

New bike fashion bylaw socks it to 'em

BY AMIR KATT

A NEW bylaw making socks and full-length pants mandatory will be introduced after a spate of injuries on fixed-gear bikes in Fitzroy, Northcote and Brunswick.

Yadda Yadda and Lessland councils flagged the new law after a rash of 15 hospital admissions involving life-threatening lacerations to the ankle region.

In one instance, a 29-year-old man also irreparably stained a pair of white moleskin ankle boots as he bled profusely from his fixie-inflicted wound.

Northcote resident Roland Smoke defended his fashion choice. "My ankle was cut, sure – but that was nothing compared to the pain of ruining my \$290 pair of ankle boots."

Lessland mayor Coco Cabanna and Yadda Yadda mayor Alice Later denied claims on-the-spot fines were just another means of raising funds for council coffers.

"Public safety is our priority. These bikes, in combination with certain fashion choices, pose a health and safety hazard."

Brunswick's Anita Highpants, who was injured when her ankle was caught in the rear cog of her 700c yellow Peugeot fixed-gear bike, said she would resist any attempt to force her to wear longer pants.

"It's a denigration of my human rights. Who do they think they are? Just because they don't care about expressing their inner passion through fashion."

Freedom Fighters Victoria president Vital Peace said the group would challenge any restriction of civil liberties posed by the introduction of draconian fashion laws. "Councils cannot mandate what citizens wear. Fitzroy residents have every right to combine boat shoes and short chinos while riding fixies."

The vote will be put to both councils in the following weeks.

Paint job angers mural fans

BY TANYA TAGGER

KEITH Haring's iconic Collingwood mural has been accidentally repainted by council workers.

Conservationists who arrived to restore the mural on Monday were shocked to discover half of it had been erased.

At first, Collingwood police suspected vandals, but MTW understands council cleaners tasked with cleaning up graffiti are to blame.

The same cleaners are also believed to have erased Banksy's parachuting rat stencil in Hosier Lane two years ago.

Haring, the late internationally acclaimed New York street artist, painted the mural on the wall of the former Collingwood Technical College in 1984, on his only visit to Australia. It is one of the last untouched Haring murals in the world.

A red-faced City of Yadda Yadda spokesman declined to comment on the incident. The council could face a hefty fine from Heritage Victoria for damaging the heritage-listed mural, and foot the bill to restore it. The mural had

faded over 27 years, sparking a fierce debate in recent years about how it should be preserved.

Arts Minister and Premier Ted Faillieu – who had committed more than \$1 million to preserve the mural in its current state – was furious about the incident, an Arts Victoria official said.

Fans of the mural who have campaigned for it to be restored were also dismayed. Save Keith Haring Mural spokesman Art L'Ver said: "We pleaded

with the authorities to repaint the mural to bring it back to life. This was not what we had in mind."

Conservationist Livinia Past suggested the erasure may have been a "deliberate ploy" by Haring fans angry at the state government's refusal to repaint the mural.

Haring Foundation director Rich Patron said: "It is very distressing to see Keith's work – and priceless artwork like Banksy – treated as rubbish."



BRING IN THIS AD FOR A FURTHER 10% OFF OUR PRICES

THE SHOEHOUSE WAREHOUSE

BACK TO SCHOOL SHOES

CLARKS, HARRISON, WILDE, THOMAS COOK

MANY MORE STYLES INSTORE



OUR PRICE \$99.95

CLARKS - DAYTONA
RRP \$120 BLACK & BROWN



OUR PRICE \$89.95

CLARKS - BRANDON
RRP \$99.95 BLACK & BROWN



OUR PRICE \$79.95

CLARKS - RAPTURE
RRP \$89.95 BLACK & BROWN



OUR PRICE \$79.95

CLARKS - REWARD
RRP \$89.95 BLACK & BROWN



OUR PRICE \$79.95

HARRISON - IDAHO
RRP \$89.95 BLACK & BROWN



OUR PRICE \$89.95

HARRISON - INDIANA
RRP \$99.95 BLACK & BROWN



OUR PRICE \$89.95

HARRISON - IOWA
RRP \$99.95 BLACK & BROWN



OUR PRICE \$59.95

WILDE - JIZZRA
BLACK & BROWN



OUR PRICE \$59.95

WILDE - JENNY
BLACK & BROWN



OUR PRICE \$69.95

THOMAS COOK - ROWDY
BLACK

9489 6666

THE SHOEHOUSE WAREHOUSE
324 DAREBIN RD FAIRFIELD

HOURS
MON - FRI 9.00-5.00 SAT 9.00-4.00
WE ACCEPT EFTPOS, VISA, MASTERCARD