



bicycles for humanity
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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Chairman's Report 2019

I am delighted to be reporting to you for the first time since my appointment as B4H WA Chair in February this year. In assuming this role I want to acknowledge the contribution of the retiring Chair, John Poulsen. The board unanimously expressed gratitude to John for his long term support of B4H WA during his tenure as Managing Partner, Australia of our pro bono legal advisory firm, Squire Patton Boggs, and more recently as Chairman.

It pleases me to be reporting another positive year of achievement in meeting our principal purpose of poverty reduction in underprivileged communities. Two more container loads of refurbished bikes with spare parts and tools were shipped to Africa, and as I write another is fully loaded and will be on its way in a matter of days. This brings our total bicycles supplied to Bicycle Empowerment Centres (BECs) in 5 African countries to over 5,700, changing the lives of many thousands of very grateful people. I urge you to read the wonderful feedback stories recorded in our newsletters, available on our web site.

This year, container #14 went to Kenya for a project driven and sponsored by John Sutton of Aeolus Wind Systems to establish a Bicycle Empowerment Centre at Diani School, located about 35Km south of Mombasa. This project was also generously supported by Base Titanium which sponsored in-country establishment costs.

Container # 15 supplied a project in partnership with World Vision Australia, which arranged transport to the rural community of Chipapa, Zambia. Bicycles have been distributed to teenage girls who were walking up to 18 Km to get to school each day and to members of the World Vision led Citizens Voice and Action group who move throughout the community to help to educate them about their rights and entitlements to empower them with knowledge to stand up for what they deserve. This was a pilot project for WVA, which they have now acknowledged has made a very strong impact on their work. We look forward to building this partnership into the future.

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Country Relief Fund are Tax deductible



During the year two new regional hubs were established in Albany and Mandurah, in addition to Geraldton, which is now in its second year of operation. The Geraldton hub is supported by Rotary Club of Geraldton Grenough and spearheaded by Rotarian Peter Moore. In Albany our partner is a disability services organisation known as Community Living Association, where Tim Fairley is establishing a bike collection and repair workshop, to be operated by CLA clients. The Mandurah hub is being driven Neville Pollard at the Rotary Club of Mandurah Districts. Each of these regional hubs is collecting and repairing bikes and delivering them to B4H WA Bike Shed in Midland. These hubs not only build our capacity to deliver more bikes, but in their own way each is making positive contributions to local communities.

B4H WA is moving into a new era driven by the introduction of the volunteer Board last year. In addition to striving for improved governance and oversight, the Board initiated a comprehensive strategic planning exercise, including 2 half day workshops involving members of the Board and the Management Sub-Committee. This work has set out our directions for the next few years. Our appreciation goes to Ian Jones of Eureka Mindspace, who gave his time pro bono to facilitate this valuable exercise.

Ian Thomas, a long term member of our Management Sub-Committee has assumed the new role of coordinating our Remote WA Communities program. His work is aimed at converting the program from one responding to ad hoc requests to a more structured effort with planned outcomes. We are excited about the future impacts that our work will bring to WA communities, in parallel with our work in Africa.

None of this could have happened without the dedicated work of Jamie Brindle and his ever growing team of volunteers at the B4H WA Bike Shed in Middle Swan. They have collected 1000s of pre-loved bikes, sorted, and either refurbished them or stripped them for much needed parts. 840 refurbished bikes were loaded into containers 14 and 15, and by year-end another 500 were almost ready to go in a 40ft container bound for BEC resupply in Namibia and a 20ft container being prepared for transport north for a PCYC project in Broome, and for a teaching project at Yiyili Aboriginal Community School.

As an active member of Swan Community Workshops, B4H WA has been participating in discussions with City of Swan around the creation of a new operations hub for SCW member organisations. We all look forward to one day moving our workshop and store to more secure, indoor premises.

Bicycle refurbishment work at B4H WA Bike Shed also made a strong contribution to our fundraising effort through a bike sales program which goes to support our BEC resupply projects. As a result B4H WA has finished the year with a small surplus, strengthening a financial reserve to support our work into the future.

Finally I would like to thank our behind-the-scenes volunteers who contribute in many ways including fundraising, administration, banking and accounting, newsletter preparation and promotion, both at public events and through management of our social media pages. Special thanks to Chris Mawson who has refurbished and relaunched our website on a new more secure platform.

B4H WA has come a long way and achieved many positive outcomes in its short eight year history. I am excited about being part of future consolidation and long term achievements in the coming years.

Yours sincerely



Bryant Stokes
Chairman