

“Promoting a safe & fun environment for bicycle riders of the Illawarra”

Please help to circulate our newsletter by passing a copy to friends and other cyclists

Disbanding Bicycle Planning Taskforce

At the Ordinary Meeting of Wollongong City Councils, held on the 27th May 2008, the Administrators, the General Manager, Acting Executive Manager of Operations and the Executive Manager of Governance and Planning unanimously voted to support the council recommendation to disband the Bicycle Planning Taskforce, with reasons as below.

Recommendations from reference group review committee

Bicycle Planning Taskforce

It is recommended that the Bicycle Planning Taskforce be disbanded. The taskforce and its predecessor have worked with Council to prepare and adopt a Bicycle Path Plan. The Individual cycle groups will be consulted at regular intervals or as required when major revisions or regular reviews of this document occur. Major cycleway projects will continue to be prepared in accordance with adopted RTA standards, peer reviewed when submitted to Council's Traffic Committee and advertised as part of Council's wider consultation strategy.

Operational and maintenance issues which are sometimes raised through the Taskforce are best handled through Council's normal action request system.

As seen from the above we have now lost our direct contact into Council to report hazards and comment on council proposals that impact on cycling. As such we now need to be more proactive in bringing our concerns and report cycling hazards to Council through the Council's normal action request system.

Let's all be proactive by sending information on cycling hazards to council, with a copy to the iBUG group email address so other can be made aware of the hazards and hopefully avoid cycling accidents. If you hear of, or see any work being done that may impact on cycling also please send a note preferably with a photo to iBUG at illawarrabug@yahooogroups.com.au and help make the Illawarra a safer and better place to cycle.

Bicycle Week 2008 September 20th to 27th

Presently two cycling events are being planned for bicycle week, one for Wollongong City Mall to promote cycling safety and the opportunities to cycle in the City hosted by the Illawarra Active Transport Taskforce. The other a family ride along the shared path on southern shore of Lake Illawarra hosted by Shellharbour City Council.

We have been invited to participate in the planning and organizing of both events so please help make bicycle week in the Illawarra a success. Presently we need some slogans that will encourage people to come out and ride during bicycle week, so put on your thinking caps and send your suggestions to me at wernersteyer@yahoo.com.au. More details on how you can help will be sent out as it becomes available.

Hi Cycling friends,

This is to see if you might be interested in occasionally going for a short tandem ride with some people who would otherwise not have the chance to go cycling at all.

Over the last couple of weekends I have had the pleasure of spending an hour or so cycling up the bike track to Bulli on a tandem with a bloke called Geoff. As Geoff is blind, he was seeking someone to ride the front of his tandem, so I gave it a go. It was much easier than I thought, and Geoff is a great bloke to get to know, as well as quite competent "stoker" on the tandem. He's a retired physio, and still amazingly active in various pursuits, including jetting around the country to audit facilities for Disability Services. My wife Cheryl rode along with us last weekend, and she too enjoys Geoff's company.

Geoff is trying to develop a group of people who would be willing to occasionally ride with him, and perhaps a couple of his friends, who would greatly benefit from the opportunity to get out on a bike. Last weekend, I called in on one of these friends with Geoff - named Joe. Joe lost his sight at about 30, having been a keen cyclist in his 20's. He had a brief spin on the tandem, and thought it would be good to have the chance to get out on a bike again.

Geoff and Joe know that I can't commit to being available every weekend. But if a few people were willing to spend an hour or so occasionally, these guys would have a chance to get out more often. Geoff now has two tandems of his own, so there is the possibility of taking these two together. I also have a tandem, so the potential is for 3.

For those of you who have never ridden a tandem, it's pretty easy. If anyone wanted a trial run with me before taking off with Geoff or Joe, that would be OK too. One way to check it out would be to come along on your own bike for a ride with us one Saturday or Sunday.

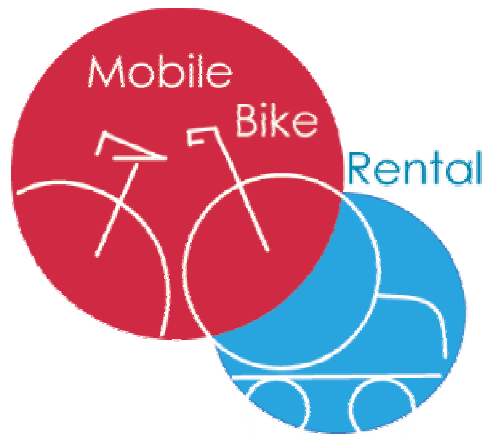
If you think you might be interested, let me know. If you know of anyone else who might be interested, pass this on.

regards,
Peter Meers

Email: Peter & Cheryl Meers [mailto:p.c.meers@gmail.com]

Mobile Bike Rental have offered a discount on bicycle higher for people participating in iBUG rides and can also provide a discount for anyone requiring a tandems to help visually impaired or other riders with disabilities.

Give Radmila a call on 4231 4118
Or visit Mobile Bike Rental on line or by email
www.mobilebikerental.com.au
info@mobilebikerental.com.au



Cycling Safety and Mutual Respect

The Ride for Mutual Respect held was supported by over 100 riders from a variety of cycling groups including the Illawarra Cycle club, Shoalhaven BUG, Kiama Bug, iBUG, the Illawarra Triathlon Club, Audex, and a number of other groups and individuals. The ride was the brainchild of Aaron Hull and was arranged to raise awareness of the need for some mutual awareness and understanding of the rights and needs of all road users, whether they are motorists, cyclists or pedestrians, to counter some of the negative publicity from the event in Sydney where a number of

competitive cyclists collided with an irate motorist and to help counter some of the negative publicity from the cycling accident in Sydney when a group of 50 cyclists were involve a collision with a car.

Our sincere thanks go to Aaron for arranging the ride and we hope it will become an annual event to bring cyclists together and help raise cycling awareness in the Illawarra.

Cycling Hazards

Shellharbour City Council has advised that the Cycling lanes East West Link Road are scheduled to be cleaned monthly and additionally if required and requested.

Council have also taken on our suggestion to provide a sealed area for trucks to park without damaging the cycle lane.



Before: Trucks parking on the side of the road were damaging the edges of the cycle lane and dragging mud and debris onto the cycle lane creating a hazard for cyclists



After: Providing a sealed area for trucks to park will reduce the amount of debris on the cycle lane and help protect the edge of the cycle lane from further damage

Remember the squeaking wheels get greased first.

If you want to see cycling facilities improved in the Illawarra, don't waste your effort whinging to friends; email your local member and your council!

Generally positive, happy, sensible emailed letters work best. Politicians and Councils get a lot of negative criticism, so positive letters stand out and it will show you are not a deranged nutter! As Gandhi said, "A teaspoon of honey catches more flies than a gallon of bile."

A picture is worth a thousand words. If you can attach a photo of what needs to be fixed, then please do! A picture can make it immediately clear what the problem is and leaves the reader in little doubt.

Be proactive and inform your council of issues with existing cycle infrastructure, use positive words and give positive proposals to address the issues.

Be active within your cycle group and encourage others to iBUG

Keep your iBUG in the loop by providing us with copies of information sent to councils or your local member, if you need help contact us at illawarrabug@yahoogroups.com.au

BUG Autumn-Winter Ride Calendar

The ride calendar is intended to provide people with a ride schedule and suggested rides, the final decision on the ride destination should be made by the riders on the day depending on weather conditions and the desires of the riders assembled.

Riders should use the iBUG group email illawarrabug@yahoo.com.au to advise their intension to attend and to request any further details on any of the rides.

The ride numbers used are from Tour De Illawarra a copy can be found in the ride directory on our website <http://au.groups.yahoo.com/group/illawarrabug> or we can provide you a PDF copy by email. For further information please contact Werner by email at ibugrides@yahoo.com.au

DATE	Ride Description	Start Time	Meeting Place	Grade
Wednesday 14 th May	iBUG Meeting	6:30 PM	Wollongong Master Builders Club	
Sat 17 th May				
Sun 18 th May				
Sat 24 th May				
Sun 25 th May	Dunmore to Kiama iBUG ride No 005	8:30	Dunmore Railway Station	Moderate
Sat 31 st May				
Sun 1 st June				
Sat 7 th June				
Sun 8 th June	Cycling Sunday Destination decided on the day	8AM	Wollongong Boat Harbour	Easy
Wednesday 11 th June	iBUG Meeting	6:30 PM	Wollongong Master Builders Club	
Sat 14 th June				
Sun 15 th June				
Sat 21 st June	Wollongong to Thirroul iBUG Ride No 011	8:30	Wollongong Boat Harbour	Easy
Sun 22 nd June				
Sat 28 th June				
Sun 29 th June				
Sat 5 th July				
Sun 6 th July				
Wednesday 9 th July	iBUG Meeting	6:30 PM	Wollongong Master Builders Club	Wednesday 11 th June
Sat 12 th July				
Sun 13 th July	Cycling Sunday Destination decided on the day	8AM	Wollongong Boat Harbour	Easy
Sat 19 th July				
Sun 20 th July	Blackbutt Circuit iBUG Ride No 004	9AM	Blackbutt Reserve car park Shellharbour Rd	Moderate
Sat 26 th July				
Sun 27 th July				