



# Pedal Power ACT

ANNUAL REPORT 2006



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## **PEDAL POWER ACT INC**

### **THE CORPORATE GOAL OF PEDAL POWER**

**To make membership of Pedal Power compelling by meeting members' cycling needs**

This goal is met through 5 programs:

1. Membership and Member Services
2. Community Activities
3. Advocacy on Cycling Issues
4. Cycle Rides and Events
5. Organisational Direction and Management

### **A BRIEF HISTORY**

Pedal Power ACT, a not-for-profit organisation, was founded in 1974 to act as a rallying point for cyclists in the Australian Capital Territory and Queanbeyan regions, and to represent the interests of cyclists in Canberra.

Pedal Power is a professionally managed organisation. It also relies on volunteer effort. It is sustained by membership fees, donations, income from events and special activity sponsorship, and with financial assistance from the ACT Government through Sport and Recreation Services and Health Promotion & Grants Unit

Pedal Power is a sustainable and member focused organisation that undertakes cycling related activities which aim to get more people in the capital region cycling more often for a better community.

### **GOVERNANCE**

Pedal Power is an incorporated association managed by a volunteer council, elected at the Annual General Meeting. Pedal Power contracts expertise to assist in achieving its goals at a high standard.

### **COUNCIL 2006**

**President**  
**Vice-President**  
**Vice President**  
**Treasurer**  
**Secretary**

John Widdup  
Harvey Bell  
Helen Curtis  
Richard Bush  
Luke Wensing

**Council Members** Andrew Hughes  
Tony Shields  
Carol Taylor  
Chris Mann  
Jeff Ibbotson

## REPORTS

### President

This report covers the activities of Pedal Power during 2006, its 31<sup>st</sup> year – another successful one for the organisation. It was my second year as president of Pedal Power and it has been a most rewarding learning experience.

Pedal Power is a people-centered organisation run for the benefit of members. It undertakes cycling-related activities which aim to get more people in the Capital region cycling more often for a better community. These activities align with our purpose to promote the safe and convenient use of cycling; run recreational cycle rides and events; promote membership and provide membership services; educate the community about the health, environmental and economic advantages of cycling as a form of recreation and a means of transport; provide advocacy for cycling services and facilities; and maintain direction as an organisation.

Pedal Power has about 1,700 members and is seen by many of the elected representatives and government officials as the advocate for the cycling community in the ACT for non-sport related matters. As in most community organisations, the progress made and the outcomes achieved are the result of the efforts, knowledge, competence, advice and dedication of many, many people – most of them volunteers. Also, our Executive Director, Dennis Puniard, and office manager, Amelia Mollett, have ensured that Pedal Power has continued to serve the needs of its members. Many of our activities succeed only with the generous support of those giving us grants and sponsorship, for which we are always grateful and whom we acknowledge.

At the end of 2006, Dennis Puniard ceased working for Pedal Power and on behalf of the Council and members I thank him for his valuable contributions over the last four years, and wish him well in his future endeavors.

Council has appointed a new Executive Officer, John Graydon, who will help Pedal Power to continue to give excellent service to members and to represent the cycling community.

Despite the dedication and generous contribution of many, Pedal Power still cannot achieve everything it would like. Choices have to be made as to how best to use limited resources. This annual report details the activities and achievements of Pedal Power during the last year but there are some activities that deserve special mention.

This year has seen plenty of rides and activities (with improvements) and some innovations. In particular, Pedal Power undertook programs to improve bike riding skills in the community. Early in the year it ran the very successful New Horizons course for women and another course is currently under way. A similar, but modified course was held for those with diabetes, a project sponsored by the Health Promotion and Grants Unit. Over the second six months, with funding from the ACT-NRMA Road Safety Trust, Pedal Power undertook a bike education program in selected primary schools. This saw many children improve their riding skills and gain confidence. In the latter part of the year, attention turned to adults with a 'train the trainer' program to teach adults to ride bikes. As a result, two successful courses for adults who had not ridden before have now been completed. Tandem-riding for the vision impaired was trialed during the year with a group of very enthusiastic members.

Pedal Power's advocacy continues to produce results in hazard reduction, improved facilities and bike-friendly planning and regulations, including required facilities in new buildings. It has maintained (and even enhanced) its reputation with elected representatives and government officers and within the cycling community. Pedal Power is seen by others as an active and pleasant lobby group that has been moderately successful primarily due to the tremendous effort of the advocacy team with many others also involved in different ways. That bodes well for our ongoing advocacy activities on behalf of the cycling community. However, there is still a lot of advocacy work to do – perhaps it is a never ending activity – so there is room for others to join in and assist.

I take this opportunity to thank all who have helped Pedal Power to have another successful year – Council members, volunteers, paid employees and others. Your efforts have resulted in benefits to members, the bike riding community and the community at large and without which there would be no Pedal Power and the bike riding environment would be poorer.

May Pedal Power have another great year in 2007 with more cycling for a better Canberra.

John Widdup

## MEMBERSHIP & MEMBER SERVICES

### Overview

Pedal Power reached a total of 1,691 members (1067 memberships) in 2006, comprising 40% individual members and 60% household members. This is a pleasing increase in members of 2.5% over the previous year.



The Council regularly monitors the membership data to assess trends and plan accordingly. It is pleased to discern the modest increase in memberships (70), probably due to factors like the cost of fuel for commuting, and a new approach to membership renewal reminders. A trial will be undertaken early in 2007 to remind members by email of their need to renew membership about a month before it is due. About 85% of members have email; those without will receive a letter. In the interests of reducing the time taken to manage memberships, members will be asked to make a personal note of their expiry date, and to renew about a month before it is due, saving on time and postage.

### The Office

Members can visit the office at any time between 12 and 2 pm from Tuesday to Friday. Members can renew their membership, purchase merchandise, or browse the journals and books. New members are especially welcome. Since the move to the 'new' Griffin Centre, Pedal Power has made extensive use of its space for meetings as well as office activities.

### The Canberra Cyclist

Pedal Power's magazine, the *Canberra Cyclist*, has a print run of over 1,200 copies that are distributed to club members, the broader cycling community, politicians and government departments, and selected cycling organisations. The *Canberra Cyclist* is produced by volunteers and is a leader among similar publications of state cycling organisations.

The bi-monthly magazine provides a mix of articles and reports on rides and events undertaken by members. There is also general cycling information and a ride calendar with details of forthcoming Pedal Power events and activities. It is a highly regarded publication and attracts advertising, not only from sponsors and corporate members, but from companies and organisations promoting their products or services to its readers. The *Canberra Cyclist* is one of Pedal Power's most important methods of communicating with members and the community. Production and distribution costs are about \$20 from each annual membership fee. Many volunteers assist in its production and mail out – editors, writers, photographers, compilers of calendars for rides and events, Adopt-a-shop team members and many others. Anyone is welcome to submit contributions and to help at the regular 'stuffing nights'.

The editor throughout this year was Julia Widdup assisted by Carol Taylor and Helen Topor as sub-editors. Luke Wensing was responsible for the production of the mail out address sheets and arranging postage and worked with

Matt Elliston and Paul Truebridge to organise and run the 'stuffing nights'. Contributions came from many other members.

Thanks go to all involved in the production of the magazine and to all the riders who took the time and effort to share experiences and contribute to the magazine's content. Your efforts in helping to make this outstanding magazine are valued by members and others in the community.

### **Pedal Power Website**

The website is a vital communication tool for Pedal Power. Nearly 70% of members choose to join or renew their memberships online. Publication sales have risen in 2006 through the website. Most Pedal Power events can now be entered in advance online which enables better planning of resources for the event. The site allows members to submit events for incorporation into the calendar.

### **E-Mail Bulletin**

Pedal Power's email bulletin is a fortnightly publication that keeps members, and others who subscribe, up-to-date with the most recent information and, sometimes, with late-breaking news which could not practicably be delivered any other way. It supplements the *Canberra Cyclist* magazine and the Pedal Power web site. Martin Pikler was the email bulletin editor throughout calendar year 2006, producing and issuing thirty email bulletins using input from members. They comprised the regular fortnightly bulletins supplemented by six 'special' (unscheduled) bulletins.

The email bulletin is issued to two subscriber lists: members who have email addresses and have not 'unsubscribed', and members of the public who subscribe via the Pedal Power web site. During 2006 email bulletin subscriptions from members increased from 966 to 1,120 (16%) and public web subscriptions increased from 430 to 690 (60%). In total, the number of subscriptions over the year increased by 30%. These increases, particularly from non-members, indicate that many in our community find the bulletin informative and useful. The distribution of the email bulletin during 2006 has been, for the most part, trouble-free, except for an occasional technical difficulty – as is to be expected given bulk emailing restrictions and anti-spam measures in place.

The content of email bulletins is restricted to matters considered relevant and/or of interest to members relating to Pedal Power activities, and other cycling-related activities in the local region and elsewhere. This formula appears to be successful and has not changed from the previous year.

Pedal Power intends to continue to send out email bulletins and will examine greater integration between the bulletins and the web site.

### **Bike Maintenance Courses**

New members have an opportunity to participate in an elementary bike maintenance and emergency repairs session. A number of these classes were run during the year. Doug Thomson and Silke Smaglinski have again been the stalwarts of these courses. Pedal Power received some additional funding from Sport and Recreation Services this year to 'train the trainer' and Doug has been delivering specialist training to a small group so that they can run courses at a later stage. Pedal Power has also invested in a professional tool kit to enable training to be as complete as possible.

### **Social and Information Nights**

Members were treated to another year of interesting and informative presentations at the Pedal Power social nights. These were held on the third Wednesday of each month at the Canberra Southern Cross Club in Woden.

To set the pace for the year's calendar, the March presentation from John and Julia Widdup was a fascinating account of their epic 2,715 km journey from Canberra to Uluru in Central Australia.

In April, Rod and Annemarie Driver went through the practicalities of cooking whilst cycling on an eight week tour of France.

The following month a good roll-up of members attended to see the latest in lighting and winter clothing. Brian and Maryanne Simpson offered their range at a special Pedal Power discounted price.

By popular demand, the June social comprised a practical session on cycling fitness presented by physiotherapist Roz Penfold. Members have found that applying the exercises has helped them enjoy their cycling more. Challenging trips continued as a theme for the next few social nights. In July, an enthusiastic group of members braved the mid-winter cool to hear Greg Berry and Marea England speak about their participation in the Simpson Desert Cycle Challenge during September/October 2005. Next, Ray Bracewell gave an engaging account of his marathon ride from England to Australia in 1979-80.

In September, Luke Wensing and Kim Young described their involvement in the 2006 Royal Flying Doctor Outback Challenge. The 2006 outback ride was based at Mt. Ive in South Australia, and raised funds for the Royal Flying Doctor Service. It presented riders with various difficulties, as well as great satisfaction.

In a change of scenery in the following month David Thomson spoke about his mid-year tour through France, Austria and Germany, also passing on useful tips when cycle touring (such as cutting up maps). The final social night for the year at the Club was in November, when John Pearson and Phil Baron spoke about the 2006 NSW RTA Big Ride, as a way of encouraging potential riders for the 2007 event.

The December social get-together attracted some 40 members for a picnic in Nara Park. The relaxed mood encouraged people to chat and discuss the year's cycling exploits and plan new adventures for the coming year. And all cyclists must have been good during 2006 as Santa Claus made an appearance with a small gift for all attending.

Pedal Power again thanks the Canberra Southern Cross Club for providing a room in which to hold the social nights, free of charge. Members also appreciate a place which they can go to after the presentations, to enjoy refreshments and to chat with their cycling friends in a more relaxed setting. The present conveners, Sep Westerhuis and Anne McDevitt have enjoyed enormously the regular stimulation and fellowship that these evenings have provided, and look forward to their continuation.

### **Insurance**

Pedal Power maintained its suite of insurance covers in 2006. The Personal Accident Insurance cover included in membership was renegotiated with Cyclecover winning the contract. The premium is paid monthly based on membership renewals and new members.

### **Merchandise**

In 2006, Pedal Power marketed the following items for sale to members and the public.

- *Club Jerseys*

The professionally designed and produced club jerseys have been very popular with members, They certainly give Pedal Power a positive identity around Canberra and wherever our members ride. Available in both short and long sleeve versions and in both men's and women's sizes are excellent value.

- *Cycle Canberra* (The Red Book of rides)

This book describing over 40 suggested rides in and around Canberra and the region is still a regularly sought after item.

- *Cycling and Walking Map of Canberra*

The cycling map of Canberra underwent a major remake in 2005 and was released in August 2005. It has been selling very well since then. We sell this product to members, the public and also offer wholesale rates for bulk purchases to retail outlets such as bike shops, bookshops and newsagencies.

- *Books* with the Rail Trails of Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania have sold reasonably well, along with the NRMA book of cycle touring in NSW.

Pedal Power offers these products for sale from our office, by telephone or through our internet site.

### **Discounts and Deals**

Through 2006 we have enjoyed continuing support from bicycle retailers and other shops in the region with discounts offered to members at these outlets. They are listed in every *Canberra Cyclist* magazine.

We also have a special deal for members at all Rebel stores through an MVP program. Each member gets a card to be used at Rebel stores which provide a 5% discount on all purchases. Pedal Power also receives a credit of 5% of the value of the purchase which can be used to buy products from Rebel.

### **Ride to Work**

'National Ride to Work Day' held in October was coordinated by Bicycle Victoria. Participants were urged to 'register' online. The data so collected was not collated into a meaningful statistic. It appears that a large number of participants in the ACT did not feel the need to do so. However, about 40 workplaces were registered, with 35 of them running some sort of breakfast or refreshments for cyclists. The largest gathering took place at The Greenhouse Office in Barton. About 70 cyclists gathered in Garema Place in the City. There was a constant stream of cyclists at the ANU sponsored breakfast.

Pedal Power has just (Jan 2007) been awarded a small grant from the Health Promotion and Grants Unit to appoint a coordinator for the RTW programme, to further develop the network of workplace coordinators.

### **Bike Skills**

With a combination of support from Sport and Recreation Services and NRMA Insurance, Pedal Power undertook a programme to train members to become proficient at teaching basic bicycle skills to the community at large. There is a constant stream of request by people wanting to learn, or relearn, to ride bicycles. Pedal Power is now in a position to run regular courses, with trained instructors.

### **Primary Schools Bike Education**

The Primary Schools Bike Education programme teaches sound cycling habits to children attending Years 3 to 6 (ages 9 to 12). It captures children at a time when they are beginning to venture out on their bicycles and aims to instill habits of safety, awareness and responsibility while cycling. Pedal Power has trained members to assist the coordinator, Raynie McNee, in presenting this programme to a growing list of Primary Schools in Canberra. This activity is funded by The NRMA-ACT Road Safety Trust. It has acquired a trailer and 15 second hand bikes and helmets so that children without bikes at school on the day can still participate. The course was assessed independently late in 2006, and funding for Term 1, 2007 has been secured. To date, about 730 children have graduated from the course.

### **Safe Routes to School Cycling Bus**

In a related development, Pedal Power has obtained a Health Promotion and Grants Unit Small Projects grant to run a pilot project to develop a Cycling School Bus concept similar to the very successful walking school bus run by the YMCA. This logically follows on from the Bike Ed program in that children will be better equipped to ride to school after completing their training. Pedal Power will run the School Bus pilot in two schools in 2007.

### **New Horizons**

The autumn presentation of the New Horizons programme was very successful, with 28 women completing the course. The happiness of the participants is infectious, and everybody had good experiences, some more daunting than others. Their story was reported during the year in *The Canberra Cyclist*. This was the last time the course was run with funding assistance from the Sport and Recreation Services. There is good evidence that future courses will be self sustaining, and may be expanded. Our thanks to Angelika Erpic and her team for a sterling effort!

### **Diabetics Cycling Course - 'Cycling for Fun'**

With a grant from the Health Promotion and Grants Unit, and input from Diabettes Australia (ACT), Pedal Power conducted a specialized course based around the New Horizons package. It was reasonably well attended and participants were very happy with the course and content.

### **Junior Cyclist Co-operative Programme**

Pedal Power is involved in a Junior Cyclists program in partnership with the Canberra Cycling Club, Tuggeranong Vikings Cycling Club and the ACT Cycling Federation. The programme is aimed at assisting young riders (5 to 15 yo) to become skilled at riding in bunches and racing. Pedal Power member John Armstrong is the leader of the programme, and is assisted by Mal Cook and others. Pedal Power sponsors the Achievement Award in the programme.

## **Bike Parking**

Pedal Power volunteers have again provided secure free parking at the National Folk Festival, allowing many people to attend the festival with the knowledge that their prized possession will be taken care of. Pedal Power has again increased its supply of portable racks to provide additional bike parking at Floriade, the National Folk Festival and also at the opening of the Stromlo Forest Park; the cycling facilities which were opened in December 2006 as part of the Brindabella Challenge.

## **Bike Lockers**

There are bike lockers at all the major bus interchanges around the ACT. Pedal Power manages these on behalf of ACT Roads. There is continued strong demand for lockers at Civic and Woden, with a high occupancy rate. Other areas are steady. Unfortunately there has been an increase in vandalism and theft, with some bikes at Tuggeranong left overnight, disappearing.

## **Rail Trails**

Pedal Power has maintained a watching brief over the arguments about rail trails in NSW. There is growing support for the conversion of disused rail corridors to multi user trails suitable for more than just bicycles. It will be some time before the idea of unstructured recreation activities in proximity to farming becomes accepted.

# **ADVOCACY**

## **Overview**

The Pedal Power advocacy team's mission is that of Pedal Power's 'More Canberrans cycling, more often, for a better community'. We have a fourfold strategy to achieve this

- working to get programs and facilities in place that will get more Canberrans cycling
- working to change the culture of politicians, officials and the public so they 'think cycling' as a matter of course
- developing good relationships with relevant decisionmakers
- making sure we are working effectively and efficiently

We concentrate on non-competitive recreational and commuting cycling, given that other clubs in Canberra particularly cater for competitive cycling.

The year was generally successful, though we cannot claim all the credit for this. Five years ago, we seemed like a voice in the wilderness and cycling was often simply not on the radar screen in the minds of many decision-makers. This has changed, particularly in the last year, as increasingly around Australia, and around the world, more people have begun to realise what cycling offers in terms of health, pollution, petrol consumption, greenhouse gas emissions and traffic congestion. For instance we estimate around 40% of Canberra's car trips are for less than 5 kilometres, ie lot of car trips that cause traffic congestion could be undertaken by bicycle.

In the ACT, we have benefited from a Government, and particularly Ministers Simon Corbell and John Hargreaves, which supports cycling. Despite this support, funds for cycling capital works declined to a low of \$350,000 which does not go a long way to fixing the missing links in Canberra's cycle network. This was the major negative of the year.

Anecdotally people have remarked that more people are cycling in Canberra and our third annual cordon count of cycle trips into Civic showed cycle numbers have grown by 16% over two years.

At the beginning of the year, we set ten tasks for ourselves. Three of these were completed

- ACT Planning and Land Authority released probably the best bicycle parking guidelines in Australia in November. These will ensure most new and renovated buildings in the ACT, provide a good standard of bicycle parking, showers etc
- The ACT cycling and walking map was put on-line
- With the introduction of a new ACTION bus timetable all the buses which travel on the inter-town 300 series route will have bike racks fitted to them ensuring close to 100% reliability of this service. The

exceptions will be when there are maintenance issues etc. We also did a count of bike rack usage which indicated over 200 usages for that week.

Another task, ensuring the completion of new improved cycle engineering standards is close to finalisation. Though the above tasks have been/or are being completed to a high standard by the ACT Government, there have been significant delays which have tested our persistence and ability to maintain focus. With the completion of these four tasks we will begin our year by assessing what new tasks we wish to take on. Our currently remaining six tasks are mostly ongoing/standing tasks.

Other successes included

- a number of minor projects (including the Gungahlin Drive Extension works) completed by Roads ACT which show a good understanding of what is necessary to increase cycling,
- Progress of the design for a cycling and walking underpass under Parkes Way at Russell, though this has been delayed due to the National Capital Authority
- Over the year, over 80 media articles featuring Pedal Power or letters to the editor written by Pedal Power members. The vast majority of these have showed cycling in a positive light which is evidence of the change in attitudes that has occurred.
- More cycle lanes being provided including on new on-road cycle lanes on Flemington Rd, Cotter Rd, Fairbairn Ave, Northbourne Ave and Drakeford Dr

Pedal Power advocacy work is carried by volunteers including Tony Shields, Terry George, Neville Reece, Lyndel Post, Harvey Bell, June Hornby, Geoff Farrar, Kip Tanner, Ben Elliston, John Widdup, Paul Truebridge and David Ault assisted by our cycling advocate, Peter Strang.

Tony Shields, Advocacy Team Leader

## RIDES AND EVENTS

### Overview

Staging cycle rides and events for members and others is one of the principal objectives of Pedal Power. This year the program included regular local half and full day rides, weekend away rides, trips to other cycling events, the Big Canberra Bike Ride, Fitz's Challenge and participation in the Brindabella Challenge.

Pedal Power supported rides by other organizations and encouraged members to participate. These included the Sydney Spring Cycle, the Rotary Scenic Cycle Tour of Canberra, Sydney to the Gong, the NSW Big Ride, Audax Australia, Dungog Pedalfest and Around the Bay in a Day,

Pedal Power rides and events were successful as a result of the efforts of a large number of volunteers to whom Pedal Power, its members and the cycling public in the ACT and surrounding areas are indebted.

The events calendar on the Pedal Power web site is the organisation's primary source of information about events and proved popular and useful to members and others, including visitors to Canberra. In addition, a bi-monthly ride and events calendar was also published in the *Canberra Cyclist* magazine. The calendar was also distributed to cycle shops, libraries and other public places by the adopt-a-shop group.

### Statistics

Pedal Power staged over 220 cycle rides and events throughout the year involving over 5,000 participants who cycled more than 300,000 km as part of these rides and events.

	Number of cycle rides & events offered					
Month	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
January	22	13	13	17	17	11
February	19	14	13	17	18	11
March	17	15	12	18	21	11
April	20	19	16	13	25	11

May	17	19	18	9	8	10
June	18	18	16	10	21	14
July	18	17	16	10	18	12
August	15	18	16	7	13	13
September	18	16	14	10	11	12
October	16	14	18	16	17	17
November	21	17	13	12	12	16
December	21	21	14	8	11	13
Total	222	201	179	147	192	151

### Day Cycle rides

Saturday morning breakfast rides started on alternative weeks from the Acton Ferry Terminal and had slower-shorter and faster-longer options. On the other weeks the rides started from different locations around Canberra. The destination for these rides was always a café to enjoy sustenance and the company of fellow riders. These rides continued to be very popular with between 15 and 40 riders each Saturday.

Special 'breakfast rides' were held on New Year's Day, Australia Day and Boxing Day with many attendees proving that even festivities do not deter the committed rider.

Mid-week 'morning tea' rides were programmed for most weeks but the number of participants were small and they may not be scheduled in the coming year.

'The Little Red Book', produced by Cycle Canberra, describes rides around the Canberra region. A series of rides from the book were conducted with good response.

'Northern Wanderers' rides were run on most Sundays from Dickson following rural roads mainly to the north and west of Canberra and from Tuggeranong on roads to the south west of Canberra. These rides were on sealed roads with two options (longer and shorter) and distances between 50 and 100 km. They attracted between 5 and 25 rides and were a successful option for weekend training and fellowship.

Big Ride Training Rides were conducted early in the year to prepare participants for the NSW Big Ride. These built up over eight weeks from 50 to 100 km and attracted some 20 riders each week.

The 'Ride of the Century' series building up to 100 km was held in May and June with a number of riders achieving the 100 distance.

Our previous 'long riders' rides were no longer conducted as a separate series and members were encouraged to undertake other long rides and/or join the local Audax rides.

The Winter Solstice Dinner with rides was held in June with two short rides between courses for the energetic, or another glass of red for those who weren't. Members also supported the National Heart Foundation by raising funds and riding on the Red Heart Day.

### Away Cycle Rides

The Illawarra Escape weekend in February gave members the opportunity for enjoyable riding and socializing. The Christmas in July cycling weekend was held in Cowra. Participants earned their traditional Christmas meal after a good day's cycling and then had the opportunity to work it off the next day.

Winter Escape to Wollongong was held in June with a series of rides over a weekend.

'Spring into Action at Bundanoon' was held in September with some 30 members participating in a weekend of riding in the southern highlands.

The Spring Cycle Sydney event conducted by Bicycle NSW was patronised by over 40 Pedal Power members. The group traveled together and enjoyed rides in the Sydney area before and after the event as well as social activities.

An outing was organised to the Dungog Pedalfest which is a celebration of cycling and sociability in the Williams Valley (60 km North of Newcastle).

Pre-Christmas escape to Tumbarumba was held in November with a number of members having a wonderful weekend in the stunning country around Batlow and Tumbarumba.

### Major Cycling Events

#### The biggest ever Big Canberra Bike Ride

This year Canberra put on perfect riding weather, with an overcast sky, for the record 1,000 cyclists who participated in the ninth Big Canberra Bike Ride. The event is a 25 km ride (it is not a race) along the traditional route including Anzac Parade, over Commonwealth Avenue Bridge and around Canberra past such landmarks as the Embassy area and Parliament House.

This year many rides were members of family and team groups and it is becoming a tradition for many families and groups of friends to take part in this great event on the Canberra Day holiday. It was really good to see so many different people on a variety of bikes getting out and enjoying themselves.

Planning Minister, Simon Corbell officially started the ride with encouragement to riders to keep riding for their health and wellbeing as well as for the environment.

The Canberra Tradesmen's Union Club (The Tradies) again provided welcome refreshments at Dickson with tea, coffee, juice and cake.

This year, \$1,200 from the funds raised was donated to the Heart Foundation.

A big thank you goes to all the volunteers who helped with the organisation, registration, signs, marshalling, morning tea and the myriad of other tasks involved - without them Pedal Power could not put on this great event year after year.

And thanks to Sports Medicine Australia who donated the services of a motorcycle first-aider and Smith Cycles of Fyshwick who donated a bike that was raffled to those who registered early.

We are preparing for next year's bigger and better event – our tenth anniversary on Canberra Day the 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2007 - in conjunction with our new major sponsor Australian Ethical Investment.

#### Fitz's Challenge

This year's Fitz's Challenge on 29 October had a record 575 participants – 55 in the Epic (210 km), 220 in the Classic (158 km), 240 in the Tharwa Challenge (96 km) and 60 in Tidbinbilla Challenge (48 km). The weather was nearly perfect for riding and many participants contacted Pedal Power (during the event and subsequently) to say that the event was very well organized and that they had a great day.

Unfortunately the day was marred when two riders were involved in crashes coming down Fitz's Hill. Sadly one of the crash victims died of his injuries and the other suffered severe injuries. Many riders and volunteers assisted the victims at the crash scene and we all thank you for your efforts.

Pedal Power thanks all involved in the event. The work of many volunteers, who made the event possible and successful, was greatly appreciated by all participants. The radio operators from WICEN (the 'Community Service' arm of the Wireless Institute of Australia, ACT Division) did a sterling job providing communications through out the course. The first aider on the event, from Sport Medicine Australia ACT, also played a vital role particularly when the crash occurred.

#### **Others' rides**

The Brindabella Challenge was again organised by Australian Capital Tourism in December and Pedal Power participated and staged the Classic Canberra Ride, a 20 or 30 km ride with commentary around the sights of inner Canberra and towards Stromlo; Kids Hot Laps Ride, a one hour ride for children around the new Mt Stromlo criterion circuit with 73 riders participating; and a bush dance on the Saturday night.

The Big Queanbeyan Bike Ride was organised in September by Pedal Power in conjunction with the Queanbeyan Council. Unfortunately this year, due to inclement weather, the numbers of participants were low.

Pedal Power supported and advised the organisers of The Rotary Scenic Cycle Tour of Canberra that was run, for the second time, in October by the Rotary Club of Canberra. It attracted over 200 riders and is proposed to become an annual event.

## **ORGANISATIONAL DIRECTION & MANAGEMENT**

### **Overview**

Over the past year the Council and the Executive have settled into their respective roles. Council, on behalf of members, sets and steers the overall direction for Pedal Power. The Executive is responsible to the Council and through it to the members for implementing programs and managing day-to-day business.

Except for the Treasurer, all Council and Executive positions were all filled at the AGM. The Treasurer was appointed at the first Council meeting. Both groups set about their roles using the Strategic Operational Plan as a guide to ensure that important and strategic matters were attended to, and not just the urgent day to day tasks that sometimes can distract us from important longer term matters. While discussion can be vigorous at Council and Executive, consensus decision making invariably prevailed.

An instrument of delegation was put into place that sets out the powers that the Executive and various team leaders can exercise for the proper conduct and management of Pedal Power's activities.

While those in the Pedal Power office have a vital role in day to day bill paying, receiving and banking money, the Treasurer remains accountable to Council for the financial records and for financial matters of Pedal Power. Each needs to be on top of their role and communicating well for effective financial management. Communication in respect to financial matters was not as good as it could have been and will be given more attention in 2007.

Executive Director Dennis Puniard secured funding from Sport and Recreation Services, Health Promotion & Grants Unit and the NRMA ACT Road Safety Trust, and organised and ran projects as reported elsewhere.

The Office Manager, Amelia Mollett, provided a fine service for Pedal Power, its members and other enquirers.

The absence of key Council members whilst touring overseas and within Australia has highlighted the importance of having backup to provide continuity of effective management and direction. The departure of Dennis Puniard at the end of the year and the selection of a new Executive Officer was handled professionally. The selection process was completed in December and it was particularly useful to have a representative from Sport and Recreation Services on the selection panel. A contract was in place in January for the services of John Graydon the new Executive Officer.

Risk was managed appropriately with plans in place for major events. The tragic crashes during Fitz's Challenge tested our responses to a serious incident. The incident was handled with professionalism on all sides.

Council and the Executive met regularly to consider proposals and to monitor organisational performance and the monthly financial reports. The better use of job codes made it easier to assess the financial success of individual activities. Regulatory and reporting requirements were fulfilled, such as financial auditing and lodging of association returns.

Pedal Power has a large number of volunteers, in addition to those on Council, who assist in making Pedal Power a great organisation that gives good service to member, the bike riders and the general community through out the ACT.

## PARTNERSHIPS

### **National Cycling Organisation**

Pedal Power is a member of the Bicycle Federation of Australia, the organisation that represents the interests of recreational cyclists in particular. It is concerned with national matters such as the national road rules, cycling conditions, and of immediate interest, the moves to change the benefits applicable for injuries sustained whilst traveling to and from the workplace. The Cycling Promotion Fund, established by and maintained from funds generated by bicycle sales supports the BFA. It has also directly supported Pedal Power with posters, brochures and showbags suited to various activities that we run.

### **Local Cycling Organisations**

Pedal Power is highly regarded in the cycling community, and has cooperated with Canberra Cycling Club, ACT Vets Cycling Club, CORC and Cycling ACT on committees and events, and especially with the presentation of the Brindabella Challenge. Pedal Power looks forward to further opportunities to build on the alliances already established. Pedal Power is represented on the User Groups Committee for Stromlo Forest Park.

Pedal Power joined with Females in Training (FIT) to give vision impaired men and women a chance to cycle using the FIT tandems. This project may be the only one in Australia where cycling clubs are specifically reaching out to the vision impaired community to offer tandem cycling. Some vision impaired people ride tandem privately but others simply cannot ride. This project offers wider social contacts for vision impaired people through cycling with a larger group.

## Sponsorship

Pedal Power enjoys operational support through substantial grants from Sport and Recreation Services, Health Promotion & Grants Unit. Sponsorship from commercial organisations has been hard to achieve. We have had excellent support with “in kind” sponsorship for events from a number of bike shops and other sponsors. The challenge for 2007 will be to secure some “real” commercial sponsorship. Australian Ethical Investments has recently come forward to sponsor the Big Canberra Bike Ride for 2007, and we are grateful for that support, leading the way for others to also recognise our efforts to get more Canberrans cycling more often.

Continuing support via sponsorship comes from:

- ♦ The Oaks Brasserie Yarralumla offering free coffee and cake to renewing members.
- ♦ The Southern Cross Club hosting our monthly social meetings.
- ♦ The Canberra Tradesmen’s Union Club (The Tradies) for hosting refreshments in the big Canberra Bike Ride
- ♦ The Canberra Bicycle Museum and Resource Centre for hosting Pedal Power Bike maintenance sessions
- ♦ Sports Medicine Australia for attendance at Fitzs and BCBR.



### **Treasurer's Report for the 2006 Financial Year**

Despite our budgetary plans to balance the books in 2006, we incurred a loss of \$10,483 - the third year in succession in which Pedal Power has made a sizeable loss. Pedal Power's equity (assets minus liabilities) declined from \$52,400 in December 2003 to \$15,400 in December 2006.

The main reason for the loss in 2006 was expenditure over-runs especially in executing projects and events. Some events such as Fitz's Challenge returned a healthy surplus. However, some projects, particularly projects funded by tied grants, did not contribute significantly to Pedal Power's indirect costs. Indeed, some project grants did not meet their direct costs.

Revenue from membership fees (\$63,758) made an important contribution to financing Pedal Power. However, these fees represented less than half the core costs of establishing and running Pedal Power. Untied grants (from Sport and Recreation Services and Health Promotion & Grants Unit) contributed a further \$24,000. The future payment of these grants is by no means certain given the budget cut backs by the ACT Government.

### **Improvements in Financial Management**

The Council recognises that Pedal Power cannot afford another significant loss in 2007. Steps have been taken to ensure closer adherence to the budget and to avoid unbudgeted expenditure. Also, careful attention will be paid to the preparation of budgets for projects and events, and to ensure that managers adhere to those budgets. We have also re-structured the contract for the Executive Officer to reduce the impact on Pedal Power's direct costs. Furthermore, we increased membership fees by 10% as from 1 January 2007.

We have introduced a new form of budget control identifying core revenue and costs thereby highlighting the contributions that must be made by events, projects and merchandise to ensure a balanced budget. Sponsorships and increased advertising also offer the potential to increase revenue and help restore Pedal Power to a sound financial position.

Richard Bush  
Treasurer

### **Notes to the Financial Statements**

- 1: Higher membership revenue in 2006 was due in part to a small increase in member numbers (2.5% higher in Dec 2006 than in Dec 2005). The 2006 figure is higher for two other reasons: first, 2005 revenue was unusually low because of the effect of two-year memberships taken out in 2004; and second, 2006 was the first full year of the application of the higher fee to cover accident insurance premiums
- 2: Operational Grants from Sport and Recreation Services, and Health Promotion & Grants Unit.
- 3: Other Grants received from Health Promotion & Grants Unit, Sport and Rec. NRMA ACT Road Safety Trust
- 4: Australian Capital Tourism contract for the Brindabella Challenge, 2005 and 2006
- 5: Includes \$4039 entry fees collected in 2006 on behalf of the Vets (for a management fee)
- 6: Increase in Consultants/Contractors in 2006 due to the appointment of contractors to run grant projects
- 7: Includes events catering covered by entry fees
- 8: All insurance premiums including personal accident
- 9: Cost in 2006 below 2005 because 2 late accounts were paid in 2007

## Audited Financial Statements

### Pedal Power ACT Inc Statement of Financial Performance For the year ended 31 December 2006

		2006	2005	2004
<b>Income</b>				
Membership	1	63758	49794	43685
Corporate Membership		795	614	250
Operational Grant	2	24000	25000	14000
Other Grants	3	42982	27702	18832
Sponsorship			1409	4500
Advertising		2877	2675	1820
Donations		3911	683	305
Discounts Received			0	180
Interest		1360	1658	2095
Other Income		4268	3022	1323
Contracts	4	8250	12941	4545
Sales of Jerseys & T shirts		3614	7232	1682
Sales of Maps & Books		13296	10314	4782
Lockers		3185	1903	1614
Entry Fees	5	46250	37544	22727
Other Sales		227	862	45
Cost of Sales of Jerseys		-3098	-4784	
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>215,675</b>	<b>178,569</b>	<b>122,385</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Lobbyist		12127	11987	13807
Consultants/Contractors	6	31903	8059	54793
SOS Recruitment		29768	28937	
Space Image P/L		51333	44326	
Volunteer Expenses		3133	1077	1244
Travel Expenses		529	831	1524
Other Staff Expenses		198	230	767
Equipment Purchase		1918	1964	2801
Equipment Hire		1784	1453	1268
Software		381	54	4011
Repairs & Maintenance		233	445	0
Transport & Freight		294	415	114
Postage		1806	2280	1612
Maintenance		0	42	0
Telephone/Fax		1317	1597	1353
Internet		1081	659	291
Stationery/Computer Items		2523	3991	992
Printing other than Magazine		6173	6872	6063
Catering	7	3902	6360	3454
Advertising/Marketing		1058	683	1817
Dues & Subscriptions		2745	1325	1353
Donations		1700	1655	1100
Accounting/Audit fees		1090	1040	2387
Bank/Finance/Legal Fees		297	187	288
Merchant Fees & Charges		3519	2999	2583
Insurance	8	17988	13301	8338
Office Rent		5160	3501	3168
Electricity		920	103	175
Venue Hire		3006	6012	5021
Depreciation		325		
Discount Memberships		13		
Other Expenses	5	8962	2408	343
Events Accommodation		7759		
Magazine Printing	9	9533	13391	12645
Magazine Postage & Freight		3788	2992	3035
Cost of Maps/Books		5226	4537	0
Cost of T shirts		2666		
Merchandise Costs			14001	2146
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>226158</b>	<b>189,712</b>	<b>138,493</b>
<b>Net Profit / (Loss)</b>		<b>-10483</b>	<b>-11,143</b>	<b>-16,108</b>

**Pedal Power ACT Inc**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
For the year ended 31 December 2006

	2006	2005	2004
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cheque Account	3146.60	7570.33	9880.36
Cash Management Trust	21629.77	20336.93	33742.77
Cash Float	50.00	50.00	50.00
Petty Cash	50.00	50.00	50.00
Cash Drawer	0.00	0.00	198.00
Trade Debtors	2730.00	5274.77	803.00
Stock on Hand	1000.00	3400.19	0.00
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>28606.37</b>	<b>36682.22</b>	<b>44724.13</b>
<b>Other Assets</b>			
Prepayment of Insurance	4675.00	4484.41	4598.00
Trailers	1424.54		
Bike Tool Kit	2500.00		
Less Accumulated Depreciation	-325.00		
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>8274.54</b>	<b>4484.41</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>36880.91</b>	<b>41166.63</b>	<b>49322.13</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Grants Received in Advance	19274.88	15625.00	11890.00
Deposits Received	300.00	300.00	300.00
Membership in Advance	0.00	0.00	1590.00
Trade Creditors	1350.00	0.00	81.50
GST Collected	5641.66	4628.02	6089.20
GST Paid	-5107.29	-5290.74	-7675.73
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>21459.25</b>	<b>15262.28</b>	<b>12274.97</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>21459.25</b>	<b>15262.28</b>	<b>12274.97</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>15421.66</b>	<b>25904.35</b>	<b>37047.16</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Retained Earnings	25904.35	37047.16	52435.64
Current Year Earnings	-10482.69	-11142.81	-15388.48
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>15421.66</b>	<b>25904.35</b>	<b>37047.16</b>

## INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

To the Members of  
Pedal Power ACT Incorporated  
ABN 98 440 716 821  
For the year ended 31 December 2006

### Scope

I have audited the attached financial report comprising **Statement of Financial Position** as at 31 December 2006 and a **Statement of Financial Performance** for the year ended 31 December 2006 of Pedal Power ACT Incorporated (hereinafter referred to as Pedal Power). Pedal Power's Committee of Management is responsible for the financial report. I have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to its members.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the Committee of Management's financial reporting requirements under Part V of the *Associations Incorporation Act 1991* as amended.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian *Auditing Standards and Auditing Guidance Statements* to provide reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with accounting standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of Pedal Power's financial position, the results of its operations and its cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

### Qualification

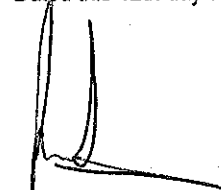
As is common for organisations of this type, it is not practicable for Pedal Power to maintain an effective system of internal control over income until their initial entry in the accounting records. Accordingly, my audit in relation to income was limited to amounts recorded.

### Qualified Audit Opinion

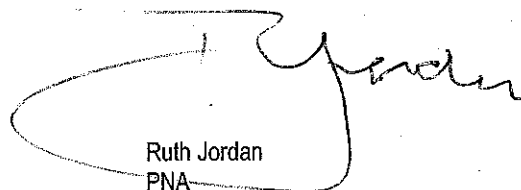
In my opinion, except for the effects of such adjustments, if any, as might have been determined to be necessary had limitation discussed in the qualification paragraph not existed, the attached financial report presents fairly, in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements the financial position of Pedal Power as at 31 December 2006 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended.

In my opinion, the financial report has complied with Part V of the *Associations Incorporation Act 1991* as amended.

Dated this 12th day of January 2007.



Paul Clarkson  
FNTAA



Ruth Jordan  
PNA