

MASSIVE

March 1998

Critical Mass Sydney

**critical
mass**

Inner West cycleway

What is Planned?

A new cycleway is planned for the Inner Western Suburbs of Sydney, between Victoria Road at the City West Link Road to the Off Ramp for the M4 at Concord. It will provide a link between cycleways along the Glebe Island Bridge and the M4. Bicycle planning consultants, Gutteridge Haskins and Davey Pty Ltd (GHD), have been contracted by the RTA to design the route after consulting with the local community - thus ensuring the preferred route is safe and practical for all cyclists.

Who Is It For?

The cycleway is being developed primarily for bicycle commuters, but will be used by recreational bike riders as well. The route follows the recommendations of existing studies into cycleways, particularly the Inner Western Suburbs Bike Plan prepared in 1986 for the NSW State Bicycle Committee.

What Do You Think?

Before GHD finalises the proposed cycleway, we would like to know what you think. If you are a bicycle rider or commuter, or live or work along the route, we would like to hear from you. A consultation program is being run during February/March 1998 and this newsletter is part of that.

How Can You Find Out More?

Displays showing the proposed route will be in several locations:

- Stanmore Cycles, 208 Parramatta Road Stanmore
- Concord Sports Store, 46 Crane St Concord
- Ashfield Cycles, 353 Liverpool Road Ashfield
- Inner City Cycles, 31 Glebe Point Road Glebe
- RTA Five Dock, Cnr Henley Marine Drive & Ramsay Rd Five Dock

Menacing the media

Letters are a very powerful tool in lobbying for change. Letters to newspapers are a great way to publicise a cause, and will influence editors when deciding what articles should be covered in their newspaper.

Letters to Editors need to be dead short (100-250 words), topical, timely and really witty.

They usually have to be addressed to The Letters Editor to get there.

Letters are like a lottery. There may be a number of letters arriving about the same topic just after a news event and, if yours is shortest, funniest, most representative of views of correspondents and most recent, you get in.

So get your friends to write in too, to increase the chances of there being something in the paper on the topic of concern. *Continued on page 2.*



Critical Mass Melbourne celebrating in the streets.

Media monster

(from page one)

Try to tie your letters to relevant news events or previous correspondence in the paper in the first sentence.

Letters should be signed and have a phone number that works (this will often be called). An address helps too.

Date the letter.

Sift what you want to say right down to a set of dot points. Even if it takes 3 drafts.

Check spelling and facts, particularly figures.

It reassures the editor if there is a footnote, explaining where you got your data. But mostly they would rather have the guts of the argument than figures.

Statisticians torture the data until it confesses.

A lot of news editors believe that stats don't have much credibility.

Call the RTA, Bicycle New South Wales, newspaper news desks or the Critical Mass fact pack online to check facts before you start to write. Sift it down to a few sentences.

Then blast away. The more the merrier. Letters keep politicians and bureaucrats very busy and the issues in their faces. You can always send them a copy of your letter at the Ministry or their electoral office.

Jane Salmon

Contacts

Sydney Morning Herald

News Desk Fax: 9282 3253
Letters Editor Fax: 02 9282 3492
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Stay in Touch Fax: 282 2772
Column 8 Fax: 9282 2772
Good Weekend Fax: 02 9282 1628
Good Weekend goodweekend@goodweekend.com.au

Daily Telegraph

Letters Editor dtmletr@matp.newsltd.com.au
News Desk Fax: 02 9288 2608
Between the Lines Fax: 02 9288 2608
Page 13 Fax: 02 9288 2612

Sun Herald

Email: letters@shd.fairfax.com.au
Fax: 9282 151

Sunday Telegraph

Email: dtreport@newscorp.com.au
Fax: 9288 2300

Ol' smokey

Next time you get caught behind a car or a truck which is belching smoke, take it's details and report it! Jon at the EPA sends Critical Mass these instructions:

Following are details which are critical for acceptance of smoky vehicle reports by the EPA's Motor Vehicle Branch. Reports can be phoned through 24 hrs per day on 131 555 for the cost of a local call (mobiles pay at mobile rates). This applies across NSW. You can also fax your reports to (02) 9325 5572.

Reports concerning smoky vehicles must have the following seven items:

1. Name and contact phone number of reporting person - this remains totally confidential even under Freedom Of Information requests.
2. Vehicle registration number - report NSW registered vehicles only (NB: semi-trailers have different number plates for the trailer - you must get the number plate of the prime mover).
3. Statement from reporting person that the vehicle was blowing visible smoke *continuously* for a minimum of ten seconds.
4. Colour of smoke (choose from the following - white, grey, blue, heavy blue, light/medium/dark black, thick black).
5. At least two of the following vehicle descriptions - (Make and model are most useful in verification of a report) - colour of vehicle - make of vehicle - model of vehicle - body type (sedan, station wagon, utility, van, truck, bus, motorbike, etc) - Vehicle make (eg Honda, Holden etc) is usually easier to get than the model details, and when combined with colour and/or body type will assist in report verification).
6. Time and date of sighting (reports must be no older than 10 working days from time of sighting).
7. Street and suburb of sighting.

If there are any other details about the vehicle that may be important, for instance commercial vehicles with business names/sign writing on the body of the vehicle, commercial roof racks indicating a tradesman's vehicle, etc, please include these.

Articles for Massive

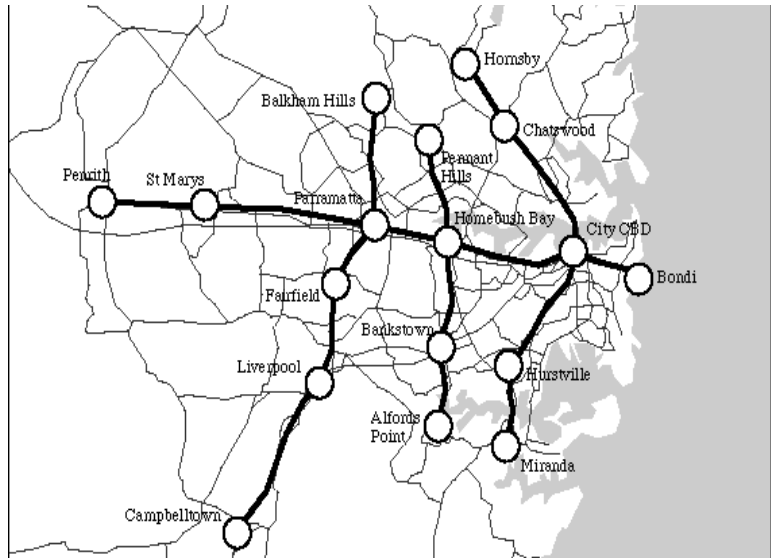
This newsletter is what you make it! If you have a brilliant idea, viewpoint, angle or whatever, get on your soap box. Send pieces around 250 words to simon@rumble.waratah.id.au. Also photos can work extremely well, so please contact me if you have any good ones.

4 link plan

What is it?

The 4-link BikePlan could form the basis of a comprehensive network of dedicated cycleways for the whole of the Sydney metropolitan region. Local area networks would be built on the back of this 'skeleton', so that Sydneysiders could cycle safely anywhere in the city.

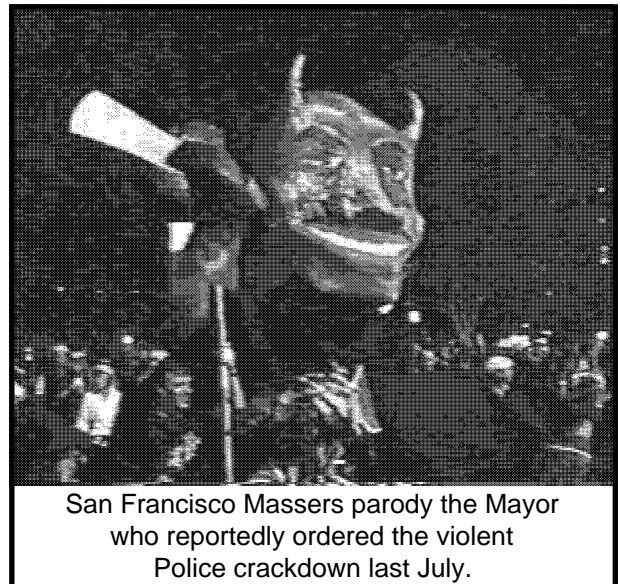
The plan consists of four dedicated cycleways which would be of a high-quality surface, separated from motor vehicle traffic by a physical barrier. The crux of the plan is a cycleway running east-west, from Bondi Beach to the City, through Homebush Bay to Parramatta, St Marys and west to Penrith. Three north-south spines run across this central link.



What can you do?

There are thousands of 4-link BikePlan flyers which need a home. Most importantly, the flyers have cut-out letters to send to the Minister on the back so they need to find people who will write their names on them and send them to Mr Scully. You could give them to your friends, cycling clubs or Bicycle User Groups, or your local bike shop, environment group, cafe, etc.

Choose the location and target audience of your choice but please do get some flyers by phoning Gabrielle on 9209 4357 or email Gabrielle.Kuiper@uts.edu.au or download your own copy of the flyer from:
<http://www.rumble.net/4linkplan/>



Ride to the Show

A ride of interested Critical Mass cyclists will be meeting at Hyde Park Fountain at midday to make its leisurely way out to the show. Being a festive affair, bring the kids/cousins/neices and nephews and friends for a leisurely, non-confrontational ride out to the Easter Show. Meet at midday at the Hyde Park Fountain on Easter Sunday.

Bikes bring change

Remember the impromptu bikelift outside Waverley council chambers during the January Mass to Bondi? Some questioned the point of this exercise, as you could guarantee no councillors or staff were around on a Friday evening to see it.

Well, Gabrielle's photos of the event went off to the local paper, along with a press release demanding a bikeplan for Waverley, supported by quotes from local councillors. In the event, the story wasn't published - they held off for a response from Waverley's Mayor, Paul Pearce. In the meantime though, green councillor Tom McLoughlin, a regular Massie, moved that the Council implement a Bikeplan immediately, and waddyaknow, this time it got through! I wonder if the threat of criticism in the paper had an effect on the Mayor's vote...

How to get to the Show

Bicycle Parking is available at the car parking station in Sarah Durack Drive and at a bicycle parking compound behind the Athletic Warm-up field to the southwest of the Aquatic Centre. Open 7am to 11pm daily. Cyclists should provide their own locks.

Access to Olympic Park and RES is possible from:

Meadowbank/Concord Bridge: Follow the marked Ryde to Botany Bay cycle route to Bicentennial Park. Follow cycle paths through Bicentennial Park to foot bridge over Bennelong Road and Australia Drive. Follow path and ramp down to Sarah Durack Drive.

Victoria Avenue, Concord, off Concord Rd: Use underpass to the north of Concord West Rail Station. Rejoin Victoria Av into Bicentennial Park and proceed as before.

Pomeroy St, Concord: Cyclists can use Pomeroy St to access the Ryde to Botany Bay cycle path along Powell's Creek Canal, which leads to Bicentennial Park. Alternatively follow Pomeroy St to Underwood Road and turn left at Sarah Durack Drive.

Strathfield and Homebush: From the Crescent at Homebush use Subway St and cross Parramatta Rd to Underwood Rd. Or use Bridge Rd. and cross Parramatta Rd at the lights to Hillcrest St and follow the Botany Bay to Ryde cycleway to Underwood Rd. as before.

Rockdale, Marrickville, Canterbury: Follow the Botany Bay to Ryde cycleway along the Cooks River to Homebush and use either Underwood Rd or Powells Creek route.

Lidcombe: Follow Church St to Bachell St and Birnie Avenue. Cross Parramatta Rd at lights to Australia Avenue and enter the Olympic Park. The bike parking compound is nearby at the Athletic Warm Up Field.

North Parramatta: Follow Parramatta Valley Cycleway to Concord Bridge and join the Ryde to Botany Bay cycleway.

For further details ring Bicycle NSW on 9283 5200 or the Olympic Coordinating Authority on 9735 4400.

A Homebush Bay bicycle access map is available from the RTA Bicycle Office. Tel 9218 6816.

Critical contacts

Voicemail of next ride, questions, comments:	02.9614.0777
Massive Newsletter:	018.285.403 simon@rumble.waratah.id.au
Critical Mass Web site:	www.nccnsw.org.au/member/cmss
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

Calendar

April

Tuesday 14th 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 11th 12 midday

Instead of the regular Sunday picnic Mass, a group will be heading out to the Easter Show at Homebush. Even if you don't join this group, be sure to ride as ORTA are keenly watching to see if there is demand for cycling facilities.

Friday 24th 5:30pm

Regular Friday Critical Mass in all its enormously entertaining glory.