

Annual Chair Report 2022

It is with great pleasure I present my Chair Report, highlighting our achievements of 2022 while also taking the opportunity to thank our generous Cycling Without Age supporters across AustrIt is with great pleasure I present the 2022 Annual Chairperson Report.

This report will be included in the Annual Report to be published when we can include the Financial Statements and Review Reports.

We started off the new year with a planning meeting to turn the strategies we had identified in our newly adopted Strategic Plan 2022-25 into actions. The subsequent Action Plan List was very colourful with the four pillars creating a list of 90+ color-coded actions. We were very excited about having a road map to follow and diligently applied a theory of priority to create a workable 3-year plan.

Throughout the year there were milestones celebrated, new chapters, new trishaws, new people.

2022 was a busy year for awards for volunteers and chapters. We congratulated Adrian Boss for receiving an OAM in the Australia Day awards. Adrian was recognised for his service to community, cycling especially, and if his contribution to Cycling Without Age is anything to go by – the award is well deserved.

Expansion of our fleet included the purchase of a van – aptly named ‘Joy’ – made possible by a successful grant application. Joy has enabled the Perth Chapter to deliver on their promise of ‘more rides to more people in more locations’. Joy has even provided a transport solution for their new trishaws via a trip across the Nullarbor!

Perth’s trial of Better Impact has provided a volunteer management system which also collates information for the purpose of tracking and reporting impact data. I congratulate Perth for their perseverance and come up with a cost-effective solution. Chapters are encouraged to reach out if there is a need for a digital solution. Having access to the statistical ride data can be a game changer for grant applications and acquittals and can take a load off manual rostering. Giving and receiving feedback is how the service can make informed changes, as well as recognising expressions of gratitude.

We experienced challenges with our banking products and accounting system which saw us move to having accounts with both BBL and NAB. Travelling the second half of the year with a vacancy in the role of Treasurer wasn’t ideal either but has now been resolved. I would like to acknowledge our accountancy firm, Heaney Business Group, particularly Gemma Heaney – who has contributed countless hours of her own time to provide advice and our financial statements and help bring our accounting system back into alignment.

I thank Tim McGrath for his efforts until the end of his term and the MC members who helped carry the role.

Inviting our chapter reps to Management Committee meetings has been well received. Those attending having their questions answered and putting forward some constructive ideas. It’s always great to have everybody in the room so I encourage those who haven’t attended to please make a note in your diary to fit in at least one for the year, in addition to the AGM of course! The sharing of meeting minutes was done to fill the gap of a newsletter and a means of increasing communication between chapters and MC. This too has seen an improvement in connectivity and communication.

Weather patterns weren't kind last year with several chapters having to pause ride services due to rain, or worse still – local flooding. It was a rollercoaster year for ride services with Covid-19 adding to last-minute rescheduling or cancellation of rides due to illness. Volunteer return or retention is appearing as a major challenge not only for CWAA but for NFP's in all sectors.

Financially our group has performed very well. Eighteen projects were completed with the help of Govt or corporate grants. Our level of donations remains steady as campaign surges are reflected in the new-for-old patterns. Our overheads remain relatively low. If we were an ASX company we would be off the charts! Our assets have increased by \$250k with the purchase of 12 new trishaws plus trailers and a storage solution.

On an exciting note, we finished the year welcoming Mandurah and Westernport to our family of Governed Chapters. Wagga Wagga, Castlemaine, Sydney North and Orange joined earlier. We also welcomed Illawarra NSW, Waranga Vic and Wallaroo SA to the list of Independent Chapters starting up. Care facilities at Novacare, Hunter Region and Kyabram Vic have (re) connected with us also and we look forward to working more closely with them over time. The York chapter has moved out of our group to become an independent chapter, managed by the York Community Resource Centre. We are proud of being able to help establish the ride service and look forward to keeping in touch through the connections we've made.

We have evolved over time and our chapter network grown so a review of our Rules and structure was conducted in 2021. This demonstrated a need to change our definition of Membership. As we operate for the benefit of chapters across the community of Cycling Without Age in Australia, a rule change to reflect this has been proposed. This will require some inclusions for our procedures for both Governed and Independent chapters as well as the Affiliate Agreement.

We finished the year ready for a rest and recharge to be up and running again for the new 2023 year. I take this opportunity to sincerely thank the members of our Management Committee, Deb, Dick, Karen, Peter, Simon, Tim and Wayne. They are busy with family, have key roles in their respective chapters as well as carrying a workload for CWAA. I have had the luxury, as Chair, of having a group who willingly provide support, advice and feedback anytime it has been sought by myself or our chapter community.

On behalf of all Cycling Without Age chapters, I thank the volumes of kind and generous donors. Without their act of generosity, we could not provide the trishaw rides to our grateful passengers. When I think of the stories I've heard about why people choose to donate to us it makes me feel very proud of the volunteers who give their time. To steal a line - they are sharing the joy and whimsy of Cycling Without Age.

Congratulations on a great year and best wishes to the new committee for 2023.

During General business we will make a **surprise** presentation to Tim McGrath to acknowledge his contribution to Cycling Without Age Australia through supporting our network of chapters, affiliates, volunteers and stakeholders.