



Bicycles for Humanity (WA) Inc  
ABN: 66157631327  
7 Beverley Terrace  
South Guildford, WA, 6055  
Email: info@b4hwa.com  
Web: www.b4hwa.com

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## Chairman's Report 2016

This has been another very productive year for B4H WA, and I can't help reflecting on our short five year history.

In 5 years, over 3000 bikes have been shipped to Africa in 10 containers, and hundreds of bikes also donated to aboriginal community schools and refugee agencies, representing a magnificent effort by all B4H WA volunteers, sponsors and supporters. Achievements that are changing lives in disadvantaged communities. Achievements of which we can all be proud.

The 2015-2016 year has again seen growth in the number of bikes collected, and the number of volunteers giving their time. In addition to the growing number of people regularly attending the B4H WA Bike Shed on Tuesdays and Fridays, the commencement of monthly workshop sessions on the second Sunday of the month has resulted in more bikes in better condition being loaded into containers more efficiently.

Our regular volunteers have also been supported by a number of corporate teams putting in valuable work time at the Bike Shed. Teams from Ajilon, Woodside, South32, KPMG and Digirock together contributed approximately 250 hours of enthusiastic effort. A new relationship with the Western Australian Students Aboriginal Corporation at UWA has not only delivered student volunteer time at Sunday workshops, but also resulted in B4H WA being named as one of the 5 beneficiaries of UWA Guild's 2016 Prosh fundraising, and a wonderful donation of \$4000.

Our two containers this year were sent to Namibia and to South Africa. In Namibia, our container #9, sponsored by B2Gold and RMB Namibia was sent to support the establishment of a new Bicycle Empowerment Centre (or eBox) in Otjiwarongo. Container #10 was our first donation to Bicycle Empowerment Network SA in Cape Town. These bikes have been distributed to a community centre in Langa, to a number of township schools, and as re-supply to existing BECs.

Closer to home, B4H WA has donated bikes to several campuses of Ngaanyatjarra Lands School (Central Desert) and to Red Cross for refugee support.

Major improvements were made at the B4H WA Bike Shed for the comfort and safety of our enthusiastic volunteers. A Lotterywest Grant allowed us to fit out one of our static containers as an amenities room, with some office space and secure storage for equipment. The outdoor



[www.bit.ly/b4hdonate](http://www.bit.ly/b4hdonate)

Donations to B4H through RAWCS over \$2 are Tax deductible

workspace is now under a 12m x 10m dome roof protecting volunteers from the sun in summer and rain in the cooler months, thanks to a grant from the WJ & MS Hughes Foundation. Our next Bike Shed improvement project will need to focus on installation of security equipment to reduce the impact of break-in and theft.

Fundraising this year has been enhanced by a strong rise in the sales of refurbished bikes and donated cycling clothing. Our small team of bike refurbishing specialists have been complimented with much improved on-line sales promotion thanks to new volunteers with the right skills, allowing continuous sales in addition to major efforts at the bi-annual City of Vincent Bike Swap Marts. Cash donations from Lotterywest, WJ & MS Hughes Foundation, UWA Guild and Knight Piésold are all gratefully acknowledged. I am delighted to report that B4H WA once again finished the year in a healthy financial position. In spite of some increased costs related to improving the amenity and safety of our volunteers at the Bike Shed, mostly covered by the Lotterywest and Hughes Foundation grants, we have been able to allocate 83% of donated funds to the direct costs of sending bikes to disadvantaged communities.

B4H WA involvement with Swan Community Workshops (formerly Cornwell House Community Workshops) has accelerated in 2016. SCW comprises seven community based not for profit organisations working with the City of Swan and corporate supporters developing a plan to construct and operate a multifunctional community workshop facility within the City. The seven foundation members of SCW have a common purpose driven by their need to find long term homes for their operations, to which the City has responded positively. Building concept designs are in progress. We can all look forward to seeing this project come to reality in the next few years. Meantime the City of Swan has renewed a licence agreement with B4H WA, allowing us to continue operations at Jack Williamson Park until at least the end of 2018.

B4H WA is progressively becoming more widely known in the greater Perth area thanks to volunteers attending numerous public events including Africa Downunder Conference, supported by Paydirt Media and Australia Africa Mining and Energy Group, Beaufort Street Festival sponsored by Stuart Weston Real Estate, Riverside Ramble and Bikes in the Valley supported by City of Swan, Ride to Work Day events in Perth (Bicycles WA) and Melville (Perth Integrated Health), MS Ocean Ride, and Have-a-Go Day (Seniors Recreation Council). On-line promotion of B4H WA efforts have also been stepped up by two new volunteers who have upgraded and updated our website and posted regular stories on our Facebook page.

Many thanks to all who have contributed in any way, however small. We are achieving our poverty relief aims.

David Tucker

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Tucker', written in a cursive style.

Chairman