

I've been commuting mainly by bicycle for nearly forty years. In that time I've been knocked off my bike by cars three times, luckily no serious injury – just a dodgy knee. Only one of those collisions would have been on record (hospital visit – the knee). I have fallen quite a few times but getting hit by a car is another level of hurt. These days I usually stick to bike paths as much as possible to reduce the risk and also to enjoy more pleasant surrounds. Nevertheless I have to cross some roads and part of my commute is on city streets.

The things I'm feeling most threatened by are:

- Vehicles driving too fast around corners.
- Vehicles not using indicators.
- Vehicles driving too fast through roundabouts.
- Roundabout indicator confusion.
- Being “shaved” too close by passing traffic.
- Cars exiting car parks not watching out at all for bikes on bike path.
- Aggressive driver attitude where “right of way” means the right to flatten the foot on the accelerator.

Some specific examples are:

- Bike path crossing Braybrooke Street, where cars turning left off Ginninderra Drive often don't indicate, and don't slow down enough, crossing double lines and using the two lanes to avoid slowing down. I've had drivers toot at me for being there but there just isn't enough time from when it is clear, to get across both lanes after having slowed to walking pace to check. It is also difficult to attend to eastbound traffic turning right on to Braybrooke. A more visible crossing with mandatory speed limit is required.
- Riding straight through a roundabout and overtaken by a 4WD on the right which then turned left swerving across my path and forced me to brake hard.
- Not seen at all by driver stopped at roundabout who accelerated when I was directly in front of them – in daylight with my flashy light on.
- St. Joseph's car park exits/entrances cross the bike path along Boronia Drive. I recently had to swerve off the path to avoid being hit by a car. There should be lines and give way signs with cyclists riding straight through having right of way. The cars have to give way entering Boronia Drive so it is little hindrance to slow down three metres sooner.

Less of an issue but of concern is “road furniture” such as where the carriageway width is reduced at a roundabout meaning you have no shoulder and have to take the lane. In some situations this is not very visible from a distance and suddenly you have nowhere to go.

Also I have seen crazy behaviour by some people riding bikes so I do acknowledge it is not just about motorists.

For the record I would like to note that with young adults in our family for some years now we have had three cars registered and it is very irksome when spurious claims are made about cyclists not paying for the roads.

Thanks for this opportunity to share my experiences and concerns.

Peter Lavers

