

Welcome to PedBikeTrans SA e-news MARCH 2009 edition



Contents

Movers and shakers

- [1\) Bicycle counts: "Super Tuesday", 17 March](#)
- [2\) TravelSmart SA grants – close 2 April](#)
- [3\) Hindley Street trial closure extended](#)
- [4\) Cycling safety tips videos](#)
- [5\) \\$40 million for cycling](#)
- [6\) On the streets of London \(and other places\)](#)
- [7\) Vélib losing its shine?](#)
- [8\) KI public consultation – closes Wed 13 May](#)
- [9\) Funding for SA bike paths announced](#)
- [10\) OPAL for SA](#)
- [11\) Speed matters](#)
- [12\) SA to hold MTB championships, 2010 to 2012](#)
- [13\) BISA AGM](#)
- [14\) Do It For Life to double](#)
- [15\) Queensland targeting schoolchildren's safety](#)
- [16\) Events and activities](#)
- [17\) Recent-ish publications](#)
- [18\) PedBike Tidbits](#)
- [19\) Conference Summary](#)

Movers and Shakers

- Member for West Torrens, **Tom Koutsantonis**, will be taking over former Minister Carmel Zollo's portfolio, which includes road safety. However, the Hon. **Patrick Conlon** is taking the opportunity to move the **Office of Cycling and Walking** from the road safety portfolio to his own transport portfolio, to better integrate cycling into the transport system.
- **Ian Radbone** has taken up the role of Transport Planner with Adelaide City Council (I.Radbone@adelaidecitycouncil.com; 08 8203 7797). Ian will have a reduced involvement with Hub Traffic & Transport.
- The Planning Institute of Australia has a new SA state manager, **Vanessa Davidson** (Vanessa.Davidson@planning.org.au).
- Bicycle SA is recruiting an **Event Manager**, responsible for the coordination, planning, development, administration and delivery of Bicycle SA's single day / multi-day events. Salary \$50,000p.a., starting ASAP. For more information: rides@bikesa.asn.au; for a position description: office@bikesa.asn.au or ph 08 8168 9999. Closes Thursday 26 March.
- The State's latest Thinker in Residence, **Professor Laura Lee**, will focus on the value of design and the impact of the built environment on the quality of life for South Australians.
- **Paul Johnson** has left Maunsell to join the City of Playford as Principal Policy Planner.

OTHER E-NEWS

1) Bicycle counts: "Super Tuesday", 17 March

- Bicycle NSW, Bicycle Victoria and the Bicycle Network are partnering to encourage volunteers to count bicycles on Tuesday 17 March, to assist in establishing cyclist commuter numbers to allow those providing for bike riding to base their judgements on accurate, relevant and up to date information.

“ Super Tuesday” volunteers sign up to do morning (7am-9am) or afternoon (4pm-6pm) counts, or both, and are issued with a count location, counting sheet, instructions, T-shirt and the option of directing a \$50 ‘thank you’ to their local BUG, club or school.

• As the scheme hasn’t been extended to South Australia this year, Hub Traffic & Transport has decided to assist in facilitating an informal “Super Tuesday SA”, in the form of count sheets, instructions and general coordination, as well as volunteers, and will forward collated counts on to the Office for Cycling and Walking. Email hub@hubtt.com.au if you need more information.

2) TravelSmart SA grants – close 2 April

DTEI is offering grants of \$500 to \$5,000 for groups and organisations to deliver small projects that “...reduce car use, deliver personal benefits and do the right thing by the environment.” *[To get you going, maybe covered bike parking, a green travel plan, umbrellas in a stand by the door? – Ed.]*

For more information or to discuss ideas, ph 8226 8222 or email dtei.travelsmartSA@saugov.sa.gov.au

3) Hindley Street trial closure extended

The trial temporary closure of Hindley Street (Morphett Street to Rosina Street, 10pm Saturday nights to 6am Sunday mornings) will continue to 21 March amidst early indications that the closure has improved safety in the area. The extension of the temporary pedestrian mall is also expected to ease pedestrian congestion during ‘Mad March’. Council has consulted on ways to improve the environment within the closure area and has arranged for street entertainers and mobile food vans to be on site until 1am to add to the on-street atmosphere, as well as additional security guards.

4) Cycling safety tips videos

The Cycling Promotion Fund, the Amy Gillett Foundation and Digicast have produced 4 video clips for bicycle riders and would be riders with practical tips on how to avoid common risks when cycling in traffic. They cover:

- Dealing with Intersections
- Heavy vehicles and cyclists
- Dealing with car doors
- Cyclist visibility

See www.cyclingpromotion.com.au/content/view/384/147/

5) \$40 million for cycling

If you weren’t aware, the Greens have negotiated \$40 million for bike paths as part of the government’s \$42 billion financial stimulus package. These plus other amendments were financed by a modest reduction in cash handouts under the package. See www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,25044693-601,00.html

6) On the streets of London (and other places)

• Sustrans has launched a website dedicated to getting females on bikes. www.bikebelles.org.uk is aimed at the 44% of women who have access to a bike yet barely use it, including the 89% of females who have access to a bicycle and don’t use it more than once per month.

The website has a ‘magazine’-style format, aiming to provide women with a range of information on how to get cycling.

• London Cycling Campaign is celebrating a victory against a proposed law that could have made bike parking in London a ‘lock and lose it’ lottery. The law would have allowed council contractors to remove, without notice, bicycles chained to railings - even if they were not an obstruction or abandoned. This would have applied to the thousands of bikes not attached to bike stands.

The legislation has been rejected by a committee of peers in the House of Lords, who were told that local councils already have powers to remove bikes that are an obstruction or are abandoned.

• A major public cycle hire scheme has been announced to start in Oxford in 2010.

www.bikeradar.com/news/article/oxfords-public-bike-hire-shaping-up-20813.

• London mayor Boris Johnson has revealed his vision for cycling in a series of answers to questions raised by London Assembly members, after releasing his vision for transport (Way to Go) in November 2008: providing cycle highways, cycle hire and cycle hubs as the best way to grow and develop cycling in London, as well as delivering cycle routes to the Olympic Park. See www.bikeradar.com/news/article/london-mayor-outlines-cycling-vision-19827

7) Vélib losing its shine?

Paris's bicycle rental system Vélib has set an example for the rest of the world and a benchmark for many cities considering their own such systems. However, Vélib has now revealed that it has lost more than half of the original fleet of bikes to theft or vandalism, putting the financial viability of the project at risk and affecting other cities' intentions in bike rental systems.

Outdoor advertiser JCDecaux now does not want to implement the bike rental system in other cities under the same conditions as in Paris, forcing many cities to reconsider their systems.

London is currently fact-finding before tendering for its bike rental scheme. Only JCDecaux and Clear Channel Outdoor could have supplied the bike rental system initially specified, but with advertising revenues plummeting, funding bike rental systems like Vélib from billboards is no longer profitable.

8) KI public consultation – closes Wed 13 May

A draft Kangaroo Island Regional Land Use Framework has been released by the Minister for Urban Development and Planning for 2 months of public consultation. Strategies involving walking and cycling are:

- “2.3 Reduce energy requirements of industrial and residential buildings and estates by:” ... “providing for walking and cycling within townships through the provision of safe and convenient linkages and bicycle parking facilities.”
- “13.4 Commercial areas proposed outside of town centres must demonstrate that they:” ... “will be convenient and equitable to access, including by walking”
- “17.5 Connect town centres, health and education facilities with residential and tourist areas to provide easy access by walking, ‘gophers’ and/or cycling for people of all age groups and abilities.”
- “17.9 Encourage active lifestyles by:” ... “providing for walking and cycling within townships, giving consideration to the needs of people of different ages and physical and intellectual abilities.”

[No tourism strategies targeting walking and/or cycling are proposed, although walking and cycling trails are mentioned in relation to landscapes viewed from these, and public art – Ed.]

See www.planning.sa.gov.au/go/ki-framework

9) Funding for SA bike paths announced

The state govt has announced a major roll-out and naming of bike paths:

- 32km shared use path through the Adelaide Hills from Oakbank to Mount Pleasant, with initial funding of \$1million to complete 5 km stage 1 of the trail from Oakbank to Woodside, to be named after Adelaide cyclist Amy Gillett. *[However, the land ownership situation along the disused rail line is complex, with indications that some land owners will fight the proposal – Ed.]*
- naming the 23km bike path along the new Northern Expressway the Stuart O’Grady Bikeway. *[Minister Conlon has proposed opening the path with a time trial, to showcase the high quality surface of what will be a shared use path – Ed]*
- naming the 20 km bike path along the Southern Expressway from Darlington to Noarlunga the Patrick Jonker Bikeway, in honour of the Tour de France champion.
- an additional 145 kilometres of tracks and lanes opening over the next two years.

10) OPAL for SA

Obesity Prevention and Lifestyle (OPAL) is a program based on the French EPODE program (Ensemble, Prévenons L’Obésité Des Enfants - Together Let’s Prevent Childhood Obesity). It aims to tackle chronic disease in the community by getting government and local community groups working together to come up with community-wide solutions to health issues, supported by Federal and state funding, along with local contributions. The new 5 year, \$22 million program will focus on children as the first step in helping SA sfamilies to eat well, move more and live longer.

11) Speed matters

Unley has recently celebrated 10 years of 40km/h speed limits in local streets. Elsewhere...

- **Brisbane City Council** has endorsed a plan to reduce the CBD speed limit to 40km/h. A survey of 152 stakeholders and members of the public found 68% in favour of the proposal. Apart from school zones, parts of **Fortitude Valley** have a 40km/h speed limit on Friday and Saturday nights.
- In **Melbourne**, VicRoads has reduced speed limits in several shopping strips to 40km/h, including popular tourist meccas Lygon St, Carlton and Glenferrie Rd, Hawthorn. As part of the first major bicycle plan for Melbourne since the

early 1980s, expected to be launched soon, VicRoads will investigate reducing the speed limit in the CBD to 40 km/h, to improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians. (The plan also includes spending \$18 million a year over the next 6 years, with a renewed focus on priority routes into the city centre, and mandate construction of bike lanes as part of the state's \$2 billion road-building program.)

- WA'S largest cycling advocacy group The Bicycle Transportation Alliance has vowed to campaign for across the board reductions in speed limits on suburban roads to 40km/h, to better safeguard bike users and pedestrians. This comes after Towards Zero, WA's 12-year road safety plan, recommended reducing speed limits in high pedestrian areas such as strip shopping centres.

12) SA to hold MTB championships, 2010 to 2012

SA has secured the rights to host the five-day Australian Mountain Bike Championships, a UCI listed event, at Eagle Mountain Bike Park for the next 3 years.

The first event will be held at from 13-17 January 2010 preceding the Tour Down Under, with the final day of the MTB championships coinciding with the TDU's prologue event and heralding a 'festival of cycling' start to the year.

It is expected that up to 900 riders will compete, with as many as 10,000 spectators over the 5 days.

A series of significant infrastructure improvements will be made to Eagle Mountain Bike Park in preparation for the championships. This includes an upgrade of the park's internal access road, establishing a permanent, world-class four cross track, expanding a downhill finish area and minor upgrades to existing courses.

The event will be the largest yet staged at Eagle MTB Park, following on from the World Police & Fire Games and the Australasian Masters Games, both in 2007. It will decide the national men's, women's, junior and other category champions in each of the 5 main disciplines of mountain biking – Cross Country Olympic (XCO), Short Course Cross Country (XCC), Downhill (DH), Four Cross (4X) and Trials (OT). The 2012 event will also serve as a major qualifier for selection of Australian representatives in the cross-country event for the London Olympic Games.

13) BISA AGM

The recent Bicycle Institute of SA AGM had as guest speaker Hon. Patrick Conlon, the State Transport Minister, who has rediscovered cycling as part of getting fit and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Minister Conlon spoke of the govt's plans for cycling, current developments, dialogue with the various state cycling groups to engage more directly with govt, and bringing cycling back under the Transport portfolio. As the Minister had limited time at the AGM, BISA will be forwarding questions that did not have time to be asked on the night.

Jeremy Miller then delivered the Chairpersons report for 2008. Highlights:

- The Ride of Silence will aim for Semaphore this year
- "Don't Cram the Tram – Cycle Instead" project
- continuing development of a Car Free Day for Adelaide
- the 1000th bicycle will be recycled into the community through the Bicycles for Refugees scheme this year
- discussion around the issue of possible member insurance
- City of Unley was congratulated on the 10th anniversary of its 40km/h speed limit. BISA sees reduced urban speed limits as a major contributor to making suburban roads safer and encouraging cycling for transport.
- revitalising the free legal advice offered through BISA
- life membership for Clive Palfrey and Ian Fisk
- the need for more members to become involved in and take an active role in BISA.

14) Do It For Life to double

The state govt has announced a 10-year plan to tackle chronic disease - the country's biggest killer. The Chronic Disease Action Plan aims to help South Australians live longer and healthier lives.

As part of the plan, the govt will invest \$14.3million over 4 years in the Do It For Life Program, which gives people one-on-one support with a lifestyle adviser to get healthy.

15) Queensland targeting schoolchildren's safety

Queensland authorities accuse drivers of putting deadlines and laziness above children's safety, with parking in bus zones, speeding and leaving cars in designated drop-off and pick-up zones commonplace. In response, the Qld state govt is considering a rollout of reflective vests to make children walking or cycling to school more visible.

RACQ spokesman Gary Fites said the state govt needed to look at the wider safety issue of children on bikes, such as

what age kids should be allowed to ride bikes on roads.

Queensland Injury Surveillance Unit acting director Ruth Barker said there were other measures she would like to see tackled first, including strategies targeting safety behaviour and better supervision.

See www.news.com.au/couriermail/story/0,23739,25018938-3102,00.html

16) Events and activities

Listed by date of earliest required action, rather than event date.

- **Free public forum: Janette Sadik-Khan and Prof Peter Newman, 25 March**

Janette Sadik-Khan is the New York Transport Commissioner who is making dramatic improvements to NY's pedestrian and cycling environment. She has been invited to Sydney by Lord Mayor Clover Moore and will be speaking at a free public forum at 6.30 pm at the State Theatre. A video of the way Sadik-Khan is transforming new york is available at www.streetfilms.org/archives/transforming-nyc-streets-with-jsk/ Bookings are required: Ticketmaster 136 100.

- **Australian Bike Friday the 13th Annual Gathering, 26 to 29 March**

The 13th ABFC will meet in the small tourist town of Halls Gap in Western Victoria. For more information, contact Margaret Day mday@picknowl.com.au, 08 8271 5824 or Bronwyn Laing bicycle@aapt.net.au, 02 6355 1195.

- **National Ride2School Day, 25 March 2009.** See www.ride2school.com.au

- **Pedal Against Poverty** is national fundraising initiative scheduled for April. The event is organised by World Youth International, an Australian charity founded in 1988, with incentive prizes for individuals and groups. See www.worldyouth.org.au

- **Earth Day 2009**, 22 April, marks the beginning of the Green Generation Campaign, whose culmination at next year's Earth Day will mark the 40th anniversary of the event. See www.earthday.net.

- **Walk Safely to School Day, Friday 15 May 2009**

See www.walk.com.au/WSTSD01

17) Recent-ish publications

- Issue #53 of *Carfree Times* is now available at www.carfree.com/cft/i053.html. Some illustrations of the design methods proposed in "Carfree Design Manual" are included in this issue.

- **Carbon nanotubes introduced into the abdominal cavity of mice show asbestos-like pathogenicity in a pilot study** by scientists at MRC/University of Edinburgh, School of Materials, University of Manchester, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington DC, Institute of Occupational Medicine, Edinburgh and School of Life Sciences, Edinburgh.

This report warns that carbon nanotubes, used in bicycle components, pose an asbestos-like cancer hazard. But don't throw away your bike just yet: the risk of inhalation would occur in the manufacturing of items, not in the finished products. See www.nature.com/nnano/journal/v3/n7/abs/nnano.2008.111.html

- **Bicycle Carriage on Long Distance Trains in the European Union** is a comparative analysis of the conditions for bicycle carriage offered by 32 railway undertakings operating long-distance railway services in the European Union, Switzerland and Norway carried out by the European Cyclists' Federation. See www.ecf.com/files/2/12/13/070509_Bike_and_Train_EU.pdf

- The European Parliament has commissioned the University of Lancaster to conduct a study on the **Economic Potential of Cycle Tourism** in general and of the EuroVelo routes in particular. (EuroVelo, the European cycle route network, is a project of the European Cyclists' Federation to develop 12 long-distance cycle routes crossing Europe. Of the total length of 60,000 km, more than 44,000km are in place.) The on-line questionnaire (www.ittsurveys.org/ep/ect.asp) doesn't appear to be active, but if you would like a summary of the research findings in due course please email Dr Richard Weston at rweston@uclan.ac.uk

18) PedBike Tidbits

- Burnside Council has denied asking residents to remove **vegetation encroaching onto footpaths**, or the existence of a 'Footpaths for Everyone' program, as has been claimed in a letter circulated to residents. Council is now investigating the origins of the letter [*but apparently not vegetation encroaching into footpaths – Ed.*] See www.burnside.sa.gov.au/site/page.cfm?u=648&c=26985

- SA is set to receive \$1.4 million for 14 projects to help reduce the impact and risk of **natural disasters**. Hopefully, those including levee banks, weirs, etc, will include walking and cycling paths. See www.ministers.sa.gov.au/news.php?id=4460&page=3.

- A **folding bike wheel** [but will it really be useful? – Ed] <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nIRt3YOI00c&feature=channel> .
- A **DVD** of the **2009 Tour Down Under** is now available. The DVD includes a one-hour highlights program of the event, a 2-hour feature of the final stage, a 25 min interview with Lance Armstrong and a special feature on the Mutual Community Challenge Tour, which saw over 7,000 amateur cyclists ride Stage 4 of the event. The 2009 TDU was the biggest event of any sort ever staged in SA.
- In response to growing demand by cities for expertise in cycling, Europe's **Velo-City** series of cycling conferences will change from being held every 2 years to being held annually, with Copenhagen to host the 2010 conference in June (Brussels is holding this year's conference).
- **GreenWheel** has been developed by students at MIT: a motor, batteries and motor controller all contained in a hub enclosure. The only external part of the GreenWheel is the handlebar-mounted throttle, which is connected wirelessly. The GreenWheel is spoked into a standard wheel, so can be fitted to a standard bike by changing the wheel. The range is expected to be 40 km (pedalling can double this), with a top speed of 48 km/h, and charging by pedalling or by plugging into the electric grid for 10-15 mins. Front, rear or both wheels on any bicycle can be powered with a GreenWheel. See www.gizmag.com/green-wheel-electric-bicycle/11076/
- 76 SA schools have been awarded \$60,000 of **Parent Initiatives in Education** grants, for initiatives that get parents more involved in their child's school. These included Crystal Brook kindergarten's "Being Active with Dads".
- Bicycle Victoria wants changes to road rules to allow children aged more than 12 to ride their **bicycles on footpaths** to encourage teens to ride to school. Victorian Principals Association president Gabrielle Leigh backed the proposal, but a spokesman for Roads Minister Tim Pallas, said there were no plans to review the road rules on cycling on footpaths. See www.news.com.au/heraldsun/story/0,21985,25087070-2862,00.html
- **Launceston City Council** has adopted a cycling infrastructure strategy, outlining future bike routes in and around the city.
- **Lance Armstrong's** time-trial bike, stolen from the Team Astana truck prior to the first stage of the Tour of California, has been handed in to a police station in the city of Sacramento. Police said they will return the \$10,000 custom bicycle to Armstrong.
- **Robots** that can walk in high heels: www.youtube.com/watch?v=u3LH0xovv4k&NR=1, run: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q3C5sc8b3xM&feature=related and ride a bike: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Srwk-i5aXRQ.
- Want an easy way to **sell your bike**? Try www.sellyourbike.com.au/ (where you can also buy bike bits).
- The Sullivans Cover Waterfront Authority and Tasports are seeking feedback on their **Franklin Wharf Shared Space** document. It identifies zones around the waterfront area to designate as shared space, including 6m wide waterside and 4m wide secondary walks, with relocation of fishermen parking onto Hunter St. Comment closes 27 March. See www.waterfront.tas.gov.au/our_priorities/fw_shared_space.html

18) Conference Summary

15-18 March 2009

7th Mainstreet National Conference "*Rediscovering the Heart*"

The Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle, WA

See www.mainstreet2009.com.au

17-20 March 2009

Taipei International Cycle Show 'Taipei Cycle 2009'

TWTC Nangang Exhibition Hall, Taipei, Taiwan

See <http://www.taipeicycle.com.tw>

25-27 March 2009

Healthy Cities Conference

Gold Coast, Qld

See www.healthycities.com.au

30 March - 2 April 2009

Planning Institute of Australia National Congress
Darwin NT
See www.planning.org.au

17 - 19 April 2009

Australasian Cycling History Conference 2009 "*People, organisations and events*"
Melbourne Vic
Expressions of interest are called for presentations, papers and posters
See www.cyclinghistory.net.au

12-15 May 2009

Velo-City 2009 "*Re-cycling cities*"
Brussels, Belgium
See www.velo-city2009.com/homepage-en.html

14-16 May 2009

Heart Foundation National Conference "*Heart in focus*"
Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Brisbane, Qld
See www.heartfoundation2009.com/

7-9 August 2009

AITPM National Conference "*Traffic Beyond Tomorrow*"
Adelaide SA
Call for abstracts closes 20 February 2009
See www.aitpm.com

PedBikeTrans e-news sources include:

- *PushOn! Magazine (Bicycle NSW)*
- *Cycling Promotion Fund website*
- *SA Minister's press releases.*
- *Premier's Council on Active Living (PCAL)*
- *BISA e-news*
- *Cycling Resource Centre*

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