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## Transport with benefits: Urban bikes and cargo bikes

Pedal power is making a come back, with Dutch bike-maker Gazelle, releasing its new range of urban bikes in Australia.

Holland is known as the world's capital of cycling and Gazelle is the country's No. 1 brand, making high-quality city bikes for more than 115 years.

A spokesman for the Australian importer of Gazelle bikes, based at Matraville, said urban bikes were the new trend.

"All the bike manufacturers are not selling more racing bikes, they're not selling more mountain bikes. The next huge trend is urban bikes — using bikes as a transport

tool and all the bicycle manufacturers are just starting to wake up to the fact there's huge potential here," he said.

More and more people are ditching the car for the healthier two-wheeled option. Recent studies by the Australian Bureau of Statistics show, in the past year alone, the number of bicycles on major commuter routes across the country has risen by 10 to 30 per cent and cycling just 10km each way to work would save 1.3 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions each year.

The maximum-capacity cargo 'Cabbie' bike has become popular in Holland for hauling kids and shopping over short trips, the Gazelle spokesman said.

"The Cabbie is obviously quite unique because it's a cargo bike, so you can either carry up to two kids on

### It's a fact



#### A scrap of difference

47 per cent of Australia's household waste is made up of organic waste like food scraps.



Gazelle part-owner Alexander Howse takes his son Joey for a spin on the Cabbie Bike.

Photo: ERIN BYRNE

the bench seat, plus groceries, or you can take the seat out for a heavy load," he said.

"Fifty per cent of journeys in the car are under 3km, so a lot of those trips could be done on a bike. If you look at the cars on the road you would probably find a majority of them only have one occupant.

"The number of times I've seen a person get out of a car and walk into a shop and come back with a litre of milk and drive off. I think, well, did you have to haul a 1500kg piece of metal to do that?"

Randwick Council is encouraging more people to hop on a bike with its ongoing bicycle plan which seeks to improve links to key destinations such as the University of NSW, Coogee and Maroubra and to establish a practical works program for cycling infrastructure.

Gazelle Cycle Imports is at 35 Raymond Avenue, Matraville.

## Leading lights

### Festive season green guide

Planet Ark and Australia Post launched a new campaign, titled Festive Recycling, today to replace the Cards 4 Planet Ark campaign, which started in 1994.

Now that 90 per cent of Australian households can recycle their cards through their kerbside collections, Planet Ark and Australia Post are working together to encourage Australians to consider the wider range of items and materials that can be recycled between Christmas and Australia Day, and throughout the year.

"Australians are to be congratulated on their recycling efforts, with the vast majority of us now utilising kerbside recycling bins for our paper, cardboard, bottles and cans," Planet Ark CEO Sean Barrett said.

"The Festive Recycling campaign will show people how to reduce their impact on the environment, and save money at a time of year when we traditionally buy more, waste more, travel more, and use more energy and water."

Download the Festive Season Green Guide from [www.festiverecycling.planetark.org](http://www.festiverecycling.planetark.org).

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