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## **Chairman's Report 2018**

B4H WA enjoyed another exciting year, with new partners and new destinations. Two containers were loaded with 836 bikes plus parts and tools. Both of these containers are supported by new funding partners and are supporting community bike shops in countries that we have not previously supplied. The bike sales program has delivered steady income, resulting in another year of financial surplus.

This year has seen some significant changes in the way B4H WA is governed and managed. At an EGM an April amendments to our Constitution were approved paving the way for the election of a new Board, supported by a Management Sub-Committee. Three new volunteers were recruited and elected to the Board: John Poulsen (Chair), Len Jubber and Kate Griffiths. The balance of the Board consists of previous Chair, Treasurer and Secretary – David Tucker, Resham Singh and Diane Dowdell. This is a powerful team of people with varied backgrounds capable of making a real contribution to building on the success of B4H WA into the future.

We were delighted to establish a new partnership with A&K Philanthropy, which is the charitable arm of travel specialists Abercrombie and Kent. Looking for ways to support communities around the company's numerous safari resorts in Africa, AKP was impressed by the work BENN had been doing in Namibia. They have now established BENN style community bike shops in towns close to A&K resorts in Zambia, Botswana and Uganda. Our container #13 was shipped to Bwindi in Uganda, just outside the Bwindi Impenetrable Nation al Park. The Bwindi Women's Bike Shop had been established in 2017 with a container of bikes from Chicago. The B4H WA container has expanded their inventory and allowed them to build a functional shop and repair facility with two containers and roofed space between.

Container #14 is loaded and ready to ship to Mombasa, Kenya. This project is being arranged and sponsored by John Sutton of Aeolius Wind Systems in Fremantle and will be supported on the ground in Kenya by generous sponsorship of Base Titanium. The project involves establishing a community bike shop at a church-run primary school in Diani, near the coast south of Mombasa. Unfortunately, dispatch has been delayed whilst import paperwork for Kenya, for which John Sutton is taking responsibility.

We have attended fewer promotional events this year but have made the most of our regular bicycle sales at the 6-monthly Vincent Bike Swap Marts and flying the flag at WA Seniors "Have a Go Day", BWA Ride to Work Breakfast in Perth City and MS Ocean Ride at Hillarys. The ongoing support from these organisations is truly appreciated.





In May, we were invited by Matthew Root of Flyt Pty Ltd to become the beneficiary of the Perth Premiere screening documentary film "Why We Cycle" which explores the Dutch cycling culture. The event was sponsored by the WA Department of Transport and attended by State and Local Government VIPs. Kate Griffiths and Andrew Rawlinson represented B4H WA at this event, which raised \$2000 for B4H WA – a wonderful contribution. Events like this one make a real difference to our public profile.

It is very pleasing to note that while some volunteers move on, we continue to attract new volunteers and workshop sessions have been mostly well attended.

Since I have become involved I have been overwhelmed by the dedicated work of our fantastic volunteers, both in the workshop and in the background, and my acknowledgement goes out to them all. I would also like to acknowledge the contributions of all our pro-bono supporters, sponsors and donors that keep B4H WA going and growing. The communities in Africa and remote WA who are the ultimate beneficiaries say thank you to all involved!

Wishing you all another rewarding year,

John Poulsen

Chairman