



new zealand centre for

Sustainable Cities

te pokapū rōnaki tāone-nui



SEMINAR SERIES

Put me back on my bike

Professor Alistair Woodward is Head of the School of Population Health at the University of Auckland. He is interested in opportunities to re-shape urban transport systems to reduce pollution, increase energy efficiency and improve health. The bicycle appears to have much in its favour, so with colleagues, he is carrying out research into the health risks and benefits of cycling, trends in cycling and reasons for the large changes that have occurred, the trip to work, and public attitudes towards the urban cyclist.

New Zealanders are spending more time travelling, in every mode of transport, except one – cycling. Serious injury rates per hour on the road are falling for every mode of transport, except one – cycling. Regional comparisons point to a powerful “risk in scarcity” effect, the opposite of “safety in numbers”, and adverse trends are most marked for children and young adults.

However at the same time recreational cycling is booming, the lycra brigade is challenging motorists’ sense of entitlement to road space, and novel initiatives to bring bikes back to school are picking up momentum. There is robust evidence of the benefits of shifting short trips from car to bike for energy efficiency, pollution and health, but this won’t happen unless there are serious changes in pricing, politics and road user psychology.

Friday, 23 July, 12:30 -1:30pm

NIWA,

41 Market Place,
The Viaduct Harbour. Auckland

www.sustainablecities.org.nz

