



Critical Mass Rides the Sydney Harbour Bridge!

(extracts from the media release)

Critical Mass will be celebrating the quieter streets and cleaner air that the Olympics have brought to Sydney. 'The Olympics have brought a healthy vision of the future to Sydney' said Critical Mass participant and computer programmer, **Ms Fiona Campbell**. 'The Olympics have shown that transport planned around cycling, walking and public transport means that our cities are much more livable.

'Now what the Commonwealth and New South Wales governments must do is take the same approach to *everyday* transport that they have taken to Olympic transport' said Ms Campbell.

Critical Mass are calling on the Commonwealth government to fund and implement the **National Cycling Strategy**. Currently the Australian Federal Government spends \$1.6 billion/year on building roads, but no money on cycling facilities. While a National Cycling Strategy has been endorsed by all Australian governments, it exists only as words on paper. Critical Mass is calling on the Commonwealth Minister for Transport, Mr Anderson to spend 5% of the roads budget *ie. \$80million/year on building the national cycle network* and to work with State and Territory governments to oversee the implementation of the National Cycling Strategy.

Mr Nic Gellie will launch a plan for a **Regional Australian Cycling Network** at the media

conference on the morning of the Harbour Bridge ride. The plan is to create a network of safe, convenient and scenic cycling routes across Australia that would be used by both local cyclists and cycle tourists. 'Cycle tourism can help **sustain and maintain precious natural resources** and assist rural people suffering from rural and regional decline as traditional industries and resources disappear', said Mr Gellie. The economic gains from eco-tourism on cycling routes can be significant. 'The economic benefits of the Danube cycle route in central Europe are estimated to be *over \$90 million per year*', said Mr Gellie.

Olympic Cmass media coverage

Apart from the usual places, like 2SER and JJJ, we've been featured on a website: www.sydneyis.com.au/ The story is in the Outdoors section. Watch out for the helicopters filming tonight's ride and smile at the cameras!

The Olympic ParraMass on September 14 went off *_wonderfully_* and a great time was had by all. The next Parramass is in November – check out <http://criticalmass.org.au> for details. You can find a short article about the Olympic Parramass together with a couple of photos on the Sydney Independent Media Centre site at: www.sydney.indymedia.org. Feel free to add your comments to the article using the 'add comments' link :)

Thankyou! A ride like this one only happens with the help of lots of people who distribute flyers, put up posters, talk to the media, screen-print t-shirts, make flags and banners, make this newsletter, play music, provide food, etc. To all the people who helped - thanks heaps! Also, thanks to the Government of West Australia for the great 'cycle instead' stickers. Thanks too to North Sydney council for hosting us! Please make sure they are happy to have us visit again but putting your rubbish in the bins.



Want to get more active?

There are many ways in which you can do something for the cyclists of this world.

* If you are on email, join the mailing lists!!

*** cmass-syd-news is news/announcements list, maximum 1 email per day. You can read the archives via the Critical Mass website or at: <http://cat.org.au/lists/ctmass-syd-news>

*** cmass-syd-talk - this is a discussion list, volume varies, not moderated. You can read the archives via the Critical Mass website or at: <http://cat.org.au/lists/ctmass-syd-talk>

*** cmass-syd-talk-digest -this is the digest of discussion list, 1 digest of each days emails

To subscribe to any of these lists, send an email to: majordomo@nccnsw.org.au, subject blank, text 'subscribe <listname>' (without the ' marks).

* Come to the monthly meetings at the Green Iguana cafe in Newtown.

These are always 10 days before the actual ride on the final Friday of each month, and always on a Tuesday evening.

At: Green Iguana cafe, King Street (at the Sydney Uni end)

Transport: Ride! or take a bus to King Street or train to Macdonaldtown

Contact: Critical Mass Sydney, 9990 2911

email: ctmass-syd-media@nccnsw.org.au

web: www.criticalmass.org.au/sydney

or keep an eye on active-sydney at

<http://www.active.org.au/sydney>

* Generally volunteer.

Critical Mass is always in need of people who can do little things like printing and distributing flyers, helping to paint banners, think up exceedingly impressive press releases and commentary and the like. Use any of the contact details wandering around this newsletter and say "ummm ... I'd like to do something". Trust me, someone will be able to think of something useful for which we need your very talents and enthusiasm!!

EIS for cross-city tunnel



The public display of the Environmental Impact Statement has been extended to:

Friday 6 October 2000.

For more information, visit www.rta.nsw.gov.au (click on "Environmental Impact Statements"). Send your submission opposing this new road to: RTA Project Manager, Cross City Tunnel EIS, PO Box 248, Concord West NSW 2138 or email crosscitytunnel@rta.nsw.gov.au.

Velocops The 20-odd new velocops we broke in last ride have been earning their blistered buttocks, by their increased ability to move through traffic.

Parramatta Police on Bikes have also been a great success according to CAMWEST (<http://camwest.pps.com.au>), with other police regions wanting to know how to introduce velocops. Thanks to all the velocops who are joining us tonight – we hope you enjoy the ride!