

MASSBUG IN 2006

Marrickville-South Sydney Bicycle Group is a volunteer not for profit group of local residents promoting cycling. MASSBUG is affiliated with Bicycle NSW.



MAKING ROADS SAFER

A regular task of members is to follow up on hazards cyclists report to us. This includes everything from pot holes, over grown paths, glass on the road to bigger structural issues like Wilson Street in Newtown.

The Wilson Street in Newtown contra flow was a time consuming issue during the year. We discussed all the details with council. It's still not complete as we wait for the RTA to do their bit, but its getting there.

The Marrickville to the City **Bike Bus** continues. A bike bus is a group of cyclists which follow a set route and time each morning and afternoon. Cyclists feel safer travelling in a group, a great way for new cyclists to start riding to work.

MAKING BIKES SAFER

Members continue to be concerned about driver awareness and road rage. We advocate for the need for driver education to ensure they understand the road rules. Common confusion among drivers includes cyclists' right to ride two abreast in a lane, overtaking on the left, and their responsibility for opening doors.

At the same time we are concerned about cyclists using mobile phones while riding or failing to use lights at night or breaching other road rules. We encourage cyclists to understand the importance of being seen. Don't give drivers any excuses!

MARRICKVILLE BIKE PLAN

Marrickville Council took a big step this year by completing a draft bike plan. The plan helps the Council allocate their engineering budget to improve cycle routes. We were consulted regularly on during the process. Even better, is linking the cycling plan into other council plans and activities.

MAKING THE NEWS

Bicycles were big news this year. They even made it onto the front page of the Financial Review more than once. The Sydney Morning Herald and Sunday Herald ran feature stories about cycling, transport and urban development. Our chocolate ride even made it onto national television.

Locally, our newspapers, the Inner West and City Courier and The Glebe always responded to our community notices. They also picked up on related news stories and often asked MASSBUG for comment.

Thank you to all the hard working journalists who crafted interesting stories about local issues.

Other media which took an interest were the Environment program on 2SER, ABC 702, The Telegraph and South Sydney Herald, Australian Cyclist and Marrickville Matters.



MESSAGES

Today people get messages in lots of different ways. Local newsletters put out by Neighbourhood Centres, Heritage Committees and Recreation Groups all helped us tell people about our services.

MASSBUG IN 2006 - THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Electronic media is another important source. Our website has lots of useful info and was kept up to date by our volunteers. Our email list also continued to attract people who wanted to discuss issues and be kept up to date with the latest events.

Other ways we kept people involved:

- Monthly meetings
- Information to cyclists joining our rides
- Brochures in retail outlets and community centre
- Information stalls at Marrickville and Newtown, and Cooks River Festivals, Addison Road Community Markets (thanks to Fiona for her regular gig at Addison road)

MAKING FUN

While the focus for MASSBUG is helping people get to places, we also understand that most people start off cycling because they want to exercise and have fun.

MASSBUG led rides each month. The most popular rides this year were the Chocolate Ride, Sustainability Ride visiting greening and recycling projects and the Heritage Ride.

There were a couple of new rides this year with an imaginative twist including a Biathlon –bikes and lawn bowls, a twilight ride to the movies in Centennial Park, a cultural ride visiting spots of interest to past and present artists and a late evening winter solstice ride complete with costumes and lanterns.



Cycling rides around the inner city

MANAGING MASSBUG

Money – massbug is a very lean organisation. We live on the edge, with membership subscriptions just meeting our expenses – room hire, printing, website and telephone connections.

We rely on membership fees, in-kind donations from members and the diverse range of skills members bring to the group.

This year we have maintained our level of membership and have a core group of very active members. We added to the wellbeing of the group by:

- Drafting of a charter to explain our purpose and principles
- Updating and maintaining the website
- Organising volunteers for local activities
- Membership of local Council committees
- Making links with other groups in the community

BIG THANK YOU

Gilbert for keeping the website up to date and clever ride ideas. Fiona for holding the key, 1000's of emails, conciliating and generally holding things together. John for meditative sweeping. Everyone who attended a meeting or helped out in any way.

INVITATION

Newtown Festival – Sunday 12 November. Visit our stall and buy a t-shirt for only \$5. Check out the used bike parts and clothing basket.

To Brighton Beach – Sunday 19 November

Start: 9 am Tempe rail station car park.15km.

Holiday Picnic at Glebe – 10 December

Start: 11.30am Stanmore Station

Contact for further information

voicemail: 9294 5900

www.massbug.org.au

massbug@massbug.org.au

MASSBUG IN 2006 - THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Priorities for 2007

Its an Election Year! What are all our candidates position on cycling as transport? We will find out and distribute the information so you can make your own decision.

MAKING CHOICES

MASSBUG tries to stand on neutral territory. In the past year Marrickville experienced a bi-election. We put questions to each candidate and delivered that information through our website and membership for people to make up their own mind.

We put a cyclist's view to local planning processes through written submissions and meetings. Including:

Visit to Member for Marrickville Carmel Tebbutt; Newtown Police to discuss reporting of incidents, Marrickville Council Urban Strategy Consultations, Bike Sydney Forum; TravelSmart Program; Prince Alfred Park Plan; Kent St Cycle Proposal; Redfern Street Plans; Wilson Street Planning; Desalination Project; Save William Street campaign; Marrickville Council Development Plan and Budget.

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