

MASSIVE

December 1998

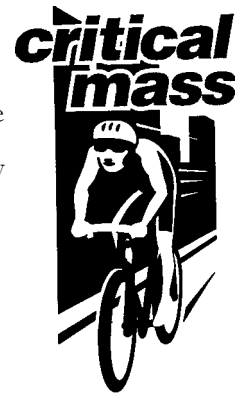
Critical Mass Sydney

Eve Street wetlands

This magic place in Arncliffe is soon to be destroyed by the Carr Government's M5 East project. The 1996 EIS for the project proudly announced that these wetlands would be saved by being bypassed by the road. After the period for public comment had closed in early 1997, roads minister Carl Scully and planning minister Craig Knowles endorsed the RTA's decision to destroy the wetlands instead!

The Eve Street Wetlands are listed in A Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia, 2nd edition, published by the Australian Government.

If you are interested in stopping the destruction of this precious remnant of the Botany Bay wetlands, please e-mail Lee Rhiannon of the NSW Greens <greensnsw@peg.apc.org>.



<http://www.brushtail.com.au/nick.possum/eve.street.wetland.html>

Cycle towards a fairer world

Sunday March 21, 1999

Community Aid Abroad wants you to jump on your bike and get involved in this year's Cycle Against Want on Sunday March 21. By joining in you'll be raising the profile of cyclists in Sydney and helping Community Aid Abroad's work in some of the world's poorest communities as well as indigenous Australia. You can cycle up to 60 kilometres on the day, along a designated route, through some of Sydney's most scenic suburbs, as a family, or as a solo rider. Cycle Against Want coincides with the annual Walk Against Want being held at the Sydney Domain, as well as Parramatta Park and over a dozen regional centres.

The main route travels along a designated cycle way and, apart from some street crossings, is off road and safe for all ages. It starts at Tempe Railway Station in Sydney's south and heads in a north westerly direction through the suburbs of Marrickville and Canterbury reaching a turnaround point at Freshwater Park Strathfield.

There are three options on the main route, either 8, 16, 24 kilometres, depending on your riding ability. Or you can ride the more challenging route to Kurnell of up to 60 kilometres.

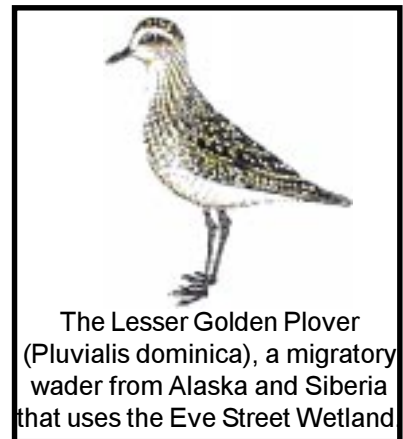
As well as having heaps of fun and raising awareness of cycling, you'll be helping Community Aid Abroad projects to eliminate poverty and achieve social justice.

Ring 1800 034 034 now to register as a cyclist and to get a sponsor book. Then get busy collecting sponsors.

For more information, please contact Ali McKay at Community Aid Abroad on (02)9264 1399



Eve Street wetlands



The Lesser Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*), a migratory wader from Alaska and Siberia that uses the Eve Street Wetland

Cycling to school

I have been cycling to school for almost 6 years, since I was 7 years old, in both England and Australia. I have found that it can pay to be considerate towards pedestrians, even if some of them are annoying or just plain provocative, as some people will show courtesy, and they may not do that any more if you just ignore them.

I cycle 2km to get to my school, and in those 2km there is not a single bicycle path or a shared footpath sign. In fact I often cycle an extra 6km for exercise and I still can't see any acknowledgement of cyclists anywhere, despite the fact that many people use that route to commute to their work. I feel that rather than concentrating on reducing cyclists injuries by making helmets compulsory, local councils should try and prevent the accident in the first place by making more bike lanes and educating drivers about a cyclist's rights and responsibilities, preferably during their driving test. I would still wear my helmet though, as I would rather not get brain damage because of one, ignorant motorist who did not know the road rules, or, as could be the case, just didn't see me in time.

There are about 6 people who cycle to my school, me being the only regular cyclist. Of the other approximate 950 students, many of them like the idea of cycling, but live too far away. There are others though who, because of seeing other misled people (their parents?) do it, think it's all right to call a cyclist names. But sometimes you just have to put up with idiots who do stupid things like that. I hope that in the future people will understand a bit more about how cyclists feel.

David Campbell, aged 13

Hazard reporter

Computer legend Chris Virtue has come up with a novel way to help the RTA keep their extensive bicycle network humming. When you come across a dangerous pothole or other problem in your travels, just go to the Web page and fill in the form. The information you provide will be sent straight to the RTA for the prompt attention. Of course follow-up letter to remind them to do it won't go astray..

<http://www.inhouse.com.au/bikestuff/>

If you don't have Internet access, don't fret! Just fill in the form below and drop it in the post.



Barry Saxton
Bicycle Unit
Roads and Traffic Authority
PO Box 558
Blacktown 2148

Dear Mr Saxton,

I have discovered a serious problem with the NSW bicycle infrastructure detailed below. I would appreciate your prompt action on this matter. Once the problem is rectified, please notify me using one of the methods given below.

Yours Sincerely,

Location

Road Path

Suburb

Street or path

Between and suburbs

Nearest cross street

Map reference UBD Sydway Gregorys

Description of problem. Check all that apply.

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pothole | <input type="checkbox"/> Bump | <input type="checkbox"/> Grass on surface | <input type="checkbox"/> Debris on surface | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree roots |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blind corner | <input type="checkbox"/> Rough surface | <input type="checkbox"/> Water ponding | <input type="checkbox"/> Squeeze point | <input type="checkbox"/> Grab rail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sign posting | <input type="checkbox"/> Kerb ramp | <input type="checkbox"/> Overhanging branches | <input type="checkbox"/> No facilities | |

Other

Description of Hazard, Your Comments and Suggested Action

.....
.....
.....

Reported by

Name Email

Address Town / Suburb

Postcode Home Phone Work Phone

How to turn a sympathiser into an enemy

I'm not sure that I'm mailing this to the correct address, so please forward it to the party concerned.

I am a great sympathiser to the Critical Mass cause, being a full-time pedestrian (I have never even learnt to drive, let alone owned a car), and I fully appreciate that protest must be made in order to push for change. I understand also that your sympathies lie with the pedestrians, and that your 'mission statement' says:

"Pedestrians are our friends, and many pedestrians are supportive of our aims. It is very important that we do not alienate them by cycling on pavements or going through pedestrian crossings. You will often hear "Let the pedestrians through", being yelled out while Critical Mass is going through a pedestrian crossing. Cyclists stop, let the pedestrians through and then keep going. On one of these incidents someone yelled "Clap the pedestrians and sustainable transport." This was taken with much cheer by both pedestrians and cyclists."

During Friday's protest on Kirribilli Avenue however a small number of the cyclists took it upon themselves to mount the pavement, where I was standing. One of these cyclists, when I commented that perhaps the pavement was for pedestrians and a cyclist should be on the road, was abusive and threatening in reply.

I have no doubt that this was not a representative attitude of the majority of the Critical Mass supporters. However, this one incident lost you a great deal of sympathy both from myself and from a number of people who were standing near me at the time.

Could I suggest that, at the start of your protests, all participants are reminded that pavements are for pedestrians. In the past I have been knocked down by a cyclist while on the pavement, and to suffer abuse at the hands of a pavement-cyclist is the last thing that is going to make anyone sympathetic to or supportive of your cause.

I hope these comments are productive.

Author chose to remain anonymous. Relay comments via <simon@rumble.net>

Reclaim the Street Newcastle

Newcastle's first ever Reclaim the Streets is happening this Saturday December 19th at 12:57pm at the Railway Station. A contingent will be heading up from Sydney so get on the appropriate train which arrives in Newcastle in time and look for the cyclists and party people!

'Twas the Night of the Crit Mass

'Twas the night of the Crit Mass, when all through the street
Happy cyclists were joyously pedaling feet;
Riding on two wheels to show that they care
about hopes of safe streets, world peace, and clean air.

The children would watch and smile to see,
"These people ride bicycles exactly like me!"
"They don't need a chauffeur, a taxi, or car,
They just have fun riding from here to afar."

When gliding along there was barely a clatter,
No insurance fees, gas, or license would matter.
A virtual dream in a modern-day world,
Where the hustle and bustle of traffic unfurled.

When I first gazed upon them I thought it a trick,
That people on bikes could travel so quick.
More rapid than cars stuck in traffic they came,
And they whistled and shouted and cheered once again.

The moon on the smiles of bikers below
Gave proof to their vision of happiness so,
Social Space would be conjured and friendships appear,
Where autos once jostled in streets filled with fear.

Now, CYCLIST! Now, WALKER! Now BUS RIDER
TOO!

On, RAIL! On BIKES! On SANDAL and SHOE!
Come out of your homes and come out of your stalls,
To the streets which are here for the use of us all!

We will share with you now this magic we know
Of laughter and fun, no more life-on-the-go.
There's FREEDOM inside every person on Earth,
And there's HAPPINESS waiting to spring forth with
MIRTH!

But for many unsuspecting and steady a soul,
Car-culture has become a spinning black hole.
The pollution has darkened the blue sky above,
Oil wars have come, and jailed the Peace Dove.

The car is a jail for its driver as well,
Changing farmland and woodland to cartoonish hell.
Replaced with oppressive parking lot and mall,
And the lackluster views of unending sprawl.

"What happened?" you ask, "I do see it now,
How do I fix this? Won't you please tell me how?"
Go back to your families and neighbors and friends
Share the word now, before the chance ends.

When you take for yourself before sharing, you see,
And set aside caring for community,
You forsake the value of LOVE for a collar,
And sell out your soul for the \$ign of the dollar.

But if you're looking to live in a happier way,
Then just stop. Come join us. Right now! Today!
For the story's not finished, you can write the end,
Unite and be heard, empower your friends!

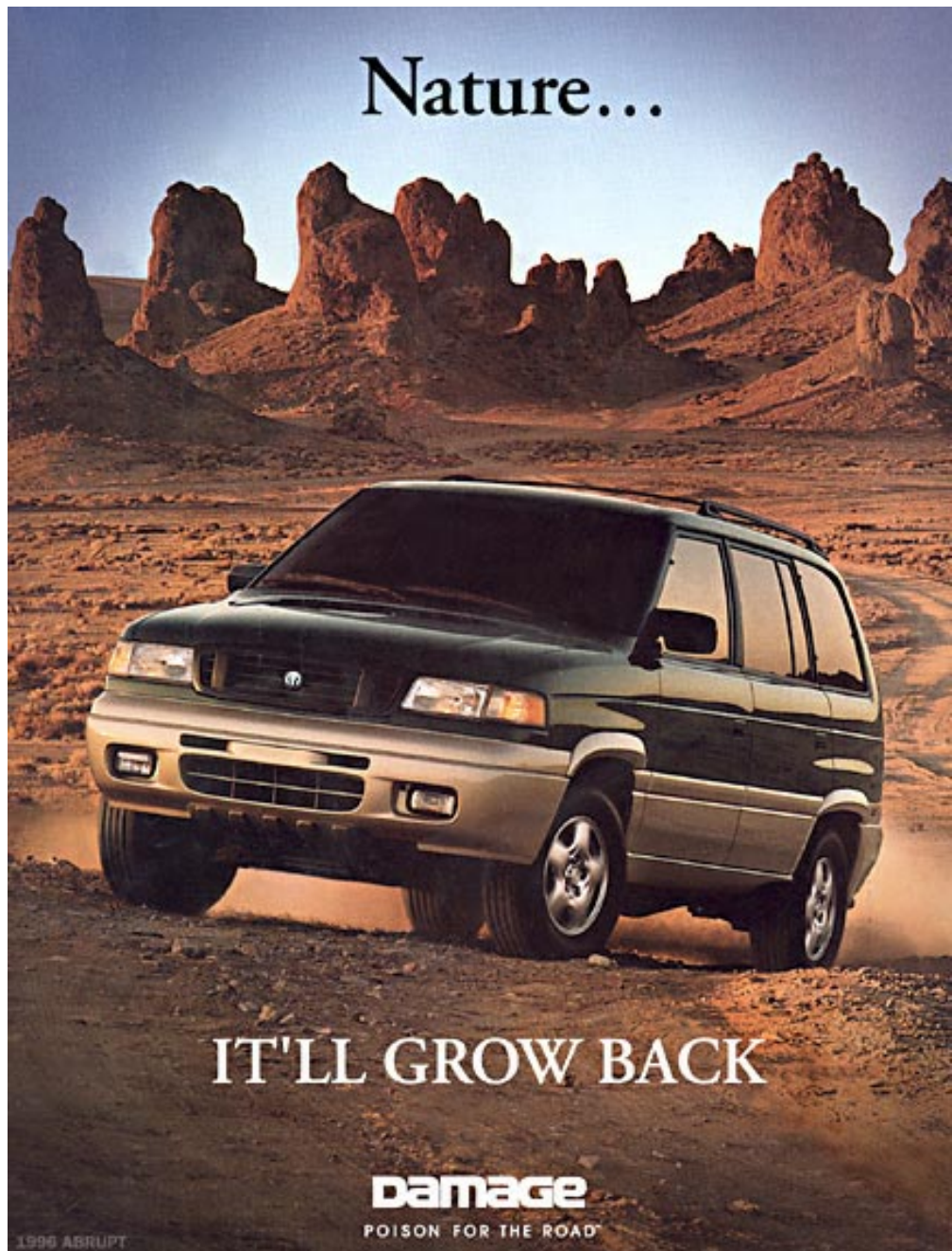
Just keep growing and caring, it's not out of style.
This short season of sharing should last all the while.
So the Trumpets of Victory shall ring every day,
And the spirit of community will return to stay.

Ride a bike, fly a kite, take a swim, have a hike,
Plant some flowers, hug a tree, count the stars out at night.
Play some music, learn to dance, make a painting and find
That the key to be happy is all in your mind.

Yes, "Do Unto Others" was the message they called,
Love your neighbor, and nature, and our fragile blue ball.
And I heard them exclaim as they biked out of sight,
"HAPPY CRIT MASS TO ALL AND TO ALL A
GOOD NIGHT!"



No Iraqis were bombed to fuel this bicycle!



Graphic from Abrupt
<http://www.abrupt.org>

Critical contacts

Voicemail of next ride, questions, comments:
Massive Newsletter:

Critical Mass Web site:
Email news (max 1 per day):
Critical Mass radio:

Email discussion:
(send an email with the word subscribe in the body of the message to join the email lists)
Four Link Bike Plan:

02.9614.0777
0412 285 448
simon@rumble.waratah.id.au
www.nccnsw.org.au/member/cmass
cmass-syd-news-request@nccnsw.org.au
90.9 FM
cmass-syd-radio@cascade.taz.net.au
cmass-syd-talk-request@nccnsw.org.au
www.rumble.net/4linkplan
02.9209.4357

Calendar

Newcastle Reclaim the Streets
Saturday 19th December, 1pm Newcastle railway station.

Parramatta Critical Mass
Thursday 7th January, 5:30pm Church Street Mall opposite the Town Hall, Parramatta.

Critical Mass meeting
Tuesday 19th January, 6:30pm Green Iguana Cafe, King Street Newtown

Bondi Critical Mass
Friday 29th January, 5:30pm Hyde Park Fountain.