



Bicycles For Humanity .com

Bicycles for Humanity, Melbourne: 2018 Activity Report

12/11/18

December 2017 - November 2018

Committee

President: Andy Gild

Vice President: Mary-Jane Willis

Secretary: Gary Chan

Treasurer: Dean Kennedy

Regular members: Anne Chan, Phil Van Staveren, Peter Shanley

Overview

2018 has been a huge year for B4H, Melbourne as we continue to work towards a legacy that my co-founder Matt McCullough would be proud of. Matt is an ever present force, sitting on our shoulders, as we continue to strive towards our goals.

One of the most important developments this year has seen our increased support of our major in-country partner, **Michael Linke** and BEN Namibia. This has been possible through the establishment of the BEST program, enabled by generous donations through our partnership with the **Intrepid Foundation**, to ensure greater sustainability of the workshops in Namibia. We also thank the Intrepid Group for their support in donating our major prize in

our Melbourne to Namibia challenge and for their staff's volunteer support in almost getting our Cycle Namibia Trip away.

We are so grateful for the unwavering support of **Ben Bud** in allowing us to become even more sustainable on his property in Dingley. This includes the new donated awning (with special thanks to **Lisette Malatesta**), portable toilet, water tank & plumbing (thanks to the fabulous grant from **Citywide**), as well as us being taken off grid with the use of solar power. Special thanks to volunteers **Andrew Brown** and **Dean Burns** for making this possible. I would like at this time to take a moment to share our deep condolences to Ben and his family on the tragic loss of their wife and mother, Michelle, last month.

Bicycle Superstore remain a supportive partner for bicycle collections, and we are extremely grateful for the continued support of our friends at **Knog**. This year they again supported our major fundraiser, the Melbourne to Namibia Fundraising Challenge, which raised around \$10,000.

2018 will see the shipment of 4 container loads of bicycles, one being the container bought and carefully managed by the **Kennedy family** and another supported by the St Kevin's school community. (Further detail regarding bicycle collection see separate report.)

We are working towards increasing our bicycle supply chain by supporting groups who are keen to set up satellite bicycle collection points. This has been spurred on by the recent Bendigo awareness day supported by ABC, Bike Bendigo as well as our own **Gary Chan, Bill and Marie Martin** and **Jamie Chan**.

We are grateful for the continued support of **David Jablonka** from Second Chance Cycles, **Lyn Mulligan**, the Dove Opportunity Shop, the Ocean Grove Uniting Church, **Ron North** and the Queenscliff Men's Shed, the Melton and Dingley Men's Sheds, as well as **Carl Zammit, George Chan** and **John Foster** the fabulous gents from the Glen Iris Uniting Church bicycle workshop. They provide us with extra bicycles as well as avenues to recycle bicycles, that are not appropriate for African roads, back into the local community, creating a valuable revenue stream.

Our close relationship with WA and SA **chapters of B4H** has seen the continuation of regular Zoom calls, often with Michael Linke joining from Rio. The NSW B4H chapter has been absorbed by Bikes for Life and we hope to maintain a close relationship. As the year has progressed we have pursued relationships with other Melbourne based bicycle recycling organisations, such as **Back to Bikes** and **Bikes for Life** and we are hoping to continue to develop these working relationships.

Another fabulous opportunity this year has seen B4H become involved in The **Growth Project**, which supports charities by aligning them with a mentor and guiding them through a year long growth journey. We are thrilled to have **Uri Gordon** as our enthusiastic, bicycle-riding mentor.

We couldn't have achieved all that we have without the support and enthusiasm of each and every one of our volunteers. Be this in a committee role, a bicycles packing role or other very important behind the scenes activities.

We have seen our B4H family grow over the past 12 months, this led by the awesome efforts of **Amanda James**, who has taken on her role as Volunteer Life Cycle Manager to new heights with a new volunteer recruitment and on-boarding processes amongst other things! (For a full volunteer report see attached)

Kevin Wong has totally re-invigorated our social media platform and his talent and efforts are hugely appreciated

Ira Felinski has continued to support our website with additional help from new volunteers **Bryan Wehner** and **Vidhi Bharti**, who is looking to refresh the site in the coming months.

Julie Doyle has done a great job of keeping our supporters up to date with our newsletter, and with added support from **Jules Mallia** will be looking to give it a fresh look.

Our new Creative Marketing team, of **Jules Mallia**, **Edwina Lu** (who has also been a fabulous support on the admin side) and **Benazir Suraiya** have created some fantastic content for various channels.

Rosalind Harrison has come on board to assist with grant writing and **Jocelyn Hutton**, **Entsar Farag** and **Steph Chan** have been valuable contributors on events and marketing.

Stuart Lim has been assisting with our new Salesforce CRM.

Our bicycle collection team has also grown with **Monika Alston**, **John Turner** and **Michael Finestone** now collecting in the Bayside area.

Bill Martin continues to show his talents behind the BBQ at packing days as well as being a wonderful face for B4H at the Great Vic Bike Ride, along with our own **Deb Houghton**, who also helped out at the recent Ride to Collingwood Farm Day.

Its too hard to mention all our fabulous bicycle packing volunteers, so we thank you all. I would like to give special thanks to our packing Tetris gurus **Tim Mulligan** and **Marty Van Hoorn** (who also volunteered his time in Namibia earlier this year) who make sure we get as close as possible to 500 bicycles/container, and new volunteers, **Greg Dodd** and **Chris Whitaker**, who have a special interest in helping out at Dingley.

Special thanks must also go to a few quiet achievers, namely Fiona Nielsen, Alison Skene, Gerard Hindle and **Andrew Brown**, who have all gone out of their way to raise awareness and funds for B4H over the year. We wish Andrew strength as he rides 1000km through the Alps between Canberra and Melbourne later this month.

For me, B4H is like a family and I cherish the wonderful friendships I have made through the people who have become involved. I would like to thank my friends on the committee for their dedication and support over the past year.

Mary-Jane (MJ) Willis, as Vice President, has been a wonderful, supportive force and has spent many hours behind the scenes keeping much in order and assisting in all things from social media to party celebrations.

B4H, Melbourne's future is looking bright. Thanks to our secretary, **Gary Chan**, we are deep in discussions with the Kiprono Kirwa Foundation and Rotary organisations in Kenya, with the hope of supporting networks of Bicycle Peace Hubs. Gary's vision and guidance is always very much appreciated and valued.

Dean Kennedy is a solid sounding board and his steady nature continues to make him an awesome treasurer, with our books looking in good shape.

Pete Shanley and **Phil Van Staveren**, our super awesome bicycle collectors, storage facility managers and all round clowns, I thank you for your outstanding efforts week in and week out. Big thanks as well to **Phil** for taking care of the very important shipping and freight forwarding procedures, which you now make look very simple, though we know they are not.

Anne Chan continues to work quietly behind the scenes and has been steadily working away on projects such as Salesforce and taking care of our t-shirt orders and distribution. Anne has decided to step down from the committee and as we will miss you at our regular meetings, are very grateful that you will stay involved, managing our t-shirts and in whatever way you can. Thank you for your support over the years and especially your huge efforts in assisting us attain DGR status, no mean feat!

I would also like to thank **Michael Silver** and his team from Magnet Galleries for their generosity in hosting us for our meetings and events, including our upcoming 10th birthday celebration. We very much appreciate them welcoming us and taking care of all our needs.

In the chance that I have forgotten to thank anyone for their specific contribution, I would like to thank **every person** who has donated a bicycle, supported us with funds and/or volunteered their time to B4H. Without every bit of this support we can't do what we do.

As we head into 2019, I am excited about what the future holds for us. Our challenges remain those of increasing our fundraising, our bicycle collections, as well as human resources to support all our future initiatives and ensure B4H, Melbourne remains sustainable into the future.

Andy Gild
President