



PO Box 4536
CHRISTCHURCH
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Chairpersons Report

2006/2007

In this 10th year of the national Cycling Advocates Network (CAN), it is my pleasure to report on the ongoing work of dedicated cyclists that form Spokes, the Canterbury branch of the Network. I'd especially like to thank Paul de Spa for looking after Spokes during the later part of 2006 while I completed university. We look forward to supporting Paul in his campaigning focus towards Council office during 2007.

Having taken the reins as Spokes Chair from Paul earlier this year, I feel I am still coming to grips with the task. At times I feel completely unqualified to answer calls or provide comments to our contacts, reflecting the breadth of knowledge of those that have gone before me.

Paul, Glen Koorey, and others before them have paved the way to form a strong local group with skills, enthusiasm and networks to make a real difference. With these attributes, Spokes has continued during 2006 – 2007 to participate in forums, make submissions and encourage members to write to newspaper editors in a combined, ongoing effort to improve cycling conditions in Canterbury.

Some particular Spokes activities of the last 12 months deserve special mention.

Recreational Rides

From Linwood to Ilam, Avonhead to Avonside, Glen Koorey has continued to do a fantastic job developing and leading a series of rides covering all corners of Christchurch. I was amazed how much I learnt about my own area while taking part in a Shirely ride recently. My biggest disappointment is that I only took advantage of one such ride this year. The good news is, Glen's ride maps along with route notes are all available via our website.

Bikewise Week

With no "Mayoral Challenge" ride in Christchurch City this year, it was great to see CPIT pick up the ball and host a bikers breakfast. Zoe Moore and Kate Hewson also organised a successful Big Christchurch Bike Auction at Canterbury University where the demand for bikes outstripped the supply by a significant margin. Well done also to the Pope (aka Steve Muir) and participants that braved the rain to help promote the bike as the fastest family vehicle in Christchurch during the Supermarket Challenge.

Networks

In February, Spokes representatives met with Transit for a half-yearly review of cycling provision on State Highways. And thanks to Fiona Whero and Simon



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Kennett from CAN for their organisation of the Active Transport Forum at which Spokes will have an ongoing and appreciated presence.

Campaigns

The hard work of many people in recent history seems likely to come to fruition this year with the reported purchase of bus bike racks by ECan. We look forward to hearing more about this and working with the Council to create a valuable public and active transport system.

Website

Over the last few months, Jonathon Hunt and Dave Lane have been hard at work developing a new Content Management System oriented website using open source technology. From the beta versions that I've seen of this so far, it promises to be everything a grass roots advocacy group could ever hope for. We look forward to giving everyone a taste of the site later on this evening.

In closing, I'd like to reiterate my appreciation for all the hard work that is going on all time behind the scenes. I'd especially like to thank the core group for their support and ideas. With our membership now standing at around 900, I am confident that Spokes will continue to represent cyclists for the benefit of all of Canterbury long into the future.

I move the this report be accepted

Matthew Cutler-Welsh
Spokes Chair

Date