

Westside Bicycle User Group

A Bicycle User Group in the City of Charles Sturt



Join and be heard:
www.facebook.com/groups/westsidebug

The Westside BUG was started in April 2017, and is run by a small core group of members in response to the lack of implementation of the cycling and walking strategy by the City of Charles Sturt council. We started after meeting with council and deciding that cyclists need a greater voice to promote and advocate for active transport in our local area. Our inception was quite timely, as local council had just commissioned an audit of the Outer Harbor Greenway in the Charles Sturt area and as WestsideBUG we were consulted, along with both PortBUG and Charles Sturt BUG. Early in the conception of Westside BUG we decided to establish an open Facebook group:

www.facebook.com/groups/WestsideBUG

We decided that this was the most inclusive way in which keen local cyclists or residents could interact with each other in a public forum that can be accessed by virtually anyone easily. Topics can be raised and discussed, and anything that requires council intervention or response can be delivered straight from Facebook to the council. We have two local councillors who are members of our Facebook group and seem to be quite keen to advocate for cyclist needs and concerns to council staff.

Our wider membership has mainly been recruited via the Facebook page, through other Facebook community groups and community events. A creative member designed our logo and we made magnets and screen-printed high-visibility vests to establish presence and promote ourselves.

We use our Facebook page to discuss issues, ideas and potential projects to vote on, gathering suggestions that we use for grant applications for projects. Our applications have had a strong focus on raising the profile of the Outer Harbor Greenway, through art, community involvement and greening.

Our main areas of advocacy are the promotion of everyday cycling and active transport, urging council to encourage cycling as a valid and important mode of transport and providing accessible bicycle parking facilities at local community events. We have worked with the Community and Stakeholder Relations Advisors from the Torrens Rail Project to ensure cyclist needs were addressed during the construction period. We have established contacts among the local council staff to discuss cycling issues, events and projects: currently we have three key contacts in the engineering and assets section of the council. These staff contact us when there are changes to local infrastructure that will affect cyclists, we release this information through our Facebook page. We currently analyse and report the bicycle count data from City of Charles Sturt's first permanent bicycle counter, which we update when provided with new data.

<https://woodvillegreenwaycyclistcounts.carrd.co/>

Our future endeavours include: working with businesses to become bicycle friendly, further art and greening projects along the Outer Harbor Greenway, organised bicycle rides and improving safety for cyclists in our local area.

Some of our highlights to date:

Collaborating with community art group Kilkenny Gorilla Art, supporting the SALA event “Bike the Art Trails of Kilkenny”, encouraging locals to get on their bikes and ride their suburb to discover community art.



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Bike the Art Trails of Kilkenny



Ride or walk the streets of Kilkenny to Woodville Park and see the art work of professional and/or emerging artists, along with naive designs by community members, displayed on stobie poles, in paste ups, fence art and on walls. The last 2 years have seen this neighbourhood pick up a paintbrush or shovel and alter their environment, one brush stroke or shovel full at a time. Full details of tour sessions available via gorillaart.com.au.

Artists in residence sessions on during the Kilkenny Bike Tours

Opening Exhibition Event Saturday 5 August from 4 pm at Cafe Latino, Belmore Terrace, Woodville Park.

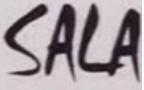
Bike Tour Dates: 5, 12, 19, 26 August (Saturday)
2 pm to 4 pm
Kids tour date on 26 August

Walking Tour: 19 August
Saturday 10.30 am to 12.30 pm



INQUIRIES & BOOKINGS:
8243 0001
0406 980 962
gorillaart@tpg.com.au

TOURS START: Alton Reserve, 50 Reynell St, Kilkenny SA 5009
All tours will conclude at Cafe Latino in Woodville Park.



Contributing to Local Art on the Greenway and surrounds



Improving way finding on the Outer Harbor Greenway



We have also had a focus on increasing active transport and we have organised themed bike rides and provided valet bike parking at events. There is a core group of volunteers who help out at local community events (with racks provided by Bicycle SA), eg. The Kilkenny Community Markets 2018, where we also invited OFO bike share to talk to interested resident.



WestsideBUG also arranged the provision of bicycle parking facilities at the Port Adelaide Tour Down Under 2018 race commencement point (with racks provided by Bicycle SA, Transport by PAE)



WestsideBUG are working on a 'bike friendly business' concept, with Café Latino at Woodville Park hosting our first basic bike tool kit and being very bike friendly.



WestsideBUG are very community focused and will continue to organise community cycling events to ensure people consider cycling as a viable option instead of driving to places and space in our local area.



