



bicycles for humanity
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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Chairman's Report 2024

I am delighted to write about another very successful year for our charitable enterprise. Firstly, it is extremely pleasing to report on a year of zero reportable incidents in our very busy Midvale workshop. For this I commend the leadership at the workshop and all those contributing volunteers. We can all be particularly pleased with the way in which the team has brought the workshop up to an unprecedented level of organisation and tidiness, made possible in large part by the Lotterywest funded mezzanine floor installed last year.

It is not surprising then, that in the aftermath of the pandemic we have for the first time been able to ship 3 containers, to 3 different African countries in one year, supplying affordable transport to around 1200 people who would otherwise walk. At the same time our volunteers have continued to supply donated bikes to several WA remote communities.

Container #23 made the long journey to Luvungi, Uvira on the shore of Lake Tanganyika, in eastern part of Democratic Republic of Congo. In this region, with a troubled history, local charity, The Mission in Health Care and Development has been working to improve the lives of extremely impoverished communities since 2006. The power behind MHCD is Dr Luc Mulimbalimba whose incredible persistence and drive to help his people showed through in all of our interaction over the several years it took to make this project a reality. His vision to establish a bicycle repair shop within the hospital and education complex that MHCD has built over the years, is now a reality.

Container #24 was another important re-supply to numerous Bicycle Empowerment Centres across Namibia. Some of the bikes from this container went to help re-vitalise the Centre that our #5 Container had established in 2013.

Container #25 is the first B4H WA contribution to the international Rotary *Recycled Bicycles to South Africa Project*. This project is driven by collaboration between the Rotary Club of Carroll Creek, in Maryland, USA and the Rotary Club of Empangeni in Kwazulu Natal, South

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Africa. Their vision, established in 2023, is that local Rotarians and community leaders will establish 12 new Community Bicycle Resource Centres across rural South Africa over 3 years. B4H WA is just one organisation that responded to their call-out for container loads of bicycles. Ours was the fourth container to arrive in South Africa since the first was sent by Bicycles for Humanity Calgary, Canada in late 2023. We acknowledge the financial support provided by Rotary WA Clubs, Dalkeith, Crawley and Heirisson to help meet shipping costs from Fremantle to Durban. With the future support of those and other Rotary WA Clubs, B4H WA is planning to contribute at least two more containers to this project, which is changing lives in rural South Africa.

It is very gratifying to note that our refurbished bike sales program is indeed meeting the goal we set when taking on the cost of leased premises in 2021. It is important to us that our sponsor and donor funds are applied only to the direct costs of packing and transporting donated bikes to needy communities in Africa and remote WA/NT. Special thanks, therefore, are due to the volunteers who repair and prepare the bikes set aside for the sales program. They are a vital part of B4H WA sustainability.

The bicycle repair group at the Claremont Showgrounds Men's Shed are an integral part of that effort, not to mention the bikes they also contribute to container loads. Meanwhile workshops run by Rotary Clubs in Geraldton and Esperance are contributing fewer bikes to us directly, but they continue valuable work donating bikes to local communities, honouring the B4H model. The Rotary Club group in Geraldton have recently acquired another 20ft container and are busy loading around 200 bikes. It will be their second Bikes for East Timor project.

As the Treasurer's shows, we have finished the year in a very sound financial position, due largely to near record cash receipts from donors and sponsors. In addition to the aforementioned Rotary Clubs, we owe special thanks to John and Marie Schelfhout, proprietors of Ebikers in Fremantle. For 4 years now, Ebikers have sponsored annual, week-long, fundraising adventure rides to different WA destinations. This year 11 riders pedalled 620km on a roundabout route from Fremantle to Margaret River, during which the team raised \$18,000, to add to the \$44,000 raised over the previous 3 events. My hearty congratulations go to all our fundraising volunteers.

This will be my last Report to you as Chairman of B4H WA. After 6 years of service, I have notified my desire to step down at this year's AGM to make way for new and younger talent. B4H WA has gone through much change during the last 6 years, which has transformed our ability to deliver on our charitable purpose. I leave you confident that B4H WA has a sustainable future for many years to come, and I wish you every success.

Yours sincerely,



Bryant Stokes
Chairman