

CBD BUG CO-CONVENOR'S REPORT TO THE 2009 AGM

While recognising the importance of providing this type of report I would prefer to keep it relatively brief as I would prefer to focus my efforts on external advocacy activities, rather than internal bureaucratic processes.

In summary, 2008 was a very busy year for the CBD BUG. The following issues are just a sample of those the CBD BUG was involved in during the last 12 months - Northbank, Brisbane Airport Corp attempted cyclist ban, closures and replacement bikeways due to the NSBT, Northern Busway (and bike protest on 4 May 2008), removal of bikes lanes from the ICB, Gateway Bridge Bikeway, Northern Corridor (Velo 2), Tank Street (Kurilpa) Bridge, the new Supreme and District Courts precinct, Translink Policy re cycling access to public transport stations, and the all important CBD 40km/h speed limit.

But it was a year of progress. A couple of notable items of improvement occurring last year were the Lord Mayor's commitment of \$100M over four year for cycling, the BCC ATU's first series of BUG forums, the opening of the King George Square Cycle Centre and the announcement of a second centre to be built at Bowen Hills. Our internal organisational improvements included a new logo (many thanks David Hannah) and adoption of CBD BUG business cards (Seb Tauchmann's initiative), both of which enhance the CBD BUG's professional presentation.

Going forward into 2009 I suggest that given the still all too prevalent lack of understanding on the part of many politicians and bureaucrats about cycling and its capacity to address a myriad of ill confronting our community, I suggest 2009 will be no different, and for cycling advocates it will continue to be a target rich environment.

To our advantage we have a strong core of dedicated BUG members who with their broad skills base and local knowledge of issues give the CBD BUG good coverage from both the geographic and issues based perspectives. We also have a very positive working relationship with the BCC ATU staff and contacts in key State Government agencies. Seb's stepping back from his role mid-way during the year for personal reasons was regrettable, but we have the people on hand who are able to fill his shoes.

Our thanks in particular should go to Leslie Martin – who did a sterling job during 2008 by producing meeting minutes, organising our many guest speakers and keeping the website up to date. Other significant contributors were Ian Lister, John Lister, Aaron Wray, Paul Murdoch and Donald Campbell.

In terms of work for 2009 I believe there are two objectives to which we must dedicate ourselves - building the statewide BUG network in, and obtaining a major investment commitment for cycling from the Qld Govt via the 2009 State Election campaign.

Yours in cycling


Paul French

Co-convenor CBD BUG

28 January 2009