



bicyclesforhumanity.com
PERTH • WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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Chairman's Report 2015

Wow! It is so exciting seeing B4H WA going from strength to strength – this year we can say B4H WA is changing lives in Africa, and also in remote parts of Western Australia.

In 2014-15, container #7 went to Namibia and # 8 became our first to go to South Africa. This year has also seen B4H WA sending around 300 bikes to Aboriginal Community schools in WA. In addition, as I write this letter, container # 9 is already a month into its journey to Namibia.

It is amazing to me to realise that B4H WA has now shipped 9 containers to Africa, packed with 2711 bikes, plus myriad spares and tools, in just under four years since our establishment on 6 July 2011. Each of those bikes potentially changes at least one life. I extend my congratulations to all concerned!

A few details of which we can all be proud:-

Container #7 was shipped to the Namibian capital of Windhoek, where it was established as a new bike shop and maintenance centre for a local charity called Physically Active Youth, which provides out of school hours activities for “at risk” youth. This has become a model project. Our partner, Michael Linke of BEN Namibia was able to connect PAY with SunCycles, a startup social enterprise that is introducing electric bicycle rentals to Windhoek. The PAY bike shop is to become the main centre for SunCycles, which Michael believes should create a great synergy. He was also fortunate to be able to connect the project with Trustco, one of Namibia’s biggest companies. Trustco will assist with the aesthetics of the shop, making it look more ‘high end’ than BENN's typical partner bike shops.

In towns and villages around Rorke’s Drift, in rural Kwa Zulu Natal (South Africa), British based David Rattray Foundation was concerned about the hardship young people were suffering from the need to walk around 2 hours each way, each day just to get to school. Australian adventurer, Micko O’Byrne connected DRF to B4H WA and a plan was made to supply a container load of bikes, sponsored by DRF. Our #8 container arrived in Rorke’s Drift on 8 April 2015. Ben Henderson, DRF CEO commented:

“This donation should make a huge difference to the kids of this area. The intended beneficiaries of the bikes are the kids of the Rorke’s Drift and Isandlwana areas. Many of them walk staggering distances to and from school – and waste incredible amounts of time in the process.”

A group of senior students, under the watchful eye of the school principal, has been handed responsibility to run the bike shop and allocate bikes to students who have “earned the right” and on a most needs basis. Some of the students are to be trained in maintenance (by BEN Bikes in Cape Town) so that the bikes can be maintained and repaired.

B4H WA has been delighted to have been able to respond to independent requests from several organisations to improve the lives and educational outcomes for aboriginal students in remote parts of WA. In partnership with a team of volunteers from Track Care WA, we sent a trailer load of 40 BMX bikes, plus spares to the community school at Punmu in the eastern Pilbara in September 2014. Since then a 20ft container of BMXs went to the Men's Outreach Service in Broome, from where they were repaired under a prisoner pre-release program, then distributed to a number of community schools in the Kimberley region. Then we responded to a call from Community Policing for bikes to be integrated into an after-school program in Laverton (40 bikes), and to another for a similar program at the Wanarn Campus of the Ngaanyatjarra Lands School in the Western Desert (20 bikes).

The feedback from all these places has been exceedingly positive, and I have no doubt that service to remote aboriginal communities will continue to be part of our program.

A very pleasing spin off from the Laverton project is our rapidly building relationship with WA Police through Community Policing, resulting in a number of Perth metropolitan and regional Police stations now donating bikes from their unclaimed property stores to B4H WA. This supply, in addition to the already steady contributions from the Public Transport Authority unclaimed property, is strongly underpinning our ability to not only send 2x40ft containers of bikes to Africa each year, but to also service requests from remote aboriginal community schools.

To help us do all this we are eternally thankful to all our sponsors, supporters and volunteers. Our application to Lotterywest last year resulted in a grant of \$13,318 which has been applied to the fitting out of one of our static containers as an amenities room for our volunteers to enjoy, along with office and storage room. Major sponsorship contributions this year came from RCF Foundation, David Rattray Foundation, WJ & MS Hughes Foundation, and B2Gold Namibia and RMB Namibia. We also received donations from our participation in Rotary Climb for a Smile, and numerous other private donations, which all add up. Companies including Squire Patton Boggs, KPMG, Warners Transport, Sea Containers WA, Transitaner, The Brains Trust, Advance Print and Communications and Ajilon, have also supported B4H WA with goods and services at reduced cost or on a pro-bono basis.

Our promotional work in the Perth community has continued at numerous events thanks to Paydirt Media, Australia Africa Mining Industry Group (Africa Downunder Conference), Stuart Weston Real Estate (Beaufort Street Festival), Seniors Recreation Council (Have a Go Day), Perth Integrated Health (various cycling events), City of Vincent (Bike Swap Marts) and City of Swan (Riverside Ramble and Bike in the Valley). Thanks to events like these, B4H WA is becoming much better known in our community.

In a further effort to attract volunteers we are now using the services of Volunteering WA, both through their corporate volunteering program and "volunteer positions vacant" on their website. Corporate volunteer teams from KPMG, Woodside, Iluka and Ajilon have all enjoyed a day out of the office to make light work of fixing and loading bikes into containers.

We have finished the year again in sound financial position, and are already holding funds donated in support of our planned container #10 to be shipped to BEN Cape Town in 1Qtr 2016.

Finally, a special thanks to our members and casual volunteers, without whom the Association would have been unable to operate. It bears repeating that we can all be extremely proud of our contribution to **changing lives in Africa, and remote WA**, and we look forward to more of the same in the years to come.



David Tucker
Chairman

