

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

iBUG March Meeting will be held at 6.30pm on the Wednesday the 12th starting with a slide show on cycling in New Zealand. The meeting will be held downstairs at the Illawarra Master Builders Club, 61 Church Street Wollongong for further information contact Werner on 0413 305 379

Shared Path from Ajax Avenue to Station Street along Flinders Street



After representation to Wollongong Council by iBUG the section of footpath along the western side of Flinders Street from Ajax Avenue to Station Street has been reclassified and signposted as Shared use Path.

While this is only a short section it provides an legalizes a safe link to North Wollongong Station for people travelling from the Universities Innovation Campus, onto the Northern Distributor or the southern end of Fairy Meadow.

Macquarie Rivulet Bridge:

Finally with some help from Lylea McMahon the member for Shellharbour the RTA have started to make improvements to encourage cyclists to use the eastern footpath when crossing Macquarie Rivulet Bridge and avoid the fast moving traffic on the bridge.

While we have been lobbying local council and the RTA for some years it was only after representation to Eric Roozendaal the minister for roads by Lylea McMahon on our behalf that the RTA agreed to address the issue.

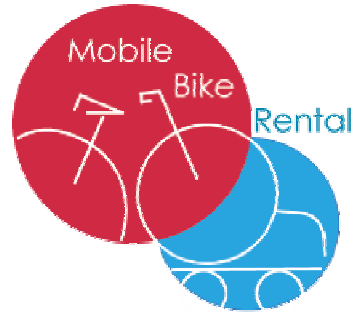
We need to extend our sincere thanks to Lylea for her support for cycling in the Illawarra and not underestimate the help our local representatives can add to our endeavours to make the Illawarra a safer place to enjoy cycling.

Bike Rental in the Illawarra.

Mobile Bike Rental is a new addition to the cycle initiative in the Illawarra. It is a service for people wanting to hire bikes anywhere in the Illawarra, from Austinmer to Kiama. The Mobile Bike Rental includes a delivery and pick up service and bicycles, helmets, locks and maps (provided by the Wollongong Tourism) are part of the rentals. Kids trailers and child safety seats can also be hired. The idea came about when Dragan and Radmila moved to the Illawarra from Canada and couldn't believe that such a beautiful coastal bike track didn't have a bike hire provider. So with the idea to start a business in the Illawarra they came up with Mobile Bike Rental. The business is not only aimed at tourists from hotels and camp grounds, they wanted to be able to ensure that when family and friends of cyclists who had their own bicycles could hire a bike and show off their beautiful coast and enjoy a beautiful day out.

Mobile Bike Rental delivers to any location in the Illawarra, be it your home, a section on one of the bike tracks, a designated park, holiday accommodation or your place of employment.

For more information on bike rental contact Radmila or Dragan Avramovic on 4231 4118 or visit them at www.mobilebikerental.com.au



Correspondence received:

Mudgee Bike Muster

Invitation to join the first Mudgee Bike Muster weekend of April 18-21. for more information visit Mudgee Bike Muster at www.bikemuster.com.au or contact Peter Scott by email to info@bikemuster.com.au

Bicycle Queensland

Information on Bicycle Queensland's events for 2008, brochures available at next meeting or visit www.bq.org.au for more information.

Marrickville South Sydney Bicycle Group

Invitation to attend an ADVOCACY TRAINING COURSE FOR BICYCLE USER GROUPS SATURDAY 15 MARCH 2008 Contact Brenda Bailey: 8898 6522 (bh) or 9565 1657 (ah) email Brenda@piac.asn.au

BICYCLE riders should pay registration fees

The article in the Sydney Morning Herald re bicycle rider's registration fails to take into consideration the contribution cyclists already make towards cycling infrastructure, not only do we pay income tax on the moneys earned to fund our cycling habit, we are also slugged with 10% GST and the host of other taxes and government charges passed on by retailers i.e. payroll tax, company tax, land tax and the list goes on.

If we consider the average cost of the 1.47 million bicycles sold last 2007 year at \$500 each and an average 25% income tax then we contributed \$125 in income tax and \$50 GST per bike a total contribution of 257.25 million dollars without taking all the other taxes into consideration. Add to that all the taxes payed on new tiers, repairs, cycle helmets etc and then ask where are all our contributions are going, not to cycling infrastructure.

What will our politicians suggest next to get their names in the media register and tax skateboards, prams and strollers?

Sydney Morning Herald February 8, 2008

Jano Gibson Urban Affairs Reporter

BICYCLE riders should pay registration fees to help legitimise their place on the roads and pay for infrastructure and safety campaigns, says the Federal Opposition spokesman on sports, Pat Farmer.

His plan has received a mixed response from bicycle lobby groups. It is less than a month since the NRMA questioned spending taxpayer dollars on barely used cycle paths.

Mr Farmer said motorists often complained it was unfair for cyclists to use roads without paying registration costs. A bicycle levy would make such an argument redundant and could increase government funding for bike lanes, he said.

"We need to work with cyclists and cycling associations to come up with a levy ... so that we've got some money to support them with much-needed infrastructure and to justify them being on the road."

Mr Farmer, who recently moved from his western Sydney electorate of Macarthur to Mosman, is yet to determine the cost of the levy but said it could be administered at bike shops and applied to people over the minimum driving age. The Minister for Roads, Eric Roozendaal, dismissed the idea, saying bike riding would remain a free activity in NSW.

"Mr Farmer should get himself a long-distance Malvern Star racer and enjoy the free bike ride between his new home in Mosman and his electorate in Campbelltown," he said.

Bicycle NSW said it supported initiatives that seek to legitimise cycling. "A form of bike registration or levy may help achieve this," said its chief executive, Alex Unwin.

But the Cycling Promotion Fund, a bicycle industry lobby group, said a levy would discourage bicycle use.

"There is no country around the world which has registration for bicycles, and the revenue raised would be quite low," said the organisation's program director, Rosemarie Speidel.

Preliminary results from a study undertaken on behalf of the Department of Health and Ageing found cyclists saved more than \$82 million in public health costs, almost \$64 million in traffic congestion-related costs and \$9 million in greenhouse gas-related costs.

iBUG cycling programme:

Now that summer is over it's time to get motivated into autumn cycling and hopefully we will get some more favourable weather. To make it easier and not rely on volunteers to act as ride leaders we propose to simplify the program by setting ride dates, meeting places and suggested rides routes and leave it to the people on the day to finalize the route depending on the weather etc.

The iBUG group email (illawarrabug@yahoo.com.au) should be used to make further arrangements, advise if you intend to ride, see who is coming etc.

We would base most of the rides on the information *Tour De Illawarra* our guide to cycling in the Illawarra, if you don't have a copy send an email to ibugrides@yahoo.com.au and we will send you a PDF copy by return email.

This proposal will be discussed at our March meeting so please come along and have your say.

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JOIN iBug YES IT'S FREE, no membership fees to pay

Surname:

First Name:

Address:

Home Phone:

Mobile Phone:

Work Phone:

Email Address:

Emergency contact

Name:

Relationship:

Contact Number:

Your name and preferred contact number will be shown on the iBug Web site and your Emergency contact information and preferred contact number will be on the Ride Leaders information sheet. All other information is only used to contact you should we have information that we feel needs to be forwarded to you.

You should only provide information you feel comfortable sharing with others.

Please send your information to Fax: 42568604 or email to wernersteyer@yahoo.com.au or post to iBug, PO Box 741, Wollongong 2500.

**Werner Steyer
Membership Secretary**