

Bicycle NSW 2020 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Monday 7 December 2020 at 6:00pm. On Zoom

Attendance: Board: Jon Leighton, Royce Michael Lee, Melinda Tarrant, Peter Lee, David Maywald, Darryn Capes-Davis, Katie Banerjee
Management: Alistair Ferguson (CEO), Loretta Fong (CFO), Bastien Wallace, Kim Lavender.
A complete list of all other attendees was compiled as per constitutional requirements.

Apologies: none

Minutes: Melinda Tarrant

Item	Topic
1	<p>Welcome, apologies & housekeeping Meeting opened at 6:05pm. No apologies were received.</p>
2	<p>Minutes of 2019 AGM (2 December 2019) Minutes of the 2019 AGM were tabled as read and the CEO asked for a poll vote to be registered by attendees. Voting: 10 For, 1 Abstain, motion carried</p>
3	<p>Presentations of 2019/2020 activities</p> <p>3.1 President: Jon Leighton welcomed and thanked everyone who attended. Mr Leighton shared the opening words of a recent UN meeting “One million people have died, a tragic milestone; more than 33 million have been infected. The economic and social consequences are as bad as we feared, and in some cases, worse. We are suffering the largest economic contraction since the Second World War. Global income from work declined by more than 10 percent in the first three quarters of the year, the global hunger crisis is moving into a new and dangerous phase. In several humanitarian crisis situations, the risk of famine looms.” In Australia we have handled the crisis well and have the benefit of natural borders and in the most part good leadership and sensible governance. Bicycle riders in NSW have taken the opportunity of working from home and dusted off their bikes and got out in the fresh air and cherished a basic freedom of simply riding your bike. Bicycle NSW has played an important part in this by proactively working with the NSW State Government and in partnership with other cycling organisations in NSW to keep bicycle riding open and the support and encouragement of pop up bicycle lanes. Our advocacy was swift and effective, and we avoided a Bondi situation of closed beaches by having 1 voice and a positive working relationship with the state government of the day to keep bicycle riding open to all. The landscape is forever changing and challenged. In the past few years we have seen the emergence of Bicycle Victoria, supposedly an advocacy organisation in Victoria, opening offices and signing up NSW bicycle riders for profit under the brand Bicycle Network and worse watering down the advocacy for all bicycle riders that is the job and responsibility of Bicycle NSW. To be clear Bicycle Network is a Victorian organisation based in Victoria that has shown active disdain towards Bug’s and members in NSW and other cycling organisations. With all of your continued support and work Bicycle NSW has successfully defended its position only to be challenged by another threat. Mr Leighton referred to his remarks at the previous AGM regarding a looming battle in NSW between AusCycling and CNSW. He mentioned that whilst this is not our fight it was a risk to our very existence and at the same time may create an opportunity. Subsequently on the competitive side, Cycling Australia has been disbanded and an organisation called AusCycling has been created to combine road cycling, MTB and BMX. As someone who holds a racing license in NSW, they are his peak national body for racing and national and international championships. The threat however is that they are now another new National organisation that is moving into the recreational space by offering recreational non racing memberships, opening offices in all the states and don’t have the support of the clubs and competitive body in NSW. They have muscle, financial clout and are an active threat to our very existence. Our defence is Bicycle NSW doing its job really well, growing its</p>

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	<p>membership and Bugs, sticking together, having a good dialogue with this body and partnerships with the other cycling bodies in NSW.</p> <p>Mr Leighton also noted that he raised at the AGM last year that he took a week of personal time to go to Western Australia to study West Cycle. He met with the current EO as well as the initial President, the Office of Sport and Rec who set this up as well as the minister responsible for the current funding. It is an almost perfect model that has resulted in a fantastic environment not only in Perth with bike paths almost everywhere but in regional parts with amazing mountain bike and rail trails. He asked “What if we could achieve this NSW?”</p> <p>He advised that the Bicycle NSW Board have addressed the threat whilst looking to the future by supporting the initiative of NSW Bicycle Riders which the 3 bodies in NSW have affiliated with. Bicycle NSW, Cycling NSW and Triathlon NSW believe that the most relevant and effective place for a peak body is at the state level. It aligns us with Government (roads, transport, infrastructure, health, planning -- all at the state level), but also the State Government Office of Sport, Health and gives us scale and reach via our BUGs and clubs. It is at the state level we need to play but the government needs help -- they need a unified voice that represents the cycling community as a whole, and if we can play a part in providing that, then we can ensure we can get the most attention and action possible from them.</p> <p>This protects Bicycle NSW. The state government supports this concept and the position of Bicycle NSW and we have taken 6 new initiatives to the Government.</p> <p>Initiative #1: Running Bike Week for Transport for NSW</p> <p>Initiative #2: Behaviour change campaign with Centre for Road Safety</p> <p>Initiative #3: Ride to school program</p> <p>Initiative #4: Support more regional rail trails</p> <p>Initiative #5: Provide better data for more informed transport decisions</p> <p>Initiative #6: 2022 World Championship Wollongong NSW legacy representative</p>		
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	<p>regional rail trails</p> <p>Northern Rivers Rail Trail, Mountain Bike facilities in Orange and throughout the state. Building this infrastructure has been shown to encourage environmentally friendly tourism, physical activity, to create jobs and provide a strong return on investment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E.g. Goulburn to Crookwell, other examples include Coffs Harbour, Port Macquarie, Richmond Vale rail trails and Charlestown to Coast shared path in Newcastle
	<p>Initiative #5: Provide better data for more informed transport decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buncheur will allow us to collect better cycling data so that we can obtain a better understanding of how often people are cycling and for what purpose. • Get Riding Bike Path Program
	<p>Initiative #6: 2022 World Championship Wollongong</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UCI Road World Championships is the biggest annual road cycling Championships conducted by the UCI. The 2022 Championships will be conducted over 8 days and include road races, time trials, team time trials, cultural events, participation events and other exciting ways to be involved. • As part of the legacy NSWBR would like to be involved to support initiatives that increase opportunities for people to ride a bike (for active transport) in NSW
	<p>Ask for NSW government support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take the lead role in coordinating the activation of the above initiatives. This means NSWBR will: • Enlist government, industry and community support our initiatives. • Lead a collaborative approach across the entire cycling community, industry and government to deliver on the initiatives. • Work with stakeholders to determine priorities and develop an implementation plan to accompany the initiatives. • Through renewed focus and energy, and a more cooperative approach across the entire industry, we can get the whole of New South Wales cycling.

The BNSW board and CEO recently spent a day re-examining our Strategy. There is more work to do on this with the new board but, in summary, our complete focus is the advocacy for a better environment for all bicycle riders in NSW and to create a bicycle friendly NSW. Mr Leighton gave thanked former board member, head of audit and risk and BNSW life member John Cooper for skilfully facilitating, encouraging open and frank debate and bringing us together. The working relationships between the hardworking executive and hardworking volunteer board has never been stronger or more effective. We have one team, one voice and one challenge to continue to improve and create a better environment for all bicycle riders in NSW.

Our strategy from 24 months ago also remains:

Creating a better environment for all bicycle riders. Our campaigns and advocacy draw back to our Policy Pillars, which are:

- *Build it for everyone*
- *Safe Home*
- *Invest now for health*

The CEO and President remain resolute on bringing more talent into both the executive team as we can afford it and remain as equally resolute to continue to add diversity of thinking, skills and background to the board through the board committees for people to cut their teeth, understand the challenges and obligations and what it means to be an effective board member and peak advocacy body. It is a team and not about one individual, no grandstanding or public statements and getting quietly on with the job.

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	<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 & businesses, recreational riders and tourists.</p> <p>We continue to call on government to invest over \$1 billion over next 4 years.</p> <p>As a society we value everyone arriving home safely, no matter how we travel. Safety needs to be the priority when infrastructure is built, laws developed and <u>enforced</u> to protect all bike riders from injury and death. The confirmation of the Minimum Passing Distance as law was a start, but better enforcement, police and road-user education is needed. We also need low speed zones and other laws.</p> <p>He gave a special mention to our CEO now into his 3rd year and getting wiser and smarter every day about delivering on this and Creating a Better Environment for all bicycle riders. He thanked our hard working staff all year who are also on this call - Alistair, Loretta, Bastien, Kim, Angie and Kirra.</p> <p>For the last 3 years with very limited resources we continue to focus on a few key priorities – sustainability of the organisation, key partners and key advocacy initiatives. Doing a few things to completion rather than a number of things without progress which could describe some of our past. We have an opportunity and challenge around our 2 major events Spring Cycle and GUG and will look for new partners to ensure that they not only survive Covid but flourish and benefit Bicycle NSW as the peak advocacy body in NSW.</p> <p>2021 will be crucial for the Sydney Harbour Bridge Cycleway NSW is in the midst of a four year \$70 Billion investment program (over \$42 Billion on Roads and Transport infrastructure alone). Transport have assured us they are working towards resolving the cycling's largest and busiest pinch points and this is an absolute priority for the State.</p> <p>The Harbour Bridge is one of the State's Major Heritage items and needs to be treated with respect and therefore any new associated infrastructure for cycling needs to be sensitive, well designed and respect the bridges history. This iconic project is a crucial missing link in the active transport network. We are keeping active pressure on RMS and council to find a workable solution which will pave the way for this missing link to be completed.</p> <p>When the option becomes available for public comment we need you to spread the word to local residents and riders through North Sydney to throw their support behind the project.</p> <p>Finally, he thanked 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), 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 our highly skilled board:</p> <p>VP Royce Lee; Head of Audit and Risk Melinda Tarrant; Advocacy Head Darryn Capes-Davis and the team of Katie Banerjee, Peter Lee and David Maywald and committee members Steven Head, Natalie Cleary from St George BUG. He also gave a special mention to our outgoing advocacy consultant and ex CEO who has serious health challenges and we wish Ray the very best of health and speedy recovery, with recognition for his contribution.</p> <p>He thanked Allens as our pro bono legal partner and returning officer, Carroll & O'Dea for their pro bono legal support through former Board member Deanne Methven, and TrueVote for support of our AGM election.</p> <p>He noted that for the election there are two current board members and two new candidates competing for two positions. We totally welcome new talent the momentum and existing skills of the 2 existing board members is critical. He urged all candidates for board positions to get involved with one of the committees and make a contribution. Ultimately it is that contribution not title that is the reward. He hopes that all candidates will have an active involvement in BNSW ongoing.</p> <p>Finally, he thanked everybody attending the AGM for their 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 get it done. We have learned not to sweat the small stuff. With a rapidly changing landscape, busy lives and frankly we are not getting any younger we don't have a moment to waste on conversation that maybe interesting or not but around topics that could be divisive that don't improve the environment for cycling not because they are not good ideas but we don't yet have the resources and impact to enact that change. We need to continue to be smart, intelligent advocates and together impact as one voice. One consistent voice and we will prevail.</p> <p>Mr Leighton is once again enjoying working on your behalf and is excited about what we can achieve together in 2021.</p> <p>He asked members to raise any ideas and acts of support. He gave special mention to Adrian Boss for his suggestions and noted that BNSW tries to support his initiatives as much as we can. He closed by wishing everyone safe riding over the</p>

Item	Topic
	holiday period and counting on members' ongoing support for BNSW creating a better environment for every single Bicycle Rider in NSW.

Item	Topic
3.2	<p data-bbox="244 383 576 416">CEO Report – Alistair Ferguson</p> <p data-bbox="244 445 1422 566">The CEO noted that 2020 has been an interesting year for our office, with majority of it working remotely. He thanked our staff, Loretta, Bastien, Angie, Kim and Kirra for embracing the challenges, and their dedication to creating the accessible content for our campaigns, resources and communications that members see on a weekly basis. He is proud of leading a small but functioning team.</p> <p data-bbox="244 600 1458 689">The CEO thanked the board for volunteering their time over the past 12 months as well as the trust and mentorship of Jon Leighton, our President, who has provided him with a great sounding board for the challenges we face as the peak advocacy body.</p> <p data-bbox="244 723 1461 902">The CEO mentioned last year that our advocacy efforts would increase and is proud they now have a clear direction and aim. Our campaigns have encouraged greater debate and created better outcomes for all riders in NSW. We have bolstered our resources to help our Members across the state on their local issues. For example, with our recent Safety On Spokes campaign we informed members and riders on a range of key issues. It was a 2 month education campaign for all road users aimed at improving bike rider safety not only on road but also off road. We even had a launch event at Parliament House to show that MPs think bike rider safety is an important issue too.</p> <p data-bbox="244 920 1458 1010">With our Members spread across NSW, we worked hard this year to create news articles from across the whole state. From Tamworth to Wollongong to Wagga Wagga, we have created almost 200 news articles ranging from ride guides, to advocacy updates to local riding group activities.</p> <p data-bbox="244 1028 1390 1088">This dedication to creating quality content has led to an increase in traffic to our website. To date in 2020 we have had 470,141 website views compared to 292,336 in 2019 for the same period.</p> <p data-bbox="244 1106 1401 1167">In regards to the Alexandra Canal campaign, he applauded the efforts of the local BUGs and community members who helped stop the sabotage of the cycling network in that area.</p> <p data-bbox="244 1184 1445 1305">Our hard work on the WestConnex project at the Rozelle interchange saw better safety measures implemented during the construction which included more wayfinding signage and dual lanterns at key pedestrian crossings. With the excellent help from the Inner West Bike Coalition reviewing plans and making us aware of issues, the NSW Government and Transport for NSW listened and changed their plans because of this advocacy.</p> <p data-bbox="244 1323 1453 1444">This time last year, we started our #RideTheBush campaign to inspire and encourage Members to enjoy a summer bike riding holiday in areas affected by the drought of 2019. Unfortunately, due to the bushfires across the state, we were unable to continue this campaign. After a long, hot summer we started our series again, this time in support of communities that had been hit hard by the bushfires. Sadly, not long after, travel was put on hold by the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p data-bbox="244 1462 1417 1523">Our response to the pandemic was immediate by creating a resource page to help bike riders ride through this pandemic safely (within their own community).</p> <p data-bbox="244 1541 1445 1630">As COVID-19 restrictions have started to ease we have been sharing your ride experiences as well as stories about some great new ride opportunities in NSW such as Dungog (MTB park), Dubbo (Central West Cycling Trail), Eurobodalla, the pop up lanes in Sydney and new cycling infrastructure in Tamworth.</p> <p data-bbox="244 1648 1353 1677">We have recently restarted our series about exploring and riding in regional and rural areas of NSW (#RideNSW')</p> <p data-bbox="244 1695 1458 1785">Excitingly, we've had 2 major rail trail developments in NSW this year. The Tumberumba to Rosewood Trail opened in March this year along with the legislation passing for a section of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail. Bicycle NSW will continue to work with local advocates to see more rail trails built over the coming years.</p> <p data-bbox="244 1803 1445 1863">He thanked all our members for their support and on the ground advocacy. Your efforts are the backbone of driving a better environment for all bike riders in NSW.</p> <p data-bbox="244 1881 1453 1964">Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, we made the heartbreaking decision to cancel Spring Cycle in 2020. The whole team worked hard to explore all options for Spring Cycle however, with the safety of our loyal participants, hardworking volunteers and dedicated staff in mind, we decided to cancel the event.</p> <p data-bbox="244 1982 1182 2011">We can do more and 2021 will be a wonderful year, and he looks forward with great enthusiasm.</p>

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3.3	<p>Convenor of Audit & Risk Committee: Melinda Tarrant</p> <p>The Financial Report was received by members.</p> <p>Bicycle NSW does not exist to make money but we need to generate a surplus to enable our activities. Our financial accounts also encompass the Environmental Trust, which allows us to fundraise through charitable donations. This last financial year, we did not access those funds for any BNSW activities.</p> <p>The financial statements cover the financial year to 30 June 2020. Even though Bicycle NSW was significantly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, virus restrictions, economic recession, Ms Tarrant noted that Bicycle NSW has again made a modest but healthy surplus overall. The balance sheet looks strong due to the seasonal nature of membership. Members will see some additional information in this year's report and are encouraged to take the time to read the full report.</p> <p>Our organisation's major expenses are the costs of our management team and insurance for members. Last financial year, and continuing into this financial year, we have been able to receive the government Jobkeeper payments to enable us to maintain our full team through the Covid crisis.</p> <p>We qualified for the government subsidy of \$92K because our income is down. Member numbers reduced to 7,468, with 13,790 Total Members (including multiple people per household account). Subscriptions declined by 5% during the financial year, following a 9% decline during the previous financial year (decline of only 1% after adjusting for the loss of Foodora when they exited the Australian market). This is in part because our member population is aging and we always have members who stop riding during the year. Some Members failed to renew due to the weak economic environment (unfortunately the key renewal period overlapped with the trough of the recession during the second quarter of 2020). We put out a membership offer of 15 months for 12 months fee which was very well subscribed. Our staff have been actively engaging with Members and with Bicycle User Groups (BUGs) to renew their memberships. The organisation has also been making use of online advertising, targeted promotions and membership campaigns. I encourage you all to promote the benefits of membership through your networks, so that we can continue to fund our advocacy efforts on behalf of everyone who rides a bike, not just our members.</p> <p>Through our outsource partner, we ran Spring Cycle last year, which is included on these accounts. Spring Cycle was held during October 2019, with 5,800 riders compared to 6,800 riders in the previous year. Bicycle NSW had to make the decision to cancel Spring Cycle 2020 amidst the Covid-19 pandemic. Gear Up Girl was not held during 2020 due to lack of financial viability and insufficient sponsorship.</p> <p>Unfortunately, due to the strains on an events business through this Covid pandemic, the agreement with Fairfax/Nine has now been terminated, however we were able to secure the 2020 licence fee due to the termination of the agreement, so we will not see the full impact of this for another year.</p> <p>BNSW has built up a very sizable cash buffer of over one million dollars, which supports solvency going into the next financial year to 30 June 2021.</p> <p>Ms Tarrant thanked Loretta Fong, CFO and the audit conducted by Pitcher Partners.</p> <p>She also thanked David Maywald and Royce Lee for their hard work and support on the Audit & Risk Committee and overseeing the financial health of BNSW.</p> <p>She asked for a poll vote to be registered by attendees to accept the financial statements.</p> <p>Voting: 17 For, 3 Abstain, motion carried</p>
4	<p>Board elections</p> <p>4 nominations were received for 2 open positions. Melinda Tarrant, Peter Lee, John Hawkins, Paul Oosting. Due to the necessity for online voting, the voting closed at the commencement of the AGM at 6pm.</p> <p>The nominees elected are Melinda Tarrant and John Hawkins.</p> <p>The President congratulated the elected directors and thanked outgoing director Peter Lee for all the work he has done and asked him to continue on the Advocacy Committee. He thanked Paul Oosting for his interest.</p>

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5	<p>Any other business None raised</p> <p><i>There was discussion responding to questions, ideas or suggestions posed by members covering:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring Cycle – BNSW is currently in the market for another event sponsor. A decision on whether we can host a Spring Cycle in 2021 will depend on the restrictions the NSW government puts on events, as the landscape has definitely changed e.g. Gathering at start and finish. • NSW Bicycle Riders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ it was asked why this affiliation was not workshopped with members earlier. It was noted that BNSW chose to affiliate in the same way we supported We Ride previously via Board vote, and the benefits were covered in the President’s address. It was further explained that this is not a merge and we plan to remain an organisation under our own steam, but is hopefully a way to amplify our voice. We remain committed to our BUGs and members to help us create a single voice. The BUGs relationship with BNSW does not change. ○ It was asked why NSW Bicycle Riders has named individual people rather than as role holders and what happens if each person is replaced in each org. It was noted that NSW bicycle Riders is a fledgling organisation and these challenges will be worked through. It was also noted that the Board members of Bicycle NSW have made full disclosure of their part of NSWBR and that we make declarations of interests, although we do not believe there is a conflict as the objectives of both organisations are aligned. ○ It was asked whether BNSW has funded NSW Bicycle Riders and the response is that BNSW has not paid to set it up. It was noted that the Board voted to pay a fee to We Ride which did not go to members. It was also noted that we are hopeful that NSW Bicycle Riders will obtain government funding similar to WestCycle. ○ It was noted that if, in future, the Board of BNSW feel that the affiliation is not in our best interests, we can rescind our association at any point, but we hope that it does demonstrate value and in 12 months’ time everyone feels that our relationship has been beneficial to members as well as cycling public of NSW.
	<p>Meeting Close</p> <p>The meeting was declared closed at 7:02 pm.</p> <p>The CEO thanked everyone for attending the meeting and their support.</p>