

## Missing Cyclepath

Regular riders will be aware of the 'missing' Claremont section of the Perth to Fremantle cyclepath. To the west is the excellent PSP from west of the Claremont Railway Station through to Curtin Avenue in Cottesloe, and to the east another excellent section of PSP from the Loch Street Railway Station through to Shenton Road. Both these paths provide grade separation for bicycles and pedestrians at Aston Avenue, Shenton Road subway and Stirling Road. Unfortunately there is a one kilometre gap between them which requires cyclists to use Shenton Road.

This gap is created by a car park and large shed. The shed occupies the space from the railway to Shenton Avenue and used to be commercially leased but now appears to be a storage yard for railway 'junk'. To the east of the shed is a large roughly surfaced car park that used to be the Claremont railway shunting yards when everything went by rail.

When riding towards Fremantle, this is not too much of a problem as the south side of Shenton Avenue has only access to the station car park to consider, and there are no roads to cross.

However riding towards Perth is significantly more hazardous.

The PSP from Swanbourne ends just short of the junction of Claremont Crescent and Shenton Avenue. During school term this intersection is very busy with parents 4W driving their endangered species (otherwise known as pampered offspring) to and from school, and train commuters (bless them) accessing the western station car park. So joining the traffic flow in Shenton Road takes considerable care and road sense as one looks for a break in the heavy traffic.

Turning into Shenton Road you are immediately faced with a short uphill section which restricts acceleration, an immediate road narrowing from two successive raised median strips/pedestrian refuges, cars turning right into the station car park to the east of the railway station, cars turning left into Davies Road, and a long queue of impatient traffic at the Davies Road stop sign waiting to turn into Shenton Road. This is not an area for a slow or inexperienced cyclist.

There is a footpath on the northern side of Shenton Road, but you still have to get across Shenton Road to reach it, and you are still faced with the (now bigger) problem of crossing the Davies Road intersection. (We all know how car drivers respect pedestrians' rights at intersections.)

On the southern side the footpath is of a reasonable standard, but only goes as far as the median strips, after that is a narrow grass verge. The grass verge ends at one of the entries to the car parks and is

blocked by a Transperth sign.

So why, you may ask, are the two sections not connected? It appears to be a combination of things, but primarily the potential to redevelop the large and usually empty (except for WAFL games at Claremont Oval, Big Day Out, and Royal Shows) car park to the east of the Claremont Railway Station. There is apparently development concern about building a PSP before other 'planning issues' have been resolved, and that the path may have to subsequently be ripped up. Past experience would also lead me to believe that there will be other issues such as funding, council disinterest, Westrail intransigence etc etc.

The reality is that the eastern PSP could be easily and cheaply extended from the showgrounds alongside the railway to the shed, then travel in a 'U' around the shed to rejoin the PSP. The PSP could be defined by a line of bollards (which would also benefit pedestrians) and a strip of bitumen laid across the existing rough surface, which would provide an adequate base.

A safer and more direct route to the shopping centre, Davies Road Swimming Pool and the large number of schools in the western suburbs will benefit all. It may even help towards reducing youth obesity, traffic congestion etc etc.

A small cost with a big benefit.

## Albany Highway to Fremantle Road PSP – Completed April 2005

The 1.5km PSP forms part of the Perth Bicycle Network's Perth-Armadale link and includes a three-metre wide fully fenced shared path with lighting over its entire length. Along the route, a 100-metre long by 4.5 metres wide bridge spans the Canning River. This bridge has been especially designed to cater for cyclists, pedestrians and people using gophers.

The facility provides a convenient and accessible transport route between Gosnells and Maddington, which is a significant safety improvement from the previous route along the side of Albany Highway. The path links to the new Gosnells Train Station and Town Centre.

## Calling all Editors

Do you have a few spare hours each month to compile the Cycling In The West newsletter?

Then we need you!

Anyone interested in helping out please contact Phil in the BTA office on Wednesday or Friday on **9420 7210** or email [bta@multiline.com.au](mailto:bta@multiline.com.au)

## For Sale from BTA

### 'Cycle Instead' t-shirts

*Not available until further notice*

'BTA/Cycle Instead' t-shirts (blue lettering on white)

Members \$10 Non Members \$15

### 'Cycle Instead' shoulder bags

Members \$15 Non Members \$20

**Munda Biddi maps 1 and 2** (they come together in a special plastic case)

*Currently out of stock but more to come*

Members \$12 Non Members \$14.95

### 5th Edition PBN Maps:

#### Individual Maps

Members \$3 Non Members \$5

#### Set of 5 Maps

Members \$12 Non Members \$20

*Contact BTA during office hours for details.*

*Please note postage is extra on all items.*

## Dear Editor

Just a quick note to let you all know that the City of Perth Great Bike Ride is on again and will be bigger and better than ever with over 5,000 entrants expected.

The revamped website is up and running and entries will open next month (August).

The City of Perth have shown their support by increasing their support of the event. Many other stake holders are continuing their support of the ride as well.

We are raising money for the Heart Foundation and the Lighthouse Foundation.

This year the ride will be timed and we are planning to extend the course to include Fremantle.

There will be a lot more happening at the start/finish area at Supreme Court Gardens.

The committee is working on a bike expo, a WACF race + criterium, better catering, a short course for families and we are of course looking for entrants, teams, sponsors, marshals and other volunteers to assist.

If you wish to get involved then look for the relevant contacts on the "contact us" webpage.

We invite all other sporting clubs and cycling groups to come and join the challenge to ride as teams and individuals.

Please promote this to your friends, colleagues, club members etc to make this a great event. Looking forward to seeing you all there again.

*Mark Hannaford*

*Rotary Club of St George's*

[www.greatbikeride.com.au](http://www.greatbikeride.com.au)

