

# Why should you vote John Hawkins CPA to membership of the board?

John has been involved in effective and successful cycling advocacy to both State and Local Government since 2010, first as a mountain biker and more recently for road and commuter cycling, filling multiple volunteer roles representing Bicycle NSW.

- John has a passion for transparency, diversity and best practice. He is a Certified Practising Accountant of 35 years' experience at ASX Top 100 companies.
- He has over 15 years lived experience a commuter cyclist and continues to bike to work and back several times a week.

He will bring both these perspectives to his role representing members' interests on the board.

“John Hawkins is a savvy rider, with an approach to advocacy which is unsurpassed. His point by point process has allowed many riders to gain a MPD conviction against drivers. In John we could not have a more effective advocate as the BNSW representative to the Northern Beaches Council. I will be voting for him. I suggest you do too.”

– Ray Rice, previous CEO, Bicycle NSW



## Sport, or Transport?

Bicycle NSW currently has one of the most effective advocacy teams of its history and is building a reputation with decision-makers as an authoritative reference body on active transport matters.

John is keen to support the advocacy team and see BNSW build on these strengths

Billions are spent on roads. A *tiny* fraction goes to active travel.

- Advocacy based on sporting and recreational aspects fails to cut through for obtaining significant government funds for improving conditions for riders.
- **Transport and mobility is the critical path to reclaiming the commons and cementing the bicycle's legitimacy in the mind of the public, the media and the government** when planning and (more importantly) *directing money* to how we allocate space to serve the community's needs.

This is especially important when the use of the bicycle for everyday transport has continued to decline, even while recreational riding surges in popularity.

**Succeeding here improves life for all who may choose to ride a bike, whether for competition, recreation or simply getting from A to B.**

## Road and Commuter Cycling Advocacy (2010-current)

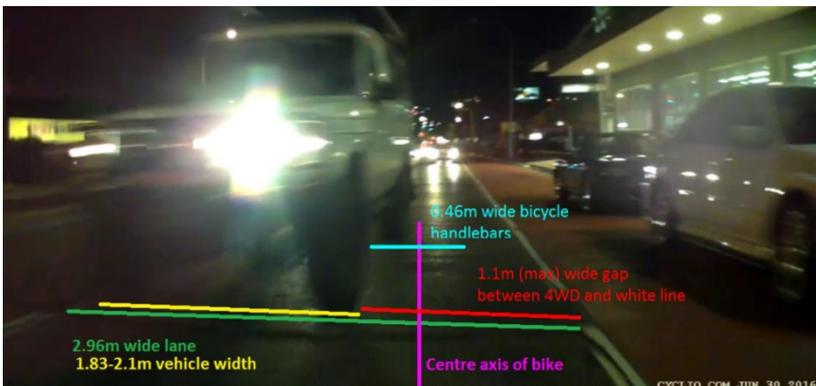
His focus on safety for riders on New South Wales roads was turbocharged in 2009, when he was deliberately side-swiped off his bike while cycling to work, during a period of hostile coverage of cycling infrastructure projects in the tabloid media.

'John Hawkins is a person of integrity and conviction. He is committed to ensuring Bicycle NSW maintains its focus of improving cycling conditions in NSW by its strong advocacy to the many parts of state government.'

– Neil Tonkin, previous CEO, Bicycle NSW

## Close Passing

**John was one of the first if not the first to successfully obtain the prosecution of a driver** from on-bike video for contravening the **minimum safe passing distance laws** in NSW after their introduction in 2016.



This guy high-beamed the author in order to send a message, before buzzing him. He got one in return, along with a financial incentive to do the right thing next time.

**He has written a detailed process guide and has had multiple successes** and was a contributing editor to BNSW's guidance to help members negotiate the police system.

**John continues to assist other riders to pursue justice and behaviour change**, and was a member of the small behind-the-scenes team supporting the late

Queensland cyclist Cameron Frewer's work to educate drivers and improve road culture.

**Inconsistent responsiveness by police to bicycle riders' pleas for help – and lack of ongoing education – remain concerns that must be addressed.**

## Local Government

**For the last several years John has represented BNSW** on Northern Beaches Council's Transport and Travel Strategic Reference Group, focusing on generating rapport with Council staff and **advocating for adoption of world's best practice** in the provision of active travel infrastructure.

He has successfully supported the efforts of the Council's road safety and active transport officers to make **substantial improvements to the most recent edition of the Bike Plan**, a significant feature of which is its acknowledgement of the diversity of bicycle users and their needs, splitting the network into Road Cycling and Safe Cycling components, suitable for 8 to 80-year-olds.

An outcome from this has been John's **recent successful pitch using video evidence**, working with the active transport officer, to reconfigure dangerous door zone bike lanes on a suburban through road during an upcoming road resurfacing project.

### Research

**John represents Bicycle NSW** on the community consultation panel for the **Pedalling for Change** research project, which is **currently examining how to navigate the political and structural roadblocks** to redesigning Australian towns and cities to be less car centric and more people- and cyclist-friendly.

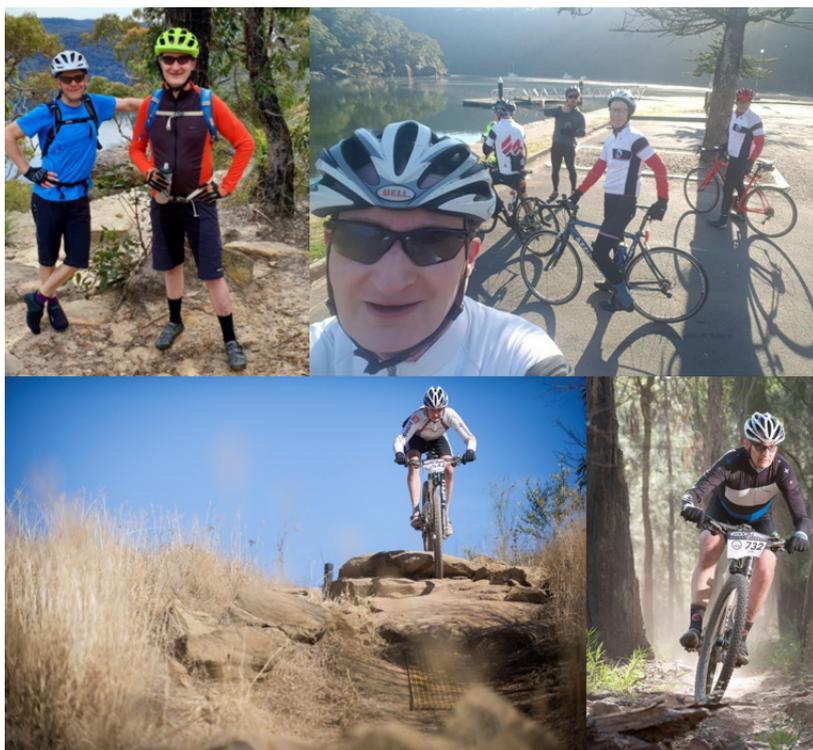


## Mountain Bike Advocacy (2009-2017)

John first became involved in advocacy when as a representative of Northern Beaches Mountain Bikers he took a leading role in coordinating the **successful campaign to reverse the closure of the Manly Dam singletrack to mountain bikers in 2010.**

He was a founding member of Trail Care, which provided **policy and best practice advice informing the revision of the NSW National Parks Cycling Policy.** This advice and consulting directly led to construction of the Gahnia and Serrata mountain bike trails in Garrigal NP at Bantry Bay.

From this policy update flows the ongoing expansion of MTB trail networks throughout NSW to improve national park visitation and tourism through quality rider experience.



### What else should we know about John?

The son of a truck driver and retail shop assistant from Taree, and lives with wife Vera on Sydney's Northern Beaches.

John and Vera have two adult children who are an enormous source of pride to them.

On weekends he can be found on the roads around the hills of Sydney's northern outskirts and Central Coast with Forest Rollers, or training on his cross-country mountain bike on the trails nearby.

**Vote for John Hawkins to improve the Board's governance, lift accountability to members, and support the Advocacy team.**

## **Links:**

<http://www.simplycyclingtraining.com/minimum-passing-distance-laws-getting-police-to-act-on-video-evidence-part-1/>

<http://www.bicyclingaustralia.com.au/news/cameron-frewer-cameron-s-legacy-lives-on>

<https://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/council/news/whats-wheelie-good-about-our-new-bike-plan>

<https://www.canberra.edu.au/research/faculty-research-centres/nmrc/research/peddalling-for-change>

<https://www.trailcare.com.au/>