



BIKE | SYDNEY 

Annual Report 2009

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About BIKESydney

BIKESydney was formed in 2000 to lobby for better conditions for cyclists in the City of Sydney Local Government Area.

Supporter membership is free and open to anyone interested in cycling including residents, commuters, couriers and businesses. We currently have more than 300 supporter members and the number is growing each week.

We want Sydney to be a city where:

- everyone, from 8 to 80, can enjoy bicycling
- streets in every part of town are bike friendly
- bike parking and showers greet us where we work
- we can lock our bikes safely all over town and have them valet parked at events, and
- people on bikes, pedestrians and motorists share the streets.

The main focus of our work is advocacy and community development. The vast majority of our activities are run by a core group of volunteer cycling advocates. We occasionally employ a marshal to run our bicycle valet parking service for events. BIKESydney relies on grants, sponsorship, donations and income from bicycle valet parking to run its activities.

2009 Position Holders

President: Elaena Gardner

Vice President: Andrew Dodds

Treasurer: Chris Virtue

Secretary and Public Officer: Gilbert Grace

www.bikesydney.org

President's Report

2009 was a year of growth and expansion for BIKESydney. With now more than 300 supporters subscribed to our e-newsletter we are finding it easier to recruit volunteers. We also expanded the number of events we provided bicycle valet services to and increased the number of submissions made to government.

Government Submissions

We made submissions to the City of Sydney, the NSW State Government and Federal Government in 2009.

Submissions to the City of Sydney predominantly focussed on the roll out of the planned cycleways including:

- Bourke Street Cycleway, Alexandria
- Union Street Cycleway, Pyrmont
- Bourke Road Cycleway, Surry Hills
- Missenden Road Cycleway, Camperdown/Newtown
- Johnston Canal Cycleway, Glebe/Leichhardt

We also provided a formal submission to the Newtown, Darlington, Camperdown, Erskinville Pedestrian, Cycling and Traffic Calming Plan and attended community forum meetings to highlight the role of bicycles in the Munni Street Catchment's Water Management Strategy.

We provided submissions to the NSW State Government in relation to the new State Bicycle Plan, the Draft NSW State Plan and the proposed but now abandoned CBD Metro Environmental Assessment.

At a Federal level we provided submissions to the:

- Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee Inquiry on the investment of Commonwealth and State funds in public passenger transport infrastructure and services
- National Human Rights Consultation: Equality Before the Law
- Review of Australia's Future Tax System

Representing Bicycle Users at the City of Sydney

BIKESydney representatives attended the quarterly City of Sydney Cycling Advisory Committee and the monthly Traffic Management Committees. Our presence at these meetings allows us to represent bicycle users.

Short-term Bike Parking Survey

During the year we completed, in partnership with BIKEast, a survey of potential sites for short term bicycle parking within the City of Sydney local government area. We are now seeing bike parking rings appearing in the sites we have surveyed which is a gratifying result.

Campaigns

We focussed our campaign energy on the light phasing on the King Street Cycleway and the proposed Container Deposit Legislation.

King St Cycleway Light Phasing

The first dedicated cycleway in the City of Sydney was opened in King Street in the CBD in June. The excellent facility is marred by the Road and Traffic Authority's punitive light phasing which forces people using the cycleway to spend an extra three to five minutes sitting at red traffic lights. Our experience is that large proportion of the time is spent sitting at a red light at deserted intersections. It's not surprising that many people on bicycles choose to break the law and travel through the red lights. The Roads and Traffic Authority have advised that the timing is designed to suit the dominant users, private motor vehicles.

If the State Government has any expectation of meeting their new target of making 5% all trips in NSW by bicycle, they must stop providing planning priority to privately owned motor vehicles. We will continue to lobby the government on this issue.

Container deposit legislation

BIKESydney backed Ian Cohen's introduction of a bill in the NSW Upper House to introduce container deposit legislation. Broken glass is a common hazard faced by bike riders. In Adelaide the deposit is paid on plastic and intact glass bottles which encourages people to both recycle and prevent breakage. We encouraged our supporters to get behind the push for the legislation but unfortunately the bill was voted down.



Bicycle Valet Service

In 2009 BIKESydney's Bicycle Valet Service was voted a Finalist in the Sydney Business Awards.

We started developing our bicycle valet service in late 2007. In 2008 we provided the service at five events. By the end of 2009 we had provided the service for 13 events.

Over the year we developed excellent relationships with our clients. Event organisation can be stressful. We work hard to ensure our service is hassle free.

"I have just read your report which is fantastic. Thank you for doing such a great job and going over and above to promote cycling in our city."
Belinda Brooke, City Talks Team Leader, City of Sydney

"Just a quick email to thank you for the great job last night at the valet bike parking. We really appreciated having you guys there, freezing in the cold for us!"
Janine Tunny, Community Engagement Coordinator, City of Sydney

"Thanks so much for this succinct and clear report. And the excellent service!!!"
Vera Zaccari, Road Safety & Sustainable Transport Officer, Leichhardt Council

"Thank you for your installation on Saturday – it all looked great."
Justin Levy, Director, DialoguePR

We also receive wonderful feedback from people who park their bicycles with us at events and the volunteers who help run the service. We want people to ride away with big beaming smiles and we generally achieve that aim.

We're starting to see evidence that the provision of a bicycle valet service is changing people's behaviour and encouraging them to ride a bicycle to events. It's an exciting development and we are confident that we will continue to develop and grow our service over the next 12 months.



From top to bottom: Dr Bike, Bicicycle Fashion Parade and Bike Workshops at Surry Hills Fetsival 2009

Events

We worked on a number of high profile events during the year to promote the joy of riding a bicycle and provide information to help people change their transport behaviour and choose a bike instead of a car.

Partnering with festival organisers we created WheelZone at Surry Hills Festival. WheelZone included Bicycle Valet Parking, free bicycle workshops and a Dr Bike service (provided in partnership with Cycle Recycle), a bike fashion parade (provided in partnership with Rocket Fuel), a mapping art workshop and an information stall.

We also provided bicycle information stalls at Paddington Alive and the World Environment Day Breakfast at Hyde Park provided by the City of Sydney.

We ran regular social rides during the year including Tuesday Twilight, Full Moon rides and Ride Like a Pirate (held on International Speak Like a Pirate Day).

Produced by the internationally acclaimed, UK-based multi-arts collective Blast Theory, Rider Spoke is a unique event for cyclists combining theatre, location-based game play and state of the art technology. BIKESydney worked with the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority to develop a marketing strategy for the event and then helped spread the word amongst Sydney riders.

We believe that providing social opportunities and developing a sense of community for bicycle riders will act as encouragement to current and new riders. In addition to our regular social rides we also ran a bicycle film night and showed "The Way Bobby Sees It". We also assisted Gosford City Council with their Bicycle Film Festival by helping them to source films.

In July BIKESydney held a public round table discussion about what needs to happen in Sydney, apart from infrastructure, to encourage more people onto their bikes and make the city a more enjoyable place to ride.

In 2010 we'll be working to develop more social opportunities and an ongoing series of events to bring bicycle advocates together to share knowledge and information.

Spreading the Word

During the year I made a number of presentations to groups about why bicycles make great transport and the role of bicycle advocacy and advocates in Sydney. This included three presentations to members of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, a presentation to more than 300 people at Green Drinks: Cycling in the City and presentation to about 50 people at Macquarie University.

Winston Churchill Memorial Trust

In mid 2009 I was granted a scholarship through the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust to study bicycle advocacy in the UK, US and Canada. The funding allowed me to spend three months looking at the way bicycle advocacy groups organise themselves and the type of programs they are involved in. I was inspired by the professionalism of the groups including their membership strategies, campaigning skills and ongoing professional development. In 2010 I will be sharing what I have learned with the broader bicycle advocacy community through articles and presentations.

Donations

Deus Ex Machina kindly donated the gate takings from their Bicycle Swap Meets to BIKESydney. In 2009 we used the money to buy a second hand Kona Ute (a load carrying bicycle) that we'll be using to cart gear to festivals and bicycle valet parking gigs.

Thank you

BIKESydney completely relies on the goodwill of our volunteers. They donate hundred of hours each year to make happen all the great things that BIKESydney achieves. Thank you all for your efforts in 2009.

Elaena Gardner
President 2009

Treasurer's Report

While I am satisfied that the accounts are in good shape, a full audit has not been completed due to difficulties associated with BikeSydney not having a dedicated treasurer for most of 2009.

A full audit of the accounts will be completed in the next few weeks and will be distributed to financial members prior to the April general meeting where I will be happy to answer any questions arising as well discuss any future financial management issues.

Moving forward, converting the accounts to an accounting package (MYOB) is almost complete and will greatly increase the ease and accuracy of finance reporting.

Interim financial statement:

Bank statement balance as at 31/12/10:	\$15,417.99
Less unpresented cheques:	\$576.40
Add outstanding receipts	-
Add outstanding receivables	-
Less outstanding payables	-
Reconciled balance	\$14,841.59

Chris Virtue
Treasurer



Out and about in 2009: BIKESydney Bicycle Valet Parking, information stalls, Journey's Mapping Project and Events.



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