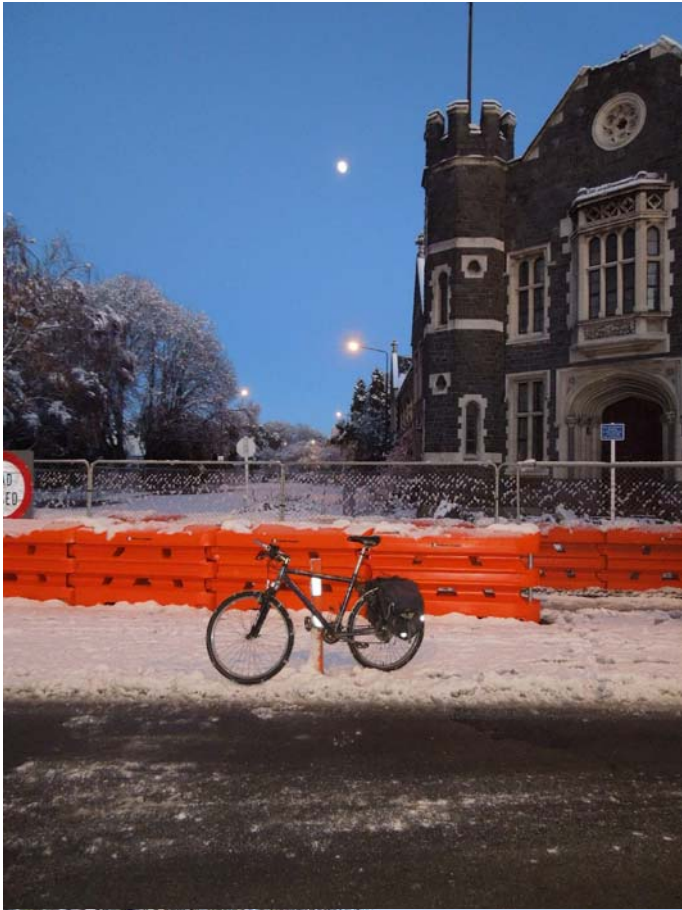


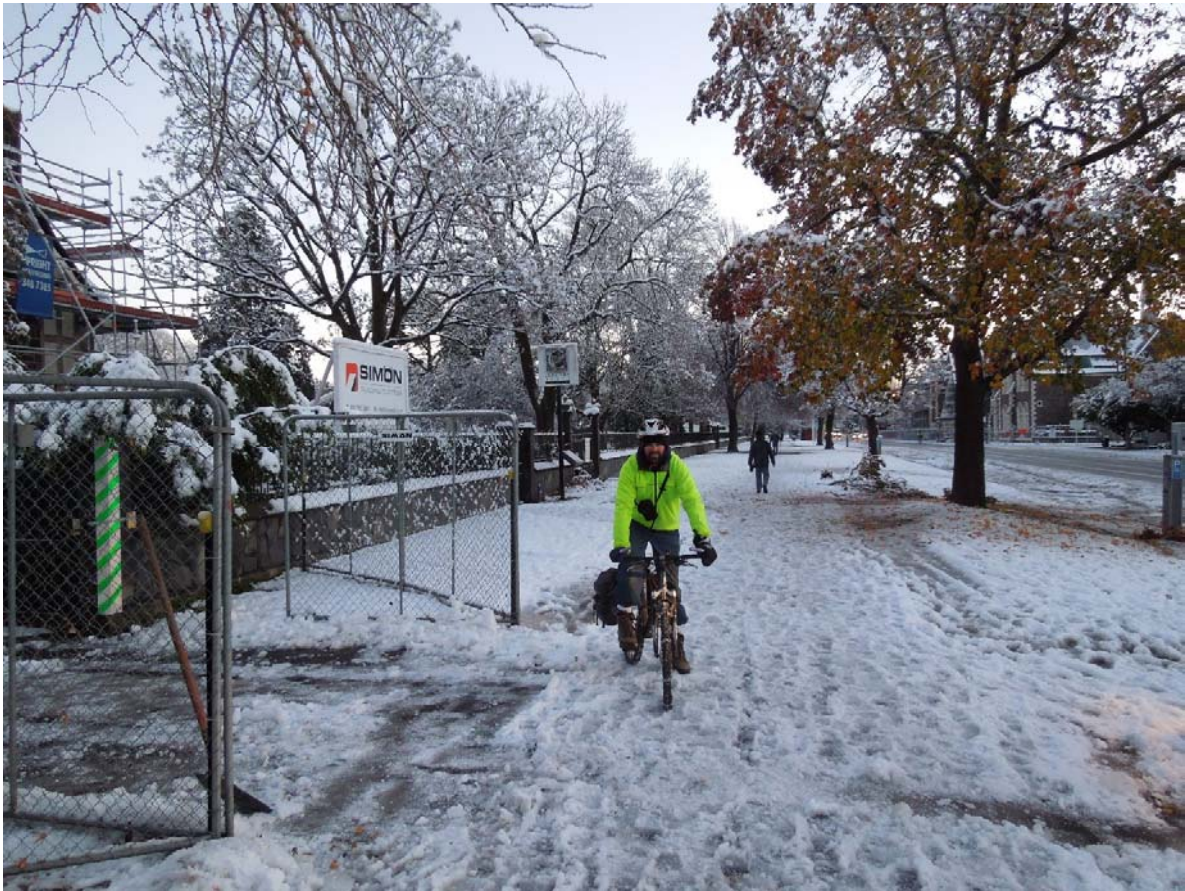
## Bike snow chains by Steve Muir 7/6/2012

Another big snow in Christchurch, then a hard overnight freeze meant a lot of treacherous ice on the roads. Previously I've used my mountain bike and stuck to the busy roads where cars have worn the ice down a bit, but that means sharing a narrow strip of road in the dark with cars that may or may not be able to brake effectively and are likely to have limited visibility – not usually a pleasant experience. Intersections are still a major problem where snow has banked up and often I had to get off and walk to make it through. Now I have made my own snow chains I can take my usual route down the much quieter Peterborough Street and along Hagley Park. There was a lot of black ice and frozen snow, but with the chains fitted I didn't feel the wheel slip even a tiny bit and thoroughly enjoyed the crisp morning with setting moon over snow laden trees and the not so scenic earthquake demolitions.









## Instructions for making your own chains

Chains can be made with a couple of meters of welded-link chain from a hardware store, old brake cables or stainless steel wire and some crimps/ferrules. Cut between 15 and 18 short lengths of chain just long enough to go across the knobby tread on your tyres, usually 3 or 4 links depending on the size of chain you are using. If the chain is too big or long it can hit the frame of the bike particularly on the rear wheel so check it out on the tyre before all the cutting. Cut a length of wire 194-195 cm long that goes either side of the 26x1.95" knobby tyre. Thread the wire through the chain links and crimp the wire into a loop using two crimps to ensure it holds well. Deflate the tyre and fit the chains over it. This is a bit fiddly and a clamp is very helpful, to hold one point on while you fiddle with the rest. Once the chains are on and evenly spaced around the tyre, inflate the tyre. If the size is right the brake callipers should clear the side wires fine and you're ready to go. Good crimps and stainless wire are available from Gourock fishing supplies in Christchurch.