

Bicycles for Humanity (WA) Inc ABN: 66157631327 7 Beverley Terrace South Guildford, WA, 6055 Australia

> Email: info@b4hwa.com Web: www.b4hwa.com

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/B4HWA/

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Chairman's Report 2021

I am delighted to report a very successful year for all of our team and partners at Bicycles for Humanity WA. In spite of the very challenging times in 2020-2021, our volunteers have maintained a steady flow of bikes into containers and onto transport pallets, all while moving and settling in to new premises.

This year marks our very special 10th Anniversary. During National Volunteer Week in May, we celebrated 10 Years of Volunteering at B4H WA at a very well attended event, which doubled as the formal opening of the new B4H WA Bike Shed. While thanking all individuals who have committed volunteer time since 2011, special acknowledgement goes to founder and #1 volunteer Jamie Brindle. Jamie was also honoured to be a finalist in this year's ABC Spirit of Volunteering Award as part of WA Volunteer of the Year Awards. Our thanks also go out to Hon. Ken Wyatt MP, Member for Hasluck and Minister for Indigenous Australians who made a passionate and heart-warming speech in declaring the opening of our new workshop premises.

Two more containers were loaded for shipping to Africa, both destined for Namibia where they contribute to resupply of many existing Bicycle Empowerment Centre bike shops across the country. Although the second one was fully loaded by mid June, shipping was delayed by COVID 19 related shipping scheduling. Nevertheless our team was delighted to see Container #20 leave Fremantle a few weeks short of 10 years since Container #1 went in early October 2011. This means that the inaugural Management Committee's goal set in November 2011 to ship 2 containers per year, has now been met for 10 years.

I am also pleased to report that our WA Regional Communities program continues to broaden its reach, although somewhat abated by COVID 19 restrictions. In the past year a total of 105 bikes have been sent off to Yiyili Community School, Nyikina Mangala Community School, Shire of Laverton Youth Officer, and to Jigalong Community. The school projects continue to be run in collaboration with Dismantle who contribute to sustainability by providing training in bike maintenance skills.





The supply of donated bicycles remains strong, and I would like to acknowledge the contribution being made by Rotary Club projects in Geraldton, Peel and Esperance, the Community Living Association in Albany, and the Claremont Mens' Shed. Each of these are collecting bikes, repairing them and donating them to the B4H WA Bike Shed for inclusion in our shipments.

After many years of dedicated and hard work we were disappointed that the Swan Community Workshops initiative failed to deliver the much anticipated community hub. As this outcome became more likely during 2020, our B4H WA team commenced work on an alternative to the temporary workshop at Jack Williamson Reserve, which we had already occupied for over 5 years. Our year-long search culminated in our move to rented premises at 1/7 Elmsfield Road, Midvale in January 2021. This move into a warehouse unit provides a number of benefits, not least vastly improved security and volunteer working conditions compared to the outdoor experience at JWR.

We are once again extremely grateful to all of our sponsors, donors and in-kind supporters, without whom we would not be able to fund containers and shipment costs. For the second year running eBikers and Rotary Club of Heirisson ran a 6 day ride from Fremantle, this time to Albany, as a fund-raiser for B4H WA. It was a very successful venture raising just over \$5000, for which we thank them and all of their sponsors. The Annual Financial Statements show that B4H WA is in a sound position for the future. I would like to note that he Board accepted the liability of entering into a 5 year unit lease in Midvale on the basis that past and forecast future bike sales will easily cover the rent and outgoings.

In a year disrupted by pandemic lockdowns and a workshop move, the Board is indebted to the resilience of our volunteers who collect and repair bikes and do myriad other jobs on and off-site to keep the B4H WA wheels turning. Workshop volunteers have reacted very positively to our HSE Improvement Plan implemented to ensure that additional risks identified at the new venue are mitigated. Special thanks to Gary van Eden for shouldering the HSE supervisor role and overseeing the plan.

The first 10 years of B4H WA have seen the shipment of 7,400 bikes to 6 countries in southern Africa, at least 1000 more to schools and PCYCs in remote WA, changing many 1000s of lives. We can now look forward with confidence that our poverty alleviation goals can be met for many years to come.

Yours sincerely

Bryant Stokes

Chairman