

# Bicycle NSW 2018 Annual General Meeting Minutes

## 'Creating a better environment for cycling'

Monday 10 December 2018 at 6:00pm. Bicycle NSW, Bicentennial Drive, Bicentennial Park, Sydney Olympic Park NSW 2127.

**Attendance:** Board: Jon Leighton, David Kelly, Royce Michael Lee, Melinda Tarrant, Peter Lee, Peter Duncan, Deanne Methven, Paul Fitzgerald. Management: Alistair Ferguson (CEO), Loretta Fong (CFO), Bastien Wallace (GM Public Affairs)  
A complete list of all other attendees was compiled as per constitutional requirements.

**Apologies:** Jenny Leong, Alan Coutts, John Richardson

**Minutes:** Melinda Tarrant

Item	Topic
1	<b>Welcome, apologies &amp; housekeeping</b> Meeting opened at 6:09pm. Welcome and Introductions, hello to familiar faces and old friends.
2	<b>Minutes of 2017 AGM (11 December 2017)</b> Minutes of the 2017 AGM were tabled as read and the President called for amendments. <b>Motion:</b> Darryn Capes-Davis moved that the minutes of the 2017 AGM be accepted, David Kelly seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.
3	<b>Presentations of 2017/2018 activities</b>
3.1	<b>President: Jon Leighton</b> thanked the hard-working staff of BNSW. He gave special mention to Alistair Ferguson who was promoted from Membership Manager to CEO. He thanked Craig Meagher, former CEO, who improved the financial position and positioned BNSW to focus more on advocacy to create a better environment for all bicycle riders.  He reiterated the promised made at the previous AGM that with very limited resources we would focus on a few key priorities to completion rather than a number of things without progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• sustainability of the organisation</li><li>• key partners</li><li>• key advocacy initiatives.</li></ul> We now have a long-term partnership with the Fairfax Group for the running of the Spring Cycle and Gear Up Girl. They spent the equivalent \$1million on promotion of this year's Spring Cycle and created a much greater brand awareness of Bicycle NSW. The poor weather did not deter the thousands of riders who came out and whilst the numbers and financials were not what we hoped for in fact for the first time ever we made a profit.  He thanked our volunteers and dedicated and tireless working BUG's. he thanked Darryn Capes-Davis, Chair of BUG council, Adrian Boss from Bikeast, Katie Banerjee who gave a medical and children's view on the minimum passing distance announcement in Centennial Park and acknowledged these are just a few people present who have really helped Bicycle NSW in achieving a lot over the last 12 months.  He recognised the hard-working volunteer board. In order to have cut through to key decision makers at the highest level of government (who spend the money), to develop the organisation and protect against threats from other groups who pretend to advocate in NSW we have built and will continue to refine the skills and make up of a highly skilled board.  He also thanked retiring Board Member and former VP, Alan Coutts. Alan has been a cut through government advocate and with Peter Duncan and myself we have made real progress.  <u>Achievements in 2018:</u>  Our long-term partnership with Fairfax creates a more exciting and stable Spring Cycle and Gear Up Girl. With this comes a commitment from the Government for the use of Harbour Bridge and Sydney road network for the Spring Cycle. Gear Up Girl will remain the largest female bike ride in Australia with the 2018 event being the largest one yet.  We have had meetings with all levels of the police. The Assistant Police Commissioner stated, for the record, that "on behalf of the 16000 NSW police officers I now understand and that police officers we have not given cyclists and their rights a fair go,

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	<p>the right to go into a station and report an incident and your rights on the road. We need to start again” and a commitment to work together. Thank you to Raff del Vecchio for setting that meeting up and following through with this.</p> <p>The Sydney Harbour Bridge ramp has met with North Sydney resident dissent putting pressure on the local member. We have advocated directly with the minister who instructed RMS to agree a design with all stakeholders and get on this. This process is ongoing and as recent as last week the new design was being consulted on by our advocacy committee this time led by Ray Rice and Darryn Capes-Davis.</p> <p>We appointed Bastien Wallace in August to coordinate advocacy in the role of GM Public Affairs. The working relationship between the hard-working executive and hardworking volunteer board have never been stronger or more effective - we have 1 team, 1 voice and 1 challenge to continue to improve and create a better environment for all bicycle riders.</p> <p><u>Plans for 2019:</u></p> <p>Bringing more talent into both the executive team as we can afford it and the board through the board committees.</p> <p>We have had a recent board strategy session to focus on 2019 and have this focus to Creating a better environment for all bicycle riders</p> <p>Policy Pillars</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Build it for everyone</i></li> <li>• <i>Safe Home</i></li> <li>• <i>Invest now for health</i></li> </ul> <p>Whether you are an 8 year old child riding to school or an 80 year old riding to the shops we want cycling infrastructure that supports everyone’s needs. We support infrastructure for parents, commuters, couriers &amp; businesses, recreational riders and tourists. We are calling on government to invest over \$1 billion over 4 years. very kilometre ridden saves the community \$1.43 and means one less car on the road.</p> <p>Society values everyone arriving home safely, no matter how we travel. Safety needs to be the priority when infrastructure is built, laws need to be developed and <u>enforced</u> to protect all bike riders from injury and death. The confirmation of the Minimum Passing Distance as law is a start, but better enforcement plus police and road-user education is needed.</p> <p>The future of our society is a healthy society. Bike riding is a healthy choice for us all. We need to educate our everyone, so they are aware of bike riding and its benefits. We need to work with government to show that making bike riding as part of everyday life means a healthier life and reduces the burden on our health systems.</p> <p>Bicycle Network (BN) has pulled out of the state of New South Wales in respect of bicycle advocacy. We are led to believe, through member feedback that they were running at a loss in New South Wales.</p> <p>In August 2018, Bicycle NSW employed Bastien Wallace as GM Public Affairs. Bastien was previously employed by Bicycle Network (BN) in a similar role. Bastien’s role includes preparing budget submissions at a state and federal level for bicycle infrastructure and awareness funding.</p> <p>BN wrote to Bicycle NSW on about 20 November 2018 claiming a breach of copyright by Bastien Wallace (personally) and Bicycle NSW relating to the current Bicycle NSW budget submission. The submission is a tool used to help us explain to government why spending money on the things that make bike riding better, promotes all bicycle riding and bicycling awareness in NSW. Of particular relevance is the timing going into a state election as it provides a tool for discussions and meetings with MP’s. BN have sought retractions and credit for certain materials contained in the budget submission, including retractions and credit being placed on Bicycle NSW website. BN and Bicycle NSW have previously collaborated with articles to assist Bicycle User Groups, members and our stakeholders in their advocacy for bike riding which contain much of the content which copyright is being claimed. Bicycle NSW will attempt to resolve in the interests of improving cycling, maintaining our reputation and protecting our employees and members. Despite this approach, Bicycle NSW firmly believes this to be an act of bullying. However, in the interest of protecting our reputation and the reputation of all bicycle rider advocacy in NSW and nationally, Bicycle NSW will proceed as stated.</p> <p>Finally, we have an election with 2 current board members and a new person competing for 2 positions. Whilst new talent is fantastic the momentum and existing skills of the 2 existing board members is critical. We are in best ever shape with good direction.</p> <p>He reiterated that decision makers will take any excuse to take the easy route. We need one consistent voice and we will prevail.</p>

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	<p>He thanked everybody here for continued support of Bicycle NSW. Whilst we can and do have robust discussion we have it around the things we can impact and then with one voice to get it done.</p> <p>He wished everyone safe riding over the holiday period and ongoing support for BNSW Creating a Better Environment for all Bicycle Riders in NSW</p>
3.2	<p><b>Chief Executive Officer: Alistair Ferguson</b></p> <p>The CEO thanked everyone for attending the AGM.</p> <p>He noted that the footpath riding age limit has been lifted from 12 to 15 and we are happy that most children can now legally ride to school. However there are still missing gaps in the law, a 17 year old cannot surprise their younger sibling on a school commute and a new rider can't increase their confidence on the footpath. We will continue to push for footpath riding for all ages in NSW.</p> <p>He noted the biggest achievement in the past year was signing up Fairfax Events and Entertainment to run our events as it eliminates our risk exposure to event losses and provides us with positive income. He thanked the outgoing CEO Craig Meagher and our board president Jon Leighton for negotiating the deal. Our Event numbers have increased and Gear Up Girl has cemented itself as the largest female bike ride in Australia - if not the world.</p> <p>The flow on from partnering with Fairfax Events has freed up our staff to concentrate on our core business which is membership and advocacy. Our advocacy efforts now have a clear direction and aim. We know have the resources to help our Members across the state. We want bike riding to be better for everyone across NSW. He sought a subject matter expert in advocacy, and the inclusion of Bastien Wallace to head up our public affairs and advocacy efforts has been a revelation for the current staff members. Her professionalism and extensive knowledge has led to the creation of our communications strategy and budget submission which will be a focal point moving forward.</p> <p>the staff for passing on the knowledge of our signature events Spring Cycle and currently Gear Up Girl to Fairfax staff, which was positively received. He also acknowledged the work on membership and the team's dedication in making sure everyone gets excellent customer service.</p> <p>He thanked the board for all their hard work over the past 12 months as well as the trust and mentorship of the President in his transition to CEO this year.</p> <p>He advised that our focus next year will be more advocacy as we turn directly to towards the election in March 2019 and Bastien is busy talking with government officials about our policies, budget submission and the benefits for the whole community.</p> <p>With the events staffed by Fairfax Events (now Channel 9), the Bicycle NSW team will focus more on advocacy. He advised we have clear goals of what we want to achieve in 12 months, 2 years, 5, 10, 15 years. There will be a focus on gathering granular data to provide to our key stakeholders and cycling advocates which will bolster an evidence-based approach to advocacy campaigns going forward. With more staff capacity we will also now be able to focus on more regional areas - helping create a better bike riding environment across NSW and not just in city hubs.</p> <p>He noted the importance of Bicycle User Groups and wants to ensure there is more engagement throughout the year with plans to host 3 group sessions, 1 in Sydney metro, 1 regional and 1 rural. This will provide a friendly forum for Bicycle NSW to give an update on current campaigns and let BUGs raise any concerns or ask questions. However, he pointed out that BUGs and Members should contact the team if your matter is urgent or you have met a road block in your local area. We will have more advocacy tools and resources for BUGs to use for projects in their local areas and councils. We are always working on our Membership offer to highlight the service provisions for members and to provide support using our networks.</p> <p>Finally, he noted we are committed to working with BUGs on vulnerable road users, construction and heavy vehicles legislation campaigns and to do that we need to stay engaged with police, education, health, premier and cabinet, TNSW and RMS.</p>

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3.3	<p data-bbox="244 286 766 320"><b>Convenor of Audit &amp; Risk Committee: David Kelly</b></p> <p data-bbox="244 338 1477 461">Mr Kelly noted that the messages are similar to last year. BNSW does not exist to make money but we need money to enable our activities. We have achieved a huge amount done on a small budget. We run fantastic events but the amount of effort consumed was extraordinary and noted the benefit to licencing the events to Fairfax. He reinforced advocacy is key and you don't have to be a member to get benefits of advocacy.</p> <p data-bbox="244 479 1294 512">The financial statements show BNSW made a deficit overall but this does not reflect the latest Spring Cycle.</p> <p data-bbox="244 521 1118 555">Other area we raise funds is through the Environmental Trust, allows charitable donations</p> <p data-bbox="244 564 948 598">He thanked Loretta Fong CFO and Audit conducted by Pitcher Partners.</p> <p data-bbox="244 616 876 649">He opened to questions from the floor and responded as follows:</p> <p data-bbox="244 658 1477 725">He noted that despite 2 losses in succession and negative member funds, that structural change has happened and we are forecasting our cash flow going forward to be improved. We need to get membership numbers up and be prudent.</p> <p data-bbox="244 734 1477 801">He noted the importance of investing in advocacy. Mr Kelly explained how the Fairfax deal will change the assets and liabilities, and revenues and expenses.</p> <p data-bbox="244 810 1477 911">He was asked what our membership target is to break even and responded that we want to get to 8000. He noted that membership is the cheapest insurance you can get with cycling, but that past negative messages and fear didn't work to increase members, we want a wider voice through advocacy.</p> <p data-bbox="244 920 1477 987">Mr Royce Lee explained that while we have implemented rolling memberships, we can't do multiyear memberships because insurers need to know how many members to calculate costs and therefore premiums.</p> <p data-bbox="244 996 1477 1064"><b>Motion:</b> David Kelly moved that the financial statements and report for FY 2017/18 be accepted, Adrian Boss seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.</p>

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#### Board elections

3 nominations were received for 2 open positions. Jon Leighton., Peter Duncan and David Maywald. The nominees were asked if they would like to make a statement.

Mr Maywald noted he is a member of Dulwich Hill Bicycle Club, a lifelong cyclist, has been working on advocacy for past 6 months with the Club; he enjoys being part of member organization and believes we need to give members choice and options, which is why he nominated.

He thinks about KPIs and achievements of BNSW and is proud to be a member and recommend others to become members of BNSW.

However, he noted that we have seen increases in fines, reduced riders, hospitalisations and there are areas we haven't created a better environment, we need win wins for whole state and community

We are at the threshold of a change of government and different political landscape. The Minimum passing initiative needs work. He is not happy with Cycling NSW, which is absent from advocacy.

He provided information about the bumper sticker design competition (supported by Transport NSW 10K in community grant) and invited members to participate. He noted that the cost is only \$200 and has created a groundswell of response. It taught him that there is an untapped base of energy and passion, and voices to be heard. He believes BNSW can get more members to do 1 and 2 minute advocacy initiatives that cut through, and has seen first hand activities done this year in micro advocacy, put to practical and constructive use. He thanked the members for their time and consideration.

Mr Duncan thanked the Chair and board for the opportunity to work with us over last 2 years, also the CEO and former CEO and staff for their support. He noted we have started positive advocacy that he has seen from 40 years in bureaucracy.

He believes in a diverse mobility system; there are countries that have done it and we should aspire to that. He noted we still have a lot of work to do, a lot of people thinking how we can improve things and that's a healthy thing.

He is focused on behaviours, infrastructure and partnerships. We have more work to do with everyone other than cyclists.

He noted infrastructure needs to be more than paint on roads.

He has also been chairing the Environmental Trust and would like to do a lot more of that. Through the Trust he has supported the development of women's cycling and believes we can market the event.

He is excited to be contributing to this group and will continue even if not elected today.

Mr Leighton has been a member since arriving in Australia in 1990. He discussed his introduction to the Board through Alex Unwin, involvement in Polly Pedal with Tony Abbott, and the transition to an effective board.

He has contributed to creating a skilled and diverse board. We have committees where others can contribute. People can understand obligations and how the game of advocacy really works.

He stands for 1 team, 1 voice. He acknowledged the contributions made by Peter Duncan for advocacy. He noted we want to attract and bring in new talented people to push this organization along.

He noted that fund raising is important and explained how his recent ride raised \$25K for the Environmental Trust.

Members were invited to ask questions to the candidates.

Darryn Capes-Davis asked Jon Leighton to describe how he intends to carry on advocacy. Mr Leighton responded that there is an effective team including Peter Duncan, Ray Rice, Bastien Wallace and Alistair Ferguson. It requires coordination and relationships. We need to build a relationship with the alternative government and also need fundraising, legal, strong stewardship, a regional focus. This is done by the team.

Fiona Campbell asked about the resignation of Alan Coutts. It was advised Alan Coutts had not resigned but had completed his elected term and was not seeking re-election, creating the vacancy.

Alex Unwin thanked board and acknowledged the quality of the candidates; he thanked David for his nomination and noted his impressive CV which is a tribute to how organisation is functioning and able to attract talent.

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	<p>Alex Unwin asked David Maywald to comment on the potential risks for BNSW. David noted that he has been involved in several NFPs including the Wilderness society, 20 years ago ACT branch, he has a degree in accounting. He noted that he looks at financial and non-financial risk, the various scenarios and having contingencies for those scenarios. He noted that access to information is part of the risk assessment process. He also noted that BNSW should be more transparent and have more information available, including access to member numbers and going beyond minimal disclosures.</p> <p>It was agreed that these points would be taken back to the Board for consideration.</p> <p>Royce Lee explained there are 2 elected positions and one appointed position vacated at each AGM. He explained the rationale for appointing up to a third of the board to manage skills gaps and balance.</p> <p>The ballot was declared closed and the 2 board members elected were announced as David Maywald and Jon Leighton.</p> <p>The elected Board members were congratulated and David Maywald thanked Peter Duncan for his contribution. Jon Leighton thanked new Board member David Maywald for volunteering to join the Board and Peter Duncan for his contributions.</p> <p>Royce Lee thanked Truevote for their pro bono support and also Allens for their pro bono legal support.</p>
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Any other business</b> None raised</p> <p><i>Following the election there was discussion responding to questions, ideas or suggestions posed by members covering:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cycling on motorways and getting this on the political agenda</li> <li>• Adrian Boss spoke to coordinating "Cycling without Age" and requested support from BNSW. He thanked BNSW for support resolving some insurance issues although not totally resolved. AB to speak to Keira, Kim and Bastien to make sure it goes out in Newsletter.</li> <li>• Update provided on tandem cycling for people with mental or physical disabilities from Peter Lee. Staff at BNSW have been supporting Rides Assist Program. We have trained some BUGS to ride tandems and applied for grant in Newcastle. We will expand Rides Assist to any other BUG that wants to take that model further.</li> <li>• Fiona Campbell acknowledged the focus on advocacy</li> <li>• A member from Canada Bay BUG congratulated BNSW for an excellent budget submission</li> <li>• Peter Dobrijevic (Bicycle NSW member) suggested all Bicycle NSW members become members of BN, then vote to wind it up. Alex Unwin noted that he tried for years to hold out the hand of friendship to BN, but they want to be argumentative with other cycling organisations.</li> <li>• It was noted that Centennial Park has stopped car free days but has Bike free days</li> </ul>
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>Meeting Close</b></p> <p>The meeting was declared closed at 7.50 pm.</p>