



Bicycles For Humanity .com

Bicycles for Humanity, Melbourne: Activity Report December 2008 – May 2010

December 2008

Bicycles for Humanity, Melbourne became an **Incorporated Association** on 15th December 2008 with the wonderful pro bono help of Adrian Murray from Minter Ellison.

We then opened our bank account with Westpac and Matt and Anna became signatories.

Matt developed incredible website : www.bicyclesforhumanity.com

Matt produced fundraising Gift Donation cards for Xmas which were very successful and also generic version which are still available online.

January 2009

Andy and family fortunate to travel to Namibia: met Michael Linke and Okathitu BEC family, Hilya and Father Lazarus

Knog became our first major sponsor and became the naming behind the Knog Bicycle Roundup for our first container collection.

Source Property Group and Brenton Angel kindly donated the use of a site as the location of our first container in Brunswick.

Media resources used for advertising first container included Local Leader newspapers, RRR.

Databases used for advertising mailouts include; Telstra, Madwoman, Bicycle Superstores, Vic Super, Flexicar, Origin, Human Powered Cycles, Engineers Without Borders, Seek, Medibank, Westpac, Officeworks, Commuter Cycles, Vic Govt (Environment, Social Justice network heads, cycle reps), Local Bicycle User Groups, facebook

Fantastic Everyday Heroes raised money to help fund first container; David Henderson/Adrian Emilson/Isobel King/Chris Noone (Cole Classic swim), Noah

Bergel/Lucy Minter/Harry (cycled Sydney to Melbourne 10/12/08), Vidi/Andy/Doug Gibson (Melbourne Marathon 10/08), Matt/Shane (Round the Bay bike ride 11/08), Parichard Keogh (Sydney Morning Herald Half Marathon 17/5/09), Henry Coles (City to Surf 9/8/09), Kate Allen/Harriet Morley (Run Melbourne 28/6/09)

Heroes thanked with Knog bags

March 2009

Packing weekend 21st / 22nd March: Total 405 bikes, 700 Knog bags, 3 computers, 1 frisbee

Fabulous support from; Bicycle Victoria through Kath Clifton, Crumpler, Gibson Freight, Cycling Secrets, Kitty Fisher, Kookaburra, , RRR, Madman (stickers for bikes), Future Canvas (Emily), Aaron (Painted container)

Wonderful 20+ volunteers co-ordinated by Ylva. Especially Human Powered who triaged bikes.

Victorian bushfires impacted our collection initially by some bikes being donated to affected areas, but a few excess bikes found their way to our container.

Olivia Appleby documented packing of container and produced fabulous documentary

June 2009

'Owen' Container sets sail for Namibia and ABC documents final packing and closure. Shipping organised through Vanguard Logistics Services.

Enquiry from Warburton Youth Arts Program in Western Australia (Ben Fox) : Was decided that the impact a BEC would have in the region would not be as great as Africa. May be able to supply a few bikes but need more information about their aims and bike transport issues.

Everyday heroes raised funds for second container; Monique Smith, Kathryn Willmore, Lisa Punzet, Weelim Bay (City to Surf 9/8/09), Naomi Hansar (10km Gold Coast Marathon 5/7/09)

Sydney B4H Chapter established and Everyday Heroes siphoned to NSW; Reid McNamara, Geoff Buchanan, Stewart O'Brien, Ulrika Saar

August 2009

Mount Scopus Year 4's raise funds through 'Volunteering' Unit

Premiere of Olivia's documentary, screening of Matt's animation and thankyou party for sponsors / volunteers at Loop.

Arrival container in Opuwo.

Michael Linke unwell so slight delay in instigating project. Edward Wynimko, through Namibian Red Cross, oversees Kaoko BEC.

Bicycle Superstores join as major supporter by providing a drop off point for bikes at their stores. Matt starts hiring truck, doing rounds of stores and picking up bikes.

NAB discrepancy in Andy bank account: Outcome NAB sponsors \$500

September 2009

Contacted by Red Cross as using their 'red cross' in our logo. Paddy changed to Green.

Tan/Jen, The Voyagers, leave on fundraising adventure Melbourne to Cairns – raise main proportion of funds for second container. Bags produced and sponsored by St Kilda Cycles / PositivePromoProducts to help raise funds.

Discussions with Warren Mills and team of mechanics: B4H team agrees that second container will be prepared in partnership with Overnewton College and sent to Chibobo orphanage in Serenje, Zambia.

Brenton has to relocate from Brunswick so search to find new storage begins.

Article published in Brunetti's online newsletter.

Ylva organised Certificates of Appreciation for sponsors.

Matt spoke to Vic Super in association with Ride to Work day.

October 2009

Andy spoke to Bicycle Touring Group at Trades Hall

November 2009

B4H becomes a publicity partner for the Melbourne Bicycle Film Festival. Olivia's doco and Matt's animation screened. Andy and Ylva promote B4H and collect bikes at the Street Party. Matt and Ylva represent the B4H team as part of a panel to discuss bikes in Africa after the closing night feature, Where Are You Go. Other panellists from Lonely Planet, including Tony Wheeler, discuss the Tour d'Afrique.

Approached by Inspired Adventures to run fundraising cycle trip in Namibia. Discussed and researched in full. This decided against due to uncertainty about the demographic/market for the trip and our ability to promote the trip effectively, as well as the financial and reputational risk to B4H Melbourne at this stage of our development. Additionally, an Italian ride is possibly on the agenda together with other B4H chapters in Canada, specifically Ottawa.

Vidi Chandra runs NY Marathon

Andy does own Tri (10km run, 210km ride, 50km walk)

December 2009

Michael Linke visits Melbourne. Discussions about BEN Namibia's need for greater sponsorship to ensure survival of organisation as growing so rapidly.

January 2010

Storage issue sorted thanks to Vic Urban – after obtaining insurance, B4H allowed to use the Goods Shed in Docklands.

Matt spoke to students at Overnewton College. Also had collection day and collected 75 bikes.

Ylva spoke to Dept of Transport.

Avant cards sponsored and distributed.... Good result with increased web traffic.

February 2010

Deakin University Burwood Ride to Uni day – Andy & Ylva promote B4H.

Discussions re need for owning own trailer and Warren to hopefully modify.

March 2010

Second container Packing Day 6th March : Container filled with 365 bikes (and 1 frisbee!!) in one day complete with rain, hail and sunshine. Space left for engineers to pack tools and gantry system as well as few clothes / knitting items collected by Overnewton College.

Great volunteers organised by Ylva

Container transported to church site in Keilor to await final fitting with gantry system.

Matt had discussions with Gold Cross. Possible partnership opportunity with respect to bike collection, Vic and QLD, as well as overseas freighting.

Interview by ABC TV, Can We Help, new segment called Helpers. Awaiting airplay scheduled for May 2010.

Decision made to sell bikes that are not suited to African conditions to help raise funds for overall projects. Web site modified to reflect this.

New Everyday Hero, David Cann (Escape from Alcatraz Tri 4/5/10)

April 2010

Possible opportunity with Worksafe to develop collection partnership.

Ylva's friends Andy & Katie help out with interim storage problem allowing us to use a corner of their shed in Nth Fitzroy. Huge thanks!!

Space for third container secured - to be stored in Yarraville, courtesy again of Brenton Angel.

New Everyday Heroes; Joel Murray, Fiona Nielsen, Emma Rowe, Caroline Rosenberg, Janet Bramble, Alistair Wenn, Jeff Goldfinch (Run Melbourne 18/7/10), Anna (Completion Lamp!!), Paulius Kviecinskas (Cycling Perth to Melbourne 4500km in 6 weeks Oct '10)

Update on the status of the Kaoko BEC by Edward A. Wymimko as of April 30, 2010. The Kaoko Bicycle Shop is doing very well. The mechanics are very able to continue on with the project on their own. As of now there are two people who will "look after" the project. A Peace Corps Volunteer, Anika Pinkstaff, will help Rauna with the reporting as needed and Florence Nunes, a staff member of Red Cross - Kunene Region will assist when needed. I feel after a few more months, and after a refresher training, which is scheduled for June or July, the shop will be totally self sufficient. As for the actual container. It has finished its modifications and the sign has been installed. The container is in the process of being painted now. (Total Bikes Sold: 235, Total Left in Stock: 153, Total Bikes Donated: 16, Total Money Donated to Opuwo OVC Class: N\$ 9,136.00, Total Money Earned: N\$ 79,625.35)

FUTURE DIRECTIONS:

Looking into possibly being involved with Cambodian Children's Trust; East Timor

Plans to investigate benefits of replicating the BEN model with respect to indigenous Australian groups / Asia Pacific regions

Possible partner opportunities with HIV / AIDS organisations

Continued communications with BEN Namibia to gauge their ongoing needs

Andy Gild, May 2010