

13 April 2007

Dear Editor,

The current Coronial Inquest into the death of Mr James Gould, who died when struck by a cyclist whilst crossing Beach Road in August last year, provides a timely reminder to all road users, and cyclists in particular, of the importance of obeying the road rules.

Stopping at red lights is not optional. We all rely on each other to follow this rule. Every cyclist has an individual responsibility to stop for a red light, regardless of what other riders or bunch members may do. Cyclists are permitted to ride two abreast and three abreast when passing. Riding three, four or even five abreast is both rude and unlawful.

Our organisations wish to commend the responsible road behaviour of the majority of cyclists. We support those who are setting the example by promoting high standards in their riding groups. We call on the minority who think that the road rules do not apply to cyclists, to think again and change their behaviour. The few who break the law diminish community respect for the majority of law abiding cyclists.

We strongly support the police in their enforcement of traffic regulations on all road users including cyclists.

In the long run it is the community's shared commitment to look out for each other on the roads that will make the difference, and we are confident that cyclists will contribute to this important goal through their behaviour on the roads.

Only responsible road use by everyone will ensure the road toll is reduced and mutual respect achieved between all road users.

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