

## BEDRIDDEN PATIENTS' VIRTUAL AID

Heather McNab

A HEADSET and camera is all it will take to transport a patient from their hospital bed to the top of Mt Everest thanks to cutting-edge virtual reality technology developed at the City of Sydney.

The AIOD uses a video stream to create a stereoscopic experience of a significant event - a wedding, a graduation, a birthday - on a camera with eight different inputs. These streams are stitched together to create a 360-degree video.

The idea, developed by Sydney Human Factors Research principal research fellow Dr Hamish MacDougall (pictured) and Royal Prince Alfred Hospital biomedical engineer Leigh McGarvie, won a \$40,000 grant at the Sydney Innovation and Research Symposium this year.

The funds will go towards the purchase of 10 headsets and cameras, and paying a research assistant. Once the idea passes ethical testing, RPA hospital staff will be able to nominate patients who might benefit from the initiative.

Dr MacDougall said virtual reality was just "hacking the normal inputs" of the brain to create computer-generated sensations.



ST PETERS

# Cyclists fast becoming a park nuisance

Heather McNab

CYCLISTS have been reminded to slow down on shared paths at Sydney Park after a pedestrian reported a series of close calls.

Erskineville resident Kendall Horrocks, who regularly visits the St Peters park with her dog, said "hoons" had taken to using hills for racing, forcing other park users and their dogs out of the area.

Ms Horrocks called for cycling to be banned on footpaths in the park and for the City of Sydney to take a firmer stance on regu-

lating the action of cyclists.

Ms Horrocks said allowing cyclists "free licence to ride on footpaths and in parks (means) they have become an even more dangerous menace - especially to people with disabilities, the aged, our children both human and canine".

Her dog has been hit twice by cyclists in the park and she has reported several near-misses to herself to the council.

Cyclists using roadways must adhere to a speed limit but these restrictions do not apply on shared paths - such as those in Sydney Park -



Cyclists have been singled out for bad behaviour in Sydney Park.

leaving pedestrians at the mercy of individual bike riders.

"Putting bicycles on foot-path detours through public

parks just makes walking (along) them a nightmare of constant near-misses and you are just always on edge," Ms Horrocks said.

She added that cyclists also failed to alight from their bikes along Bama Way, a green space adjacent to Sydney Park, as required by City signage.

A City spokesman said despite there being no speed limits on shared paths, "people riding should travel slowly and be ready to stop, as people on foot always have the right of way on shared paths".

Rangers regularly patrolled the area.

"With 40ha of green space, Sydney Park is hugely popular with children, families, people riding, running, dog

walkers and local residents - and there should be room enough for everyone," the spokesman said.

Shared paths in and around Sydney Park were there to help less confident bike riders, the spokesman said.

Ms Horrocks said in light of some cyclists' behaviour, tougher penalties should be introduced for those flouting the rules.

She also supported the introduction of bike user registration, as well as numberplates for cyclists in order to easily identify offenders.

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