!** so get in quick)

on **Saturday 2nd Sept at 1-5pm** - possibly in Enmore - venue t b c.

Come along! phone **9990 2911** for details. (This is the new official CMass phone number by the way!)

BUDDY SYSTEM FOR NEW CYCLISTS

One of the more efficient Fionas in CMass (not the editor of this publication, the one who actually writes submissions) is **writing up a flyer** to distribute to bike shops and the public, on cycling safety, techniques, and the like, during the Olympics. This is being done in conjunction with **Bicycle NSW**, but being produced as a generic thing. In her own words:

"The aim of it is to ensure that cyclists get up to speed and comfortable from the start, so that they will be encouraged to **keep it up rather than give up** - hence the **importance of buddying**."

"Primary distribution method will be for **inner-ish bike shops to hand out with bikes brought in for servicing**, but there'll be other distribution too. The **Cheeky Monkey Cycle Company** may be helping with printing, funding and information.

"These guys are an incredibly wonderful, friendly, supportive bunch of **bike lovers**, so please support them wherever possible!! They're underneath Central Station, next to the Our Lady of the Snows soup kitchen, on Pitt St.

General Note: All Olympic bus lanes are also bike lanes! :)

PARRAMASS has got its special Limpdics ride organised: - over to you, Sam: (*from the official press release*)

PARRAMASS set to ride in support of 'Green Games'

The Parramatta branch of international pro-cycling movement, Critical Mass, is planning a ride through the heart of a pre-Olympic Parramatta CBD on **Thursday the 14th of September** in support of 'green' Olympic transport options.

The **ParraMass 14th September ride** is intended to be an enjoyable bike ride which makes a statement on the still greater need for truly green transport during our 'Green Games'. In addition it will be a chance for bicycle riders to enjoy the exciting atmosphere of the build-up to the Olympics opening ceremony celebrations at Parramatta's very own Olympic 'live site' being set up by Council.

The ParraMass will be gathering to ride at 5:30pm on Thursday the 14th of September just opposite P'matta Town Hall in Church Street Mall.

All cyclists are welcome.

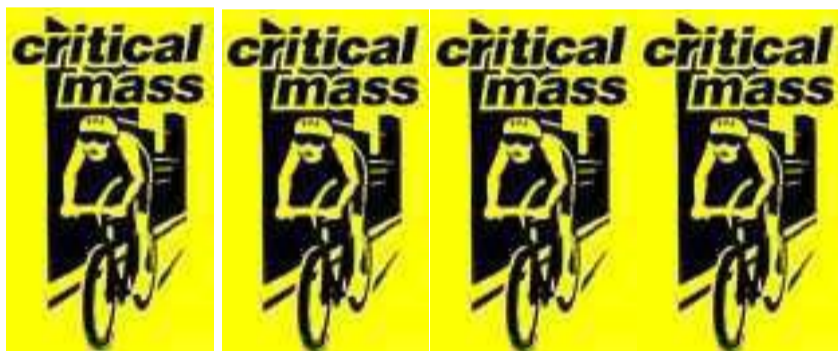
Samuel Hodgkinson, ph: **9632 5795**

e: shodgkinson@sia.net.au

www.egroups.com/group/ParraMass

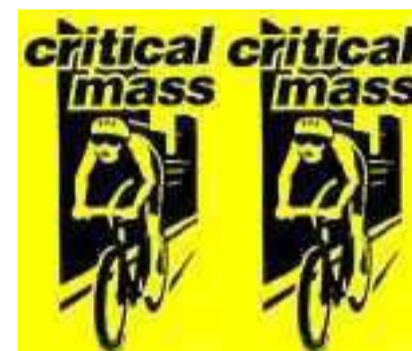
mailing list:

ParraMass-subscribe@egroups.com



The **Cross City Tunnel EIS** submissions close **8 September** so get in quick!

Ring the **1800 633 332** toll free info line or look at <http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au> if you haven't already and get informed about this disastrous road. To submit representations, email: crosscitytunnel@rta.nsw.gov.au



CALENDAR

Green Iguana meeting - Tuesday 19 - usual details

Ride to Work Day - Thursday 7 September. Get a free breakfast at Observatory Hill Park if riding a bike to work across the Bridge (630am to 9am). Another brekky/fly the banner/be seen during Bike Week spot at Hyde Park, Oxford St end. Drop in and help out. Volunteers wanted.

Big Glebe Bike Day - Sunday 3 September. 10am to 3pm. Bicentennial Park, Glebe Point. Fun bike day, events, prizes, MTB demo, BBQ, ride around Blackwattle Bay 1pm. Free entry.

Mulga Bill Ride. September 10. Day in the country. Starts 930 am Windsor Station. (742 train from Central will get u there). 65 km around the Hawkesbury area. Bring own lunch etc or buy in Windsor. Details on www.users.bigpond.net.au/lbug

The Critical Mass website is being overhauled. Mark now has access to be able to update the site but needs people to provide content and useful things like that :) Email him mpulver@nsw.bigpond.net.au or the critical mass talk list if you can help.

3 Sept Massbug ride - Fiona will post details

The Big Glebe Bike Day is on again! Fun for cyclists of all ages, in Bike Week.

Sunday September 3

10 am to about 3pm

**Bicentennial Park, Glebe Point
(the watery end of Glebe Point Road).**

Free entry to cyclists (donation from non-cyclists), so get out the bikes and bring your family and friends down to the Park. Registration is between 10 and 1030am to enter the draw for prizes and to get a BBQ ticket.

There will be events for kids, prizes and raffles to be won, skillscourse, races (time trial), a BBQ and drinks, tea and coffee, and a BMX and MTB stunt display by Ben Bolton and Urban Assault. **At 1:30 pm get ready for the Big Ride around Glebe to Pyrmont** and back across the Anzac Bridge (on the cycleway!).

The Big Ride will be supervised by experienced cyclists and will have police permission. There will be a shorter ride for littlies up the Johnston Creek cycle path.

Organised by Leichhardt Council and Leichhardt Bicycle Users Group (LBUG), with support from the Toxteth Hotel, Richard Ware Real Estate, the RTA and Ellsmore Meats. Enquiries to Vera Zaccari at LMC on 9367 9000 or Bob Moore from LBUG on 9810 3706 H (try first), 9296 1675. Visit LBUG on the web. <http://users.bigpond.net.au/lbug>

Community Aid Abroad

comes to CMass in October!

A lovely letter sent to us:

Dear CMs, I am contacting you on behalf of Community Aid Abroad. We are holding an International Youth Parliament in Sydney at the end of October and about 380 young people will be attending from all around the world.

Several of them have already expressed an interest in participating in local action and I am wondering whether we could talk about the possibility of them joining your October ride.

They of course are welcomed with open arms!! Some may be newbies so start practicing being nice to total strangers NOW!!

**Hug a Cyclist Today!
(and tell them they're sexy).**

CM's Web: www.criticalmass.org.au **CM's radio:** 90.9 FM **CM's phone:** (02) 8587-8425

Email Newsletter: www.criticalmass.org.au

Massive's Team: gabrielle.kuiper@uts.edu.com.au, fiona.porteous@hcn.com.au,

damon@vmore.org.au, echavez@one.net.au