

## GRAFTON - A CITY FOR CYCLISTS

The City of Grafton is made for easy cycling. Situated on riverflats beside the mighty Clarence River, the city spreads out with kilometres of level, smooth roads in every direction.

Cycling has always been a popular form of transport (and sport) in Grafton and the city has been planned to accommodate the needs of the cyclist with designated cycleways along many streets and below the main carriageway of the Grafton Bridge.

Getting around by bicycle is one of the best ways to explore the City of Grafton and surrounds. Cycling is also a healthy alternative to driving, keeping the cyclist fit and, at the same time, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and reliance on fuels.

Many of Grafton's streets run right to the river's edge and there are some beautiful riverbank parks on both sides of the river for picnicking and resting.

Grafton has been described as 'a city of tree-lined streets and graceful old buildings'. It is a place where heritage really matters and visiting cyclists should drop into the Visitor Information Centre in South Grafton (map ref.D5) for some information on the historic buildings and Grafton's rich history. The Visitor Information Centre can also provide information on events, accommodation, restaurants, entertainment, sport and attractions.

Notable historic features include Christ Church Cathedral in Duke St (map ref.D7), Grafton Gaol in Hoof St (map ref.D9), the wreck of the Induna (map ref.D6) and a visit to Schaeffer House Museum in Fitzroy St (map ref.C7) is highly recommended.

Grafton Regional Gallery in Fitzroy St (map ref.C7) occupies another fine old building, Prentice House (1880) and is another must-see. The gallery has been described as one of the outstanding regional art galleries in Australia.

There are thousands of trees in Grafton and each Spring the Jacaranda Festival celebrates the flowering of the tree which gives Grafton the title of the 'Jacaranda City'. Cyclists should visit Jacaranda Avenue (map ref.C7) Fig Tree Avenue (map ref.E6) and See Park arboretum (Map ref.C8) for the best tree experiences. A cycle tour of Grafton would not be complete without a ride over the bridge. The views from the bridge cycleway (underneath the carriageway) are truly spectacular, with sunset over Susan Island an experience to remember. For detailed information on Grafton and surrounds contact:

Clarence River Tourism  
Pacific Highway, South Grafton NSW 2460  
p 02 6642 4677 f 02 6643 1924  
e [contactus@clarence tourism.com](mailto:contactus@clarence tourism.com)



## CYCLE TOURS

### Grafton Heritage Tour

Start at Grafton Post Office in Victoria St (in the historic Court House precinct). Proceed westwards along Victoria St then right (northwards) into Mary St. Go along to the High School, then turn left (westwards) into Fry St, right (northwards) into Alice St then along to Hoof St and turn right (southwards) into Hoof St left (eastwards) passing the Grafton Gaol, return southwards via Clarence St left into Oliver St then right (southwards) into Kent St and under viaduct to Fitzroy St and then right back onto Victoria St and back to the Post Office to complete the circuit. (Approx. 4 km)

Other areas of interest to cyclists in this vicinity might be Corcoran Park (northern end of Villiers St), the Fig Trees in Breimba St (southern end) and the Grafton Road and Rail bridge over the Clarence River.

### South Grafton Rail/Road Bridge Tour

Start at Grafton Post Office, cycle eastwards along Victoria St then left (north) into Clarence St and then right (east) into Fitzroy St then onto the lower deck of the Clarence River Road/Rail Bridge (use upstream side for cycleway). At the end of the bridge turn right into Riverside Drive and ride to Through St. Turn right into Through St and then left into Skinner St, the heart of south Grafton. Head south along Skinner St to Ryan St and turn left and then left again into Wharf St. Ride north along Wharf St then right into Through St and left into Riverside Drive (this takes you back onto the bridge) (Approx. 3 km).



### Around Grafton

There are many options for longer rides around Grafton. These include:

- ❑ The Junction Hill Loop. Extend the Grafton Heritage tour and make use of the off-road cycleway to Junction Hill. (10km return)
- ❑ The Great Marlow Circuit to Southgate (20km, 25km or 29km options)
- ❑ The Eatonsville Loop along Glen Innes Road to Waterview Heights and onto Eatonsville (31km return).
- ❑ McPhersons Crossing. Ride along Rushforth Road to Coutts Crossing then return via Armidale Road (40km total).

These and other tours are listed in the cycle touring book 'Cycling around Grafton and Clarence Valley Area' by Craig Bellamy, available at the Clarence Regional Library.

## CYCLING RULES

1. Cyclists must use the marked cycle lane unless it is impracticable to do so.
2. Cyclists must not ride across a road on a children's crossing or a marked pedestrian crossing.
3. Children under 12 years and older riders accompanying them may ride a bicycle on the footpath unless specifically prohibited by signs. Riders must keep to the left and give way to pedestrians.
4. Cyclists 12 years and over cannot use the footpath unless it is signposted as a shared footpath. Cyclists 12 years and over are required to use roads or cycle ways.
5. Cyclists must not cause a traffic hazard by moving into the path of a driver or pedestrian.
6. Approved bicycle helmets MUST be worn properly and securely fastened.
7. Riders of cycles must always have at least one effective brake and a bell, horn or similar warning device in working order.
8. When riding at night, cyclists must always have a flashing or steady light front and rear visible for 200m and a red reflector on the rear of the cycle.
9. It is desirable to wear bright or light coloured clothing and reflective material to be more visible to motorists.



Full legal requirements and rules for cyclists are detailed in the Australian Road Rules 1999.

Further information is available from Police, Roads and Traffic Authority or local Council on the requirements for cycling safely.

## ON ROAD RIDING

With over 11 kilometres of 'off road' cycle ways and shared use paths in Grafton, cyclists are encouraged to avoid on-road riding on major roads.

When riding on the road cyclists need to :-

- ✓ Wear a correctly fitted and properly secured helmet.
- ✓ Choose quiet streets where possible.
- ✓ Stop before entering traffic flow and give way to motorists and pedestrians.
- ✓ Keep to the left, like other traffic.
- ✓ Ride in a straight line, about one metre from the edge of the road.
- ✓ Do not weave in and out of parked cars.
- ✓ Give way at pedestrian crossings.



## BIKE SAFETY

### Protection

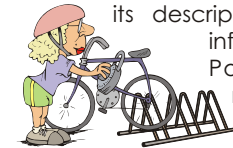
Wear bright clothing as it makes you more visible to other road users. Also wear suitable shoes as they will offer some protection.

Guard against the sun by using sunscreen and wearing sunglasses. It is also a good idea to carry and drink plenty of water when cycling.

### Security

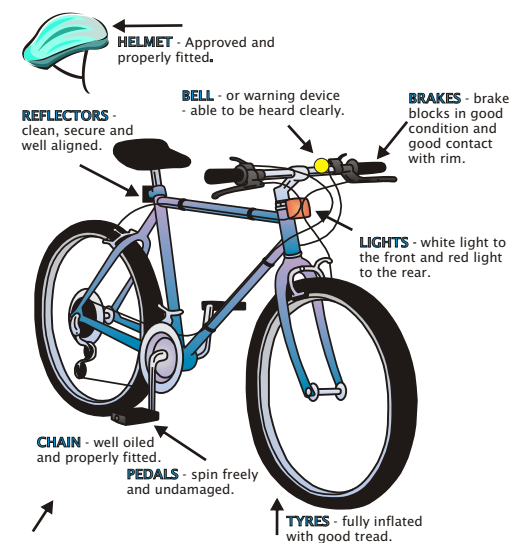
When leaving your bicycle, you should secure it to an immovable object with a specially designed bike lock or a chain and padlock.

Have your bicycle engraved and keep a record of its description and serial number. This information is required by the Police should your bike go missing.



### Bike Safety Checklist

There are many working parts on a bicycle and all should be regularly checked. The diagram below will help you identify these parts.



## Remember.....

It is mandatory for all bicycles to have a warning device (eg a bell), at least one working brake and lights and reflectors fitted, if ridden at night.



This cycling guide is part of a community initiative developed by Clarence Valley Council and supported by The North Coast Area Health Service Health Promotion, Clarence River Tourism and the Roads & Traffic Authority (Road Safety Program).  
Photographs by Marilyn Swain 2009



CYCLING IN THE CITY OF GRAFTON



