



MEDIA RELEASE

Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group

CBD BUG

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Cyclists to commemorate Rebekka Meyer's life with "Ride for Rebekka" - 7.30am Wednesday 15 October 2014

Brisbane cyclists will commemorate the life of Rebekka Meyer at 7.30am this Wednesday 15 October 2014 by staging a "Ride for Rebekka". Prior to the riders departing from Gair Park at the intersection of Annerley Road and Gladstone Road, they will observe a minute of silence. Riders have also been invited to wear black armbands as a further acknowledgement of Rebekka's loss of life.

The group will ride along Annerley Road towards the city and pass the intersection of Annerley Road and Stanley Street in Woolloongabba where Danish international student Rebekka Meyer was killed. In a similar fashion to the location of other bicycle rider fatalities this site has now been marked with a ghost bike and many flowers and cards that serve as a poignant reminder to all passers-by.

Aged just 22, Rebekka Meyer was tragically killed at this intersection by a tip truck towing a quad axle dog trailer as she rode her bicycle to university on the morning of 11 September 2014.

Councillor Helen Abrahams (The Gabba Ward) will also ride with the group, which will be supported by a police escort.

The Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group (CBD BUG) has organised the "Ride for Rebekka". CBD BUG spokesperson Paul French said "our hearts go out to Rebekka's family and friends. Rebekka's family has expressed their appreciation for this ride as a way of paying our respects. We sincerely hope that along with all the other expressions of support Rebekka's family has received that this small gesture will bring some comfort for them at this time of what can only be incalculable loss".

He added that some CBD BUG members had been personally affected by Rebekka's fatal crash as they had passed the crash scene only moments afterwards and had witnessed her mangled bike and weeping bystanders.

"This terrible event is another reminder of the how vulnerable cyclists are in the absence of proper separated facilities that create safe space for people of all capabilities to ride bikes." said Mr French.

Rebekka is the third young female international student who has died in Brisbane since November 2013 after South Korean student Eunji Ban and then French student Sophie Collombet were both killed while walking.

CBD BUG spokesperson Paul French said "people in Brisbane who want to travel by the active transport modes of walking and cycling continue to receive window dressing responses from government and council. At the same time all levels of government continue to throw billions of good money after bad in a futile effort to address traffic congestion by expanding the road network ignoring the vulnerable road user. This approach hasn't worked anywhere in the world and it won't work here. To free people from the tyranny of being stuck in their cars we need to re-prioritise our infrastructure investments into providing safe, affordable and convenient active and public transport. There's no funding shortage just a short of political leadership"

"Young healthy people with promising futures are dying and in horrible circumstances. This is a public health issue of the most critical importance and just doing the same old same is not going to fix the problem" stated Mr French.

Ends

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