



METRO EAST BICYCLE USER GROUP INC.

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Presidents Report for the year to 23rd August 2018

In our inaugural year I believe we have laid the foundations for a worthwhile and sustainable organisation.

These include incorporation, establishment of an account with Bendigo Bank, registration of an ABN and with the ACNC as a charity.

Channels of communication have been established with email, website, Facebook, and Strava and an Australia Post box number.

We have introduced ourselves to local members of parliament and councils.

We have been joined by members who share our interests in advocating for increased safety for cyclists by improving infrastructure to an extent where we now have viable membership numbers.

Finances are in good order thanks to membership fees and members donations earned by taking part in paid Bicycle Network Victoria activities such as Super Sunday and Super Tuesday.

Important donations in kind have also been received in the form of printing paper by Max Greenall and the supply and printing of pamphlets and business cards by Shaun Leane's office.

Thanks are also due to Elise Hassett and Alexei Simm for their contributions of time in graphic design.

We have also been active in applying for grants and are pleased that we have secured \$850 from the Victorian Dept of Youth Sport and Recreation for the specific purpose of purchasing shirts which will assist in gaining recognition.

This important foundation work has allowed us to build on our advocacy work including submissions to Whitehorse Council regarding their budget and its lack of funds, the "Easy Ride Project" and our "Wish List" of desirable projects. Sadly not much has changed in the attitude of WCC to BIXE despite eight years of advocacy.

We are also in regular contact with Monash Council and a similar situation exists there in terms of total expenditure although to their credit they have built another section of the Waverley Rail Trail this year, something for which we have been advocating for 9 years. Through our contact with Shaune Lean MP's office we have been invited to take part in NELA stakeholders meetings and continue to be involved in the Healesville Freeway Reservation Project in Vermont South.

The highlight for our advocacy work this year was the collection of a 500+ signature petition for a new path and dedicated bridge over the Dandenong Creek alongside the Burwood Highway in Vermont South. We were delighted to be informed that our work had helped secure \$4M in the State Government budget for 2018/2019 after 6 years of advocacy.

We are of course continuing to take a keen interest in the ongoing work on the Box Hill To Ringwood Shared Path and have this month completed work on our submission "The Missing Link" which seeks to extend its' reach a further 4km out to Croydon. The State Government \$100M Strategic Corridors Project offers much particularly in regard to the Pipe Line project.

However, despite recent successes and a hopefully increased tempo in constructing new infrastructure, there remains much to be done.

In conclusion I would like to thank the committee and members for their contribution over the last 12 months.

David Simm
President