

# 2017 Annual Report



✚ President's Report .....	2
✚ Highlights of 2017 .....	3
✚ CEO's Report .....	3-4

✚ Abridged Financial Report .....	5
✚ Sponsors and Partners .....	6



## President's Report by Bill Loveday



Last year was a solid one on many strategic fronts for Bicycle Queensland (BQ), with a significant change in the organisation's leadership as we farewellled long-serving CEO Ben

Wilson and welcomed new CEO Anne Savage in December 2017.

For this report I would like to reflect on the history of achievements of Bicycle Queensland under Ben's leadership.

Ben took on the role of Manager at Bicycle Institute of Queensland (now known as BQ) 21 years ago. Under his leadership, Ben developed BQ into Australia's second largest cycling advocacy organisation, influencing the investment of hundreds of millions of dollars of bicycle infrastructure throughout the State, and promoting events to get tens of thousands of Queenslanders to ride bikes to improve their health and communities.

Due to Ben's guidance BQ has grown from a modest not-for-profit advocacy organisation with a few hundred members, no staff, and limited funds, to an organisation

with 17,347 members, 13 staff and an unmatched status and credibility as Queensland's peak bicycle advocacy organisation — and one with a significant national voice.

Ben's dedication to bicycle advocacy has seen him develop relationships with State Government ministers, local government mayors, and a myriad of supporters and stakeholders. Ben is equally comfortable discussing bicycle infrastructure investment with a State Government minister as he is stopping to help a cyclist fix a flat tyre or putting up route signs at events for last minute detours.

Ben's particular inspirations have given Queensland bike riders iconic events such as Bike Week, the Mount Coot-tha Challenge, Cycle Queensland and Brisbane to Gold Coast Cycle Challenge. These events have given pleasure to tens of thousands of participants over the last 20 years while promoting the vision of safe and enjoyable bike riding. Ben's vision personally conceived and developed each of these events and lead their implementation.

Ben worked tirelessly in developing these events, with Cycle Queensland bringing riders from different parts of Queensland, Australia and the world to ride through some of the great towns and landscapes of regional and rural Queensland. Thousands of riders over the last 16 years of this event have had their first ever visits to some iconic Queensland towns and locations, and brought hundreds of thousands of tourism dollars with them.

Ben's leadership of BQ staff and a growing number of volunteers is inspirational. Ben is kind, generous, and has fostered the development of a high functioning, dynamic team.

Ben's patience and understanding with members, bike riders and the community is legendary. Ben was often the person dealing with cranky and dissatisfied members of the public, many times turning potential

adversaries into friends. When there was a bike riding incident, Ben worked with impacted friends and family members to help. Where possible he looked to remedy issues to prevent such accidents from occurring again. Ben always managed these situations with the utmost respect and sympathy.

Ben's intelligence and capability meant he could have used his talents to become a success in any field of endeavour and achieved far greater reward and recognition than working in a not-for-profit community organisation. However, Ben was always driven by his love of cycling, to share that desire with others, and to make bike riding an intrinsic part of Queensland life.

Ben's work has significantly advanced the cause of bicycle riding in Queensland.

I and the Management Committee of BQ farewell and acknowledge Ben and his contribution and service to the organisation as its most illustrious servant. We also welcome our new CEO Anne Savage to the role. Anne is already making her mark and driving the organisation forward on all fronts.

My thanks for support goes to the friends, sponsors and colleagues of BQ who contributed to making another impressive year. The BQ team's effort to make the organisation's bike riding vision a reality also deserves special mention.

BQ also has many hundreds of volunteers who consistently and tirelessly make our events happen. They help in and around the office, and add tonnes of extra goodwill to the organisation – thanks to each and every one of you.

To my colleagues on the Management Committee, Vice President, Fergus Hogarth, Secretary, Jenny Attreed, Treasurer, Brendan McGarry, and members Geoff Airo-Farulla, Eli Breinl, Margo Hickman and Katie Panaretto – thanks for all your good work and help in this year of change.

To BQ's members, I thank you for your continued support as we pedal on, building on the legacy of Ben's great achievements, with a new and impassioned CEO and strong, re-vitalised organisation.

Yours in cycling,

Bill Loveday

Bicycle Queensland President

### Bicycle Queensland 2017 Management Committee

President: Bill Loveday

Vice-President: Fergus Hogarth

Secretary: Jenny Attreed

Treasurer: Brendan McGarry

Committee Members: Katie Panaretto, Eliana Breinl, Margo Hickman, Geoff Airo-Farulla

Eligible voting members: 11,875

### Who we are and what we do

Bicycle Queensland Incorporated is a not-for-profit, community and advocacy organisation. Our mission is to get more people cycling more often.

To achieve this we meet regularly with politicians and planners to persuade them to improve cycling facilities in Queensland. We also run events to get more people cycling more often.

These events include Bike Week, the Great Brisbane Bike Ride, the nine-day Cycle Queensland Adventure Tour, the Brisbane to Gold Coast Cycle Challenge and Ride2Work and Ride2School days.

### Highlights of 2017

- Total members: 17,347
- Rail trails get moving! The Kilkivan to Kingaroy Rail Trail opens, covering South Burnett and Gympie council areas. State Government announces funding to complete the missing section of the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail, from Moore to Toogoolawah. The new section will include the Yimbun tunnel, sure to be a highlight of the BVRT experience.
- Minister for Transport & Main Roads, Mark Bailey, opened Stage D of the V1 Veloway. It runs at 'freeway level' from O'Keefe Street to Lewisham Street, including bridges over Cornwall Street and Juliette St, and saving 5-10 minutes from average commutes.
- Bicycle Queensland continues its role on the State Government panel which assesses bikeway projects across the state. State Government partners dollar-for-dollar with Councils which put up projects identified on the statewide Principal Cycle Network Plan.

## CEO's Report by Ben Wilson



In 2017, cycling maintained its position in Queensland as an issue of importance, with the usual high levels of interest from the media, community, and politicians. One could genuinely

argue "bikes belong" in the public discourse, however the broad acceptance and even considerable financial contributions of government still have a substantial lag to address before cycling becomes part of everybody's ordinary life. Provision is at historical highs, but total supply is still inadequate to enable more Queenslanders to ride more often.

Over the past 20 years the once strong concept of a cycling world involving us happily sharing road space with motor vehicles has become a utopian dream. Bicycle Queensland has gently pushed this for the last decade, which has gained near universal acceptance, but also increased the cost of providing a complete segregated cycling infrastructure network. The financial investment pales compared to the costs of ill

health and congestion - so cycling has many key allies in government, industry and the community who have helped BQ further our cycling mission.

On-road cycling will always be a major part of the transport mix, but the slow creep of safe bike lanes and separated cycling facilities has been too slow to see the dramatic change in cycling participation that some had hoped for. Exceptions are in areas where new cycling facilities are introduced. Here the overwhelming evidence and good news leaps off the page; where quality infrastructure exists many more people will take up cycling and make significant health and congestion improvements on the transport network. In this, BQ's mission is superbly located, safe and secure.

However, never does the work fighting for more cycling facilities stop. BQ was and always will be a very busy organisation fighting for air in the suffocating debate.

2017 was a tough year to meet our desire for more cycling when austerity was also required. Government funding remains spread thin. The commercial market continues to see diversification in event experiences and the general community is tending to behave in a way



Riders on the 2017 Cycle Queensland Adventure Tour - Goondiwindi to Gold Coast



that reflects tight fiscal times and a new world of communication - with people more interested in reading, using and even riding accompanied by an app instead of cycling with others or reading cycling literature!

The good news is more people are cycling with more passion than ever before. The pastime of individual cycling has scorecards through rider apps - it really is like golf! People are drawn into a more personalised, measured cycling world with instant feedback and even gratification. Tick. Thanks for that technology!

But that's for adults. State-wide surveys showed that 2017 saw a fall in children's cycling and bicycle purchases - which is worrying for the overall health of our state. The struggle to get kids riding to school or for fun reinforces the need for infrastructure enormously.

BQ remained active in all forms of encouragement - ride to school, to work, for exercise, for recreation, visiting and for shopping. Often the same cycling facilities will provide for all these valid types of cycling.

BQ can see the brunt of the challenge - people are spending more time on electronic devices getting their news, to socialise or even to enjoy virtual reality! This cuts into the model of what BQ provides to members and others.

Sadly, the demise of the cycling magazine 'RideOn' during the year is one new challenge to the BQ model. The publisher's sudden withdrawal left a hole but also an opportunity to increase other means of communication to members.

Our bottom line saw a turn-around producing a small surplus of \$3781, a healthy but static membership of 17,347 but major challenges emerging for 2018 as well as the demise of our national magazine.

Our new premises, so proudly decked out and functioning so well, and seemingly safe from local developments as it had no demolition clauses in our long-term lease, fell afoul of an unexpected state government forced acquisition for a school



Stage D of the V1 veloway was opened in December by the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Mark Bailey. The new stage links O'Keeffe St Buranda to Birdwood Rd Greenslopes.

expansion. This was heart-breaking but the search is on for new digs.

Our long-standing day events (Great Brisbane Bike Ride and Brisbane to Gold Coast Cycle Challenge) performed well with good attendances, albeit not up from recent years, but our flagship Cycle Queensland nine-day ride suffered a decline in attendance to below 500, which hit our event income hard. Our sensational new three-day event, the Yarraman to Wulkuraka on the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail was oversubscribed and is a great initiative for BQ's future.

Excellent work by the management team to improve productivity in our operations saw an overall positive financial performance for 2017. There were some staff cutbacks, something rare in BQ's history, but internal reorganisation of responsibilities saw productivity maintained.

Our most valued area of achievement remains working with government and councils to get more Queenslanders cycling on better cycling facilities. BQ's maturity as an organisation is most prized and is repeatedly praised by key stakeholders. This remains our key asset, but one we must continue to use to proactively encourage all

governments and councils not to drop the ball and build infrastructure for cycling.

On a personal level, during the year I found as always incredible excitement, joy and privilege from my position as CEO of BQ. That said, I am nudging 60 years and I had long felt that after 21 years at BQ, this was an appropriate time to depart. BQ was fortunate to secure the services of a dynamic new CEO Anne Savage and after a handover period in December I departed BQ with a tear or two of sadness and joy, yet fully confident Anne will continue to steer the wonderful SS BQ into bigger oceans (bikeways) where more Queenslanders will be cycling more often.

A huge final thanks goes from me to all our members, our Board, our staff and our volunteers who contribute so much to achieve a better, healthier Queensland.

Ben Wilson

Bicycle Queensland CEO

# Abridged Financial Report

## ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2017 BICYCLE QUEENSLAND INC. ABN: 11 428 868 797

	2017 \$	2016 \$		2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES</b>			<b>STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>			<b>Income</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	2,166,741	2,123,042	Event income	1,671,872	1,712,710
Trade and other receivables	8,663	13,304	Member subscriptions	859,932	860,204
Inventories	19,642	15,081	Interest	46,829	53,316
Prepayments	25,292	22,326	Rental income	42,956	15,349
Accrued income	13,430	9,508	Other income	37,602	37,138
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>2,233,768</b>	<b>2,183,261</b>		<b>2,659,191</b>	<b>2,678,717</b>
<b>Non Current Assets</b>			<b>Expenses</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	38,928	108,684	Event costs	1,081,207	1,036,551
			Employee benefits expense	888,551	1,142,143
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>2,272,696</b>	<b>2,291,945</b>	Depreciation expense	75,242	73,295
			Members insurance	184,393	123,911
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			Other direct membership expenses	121,494	164,704
Trade and other payables	101,555	114,927	Rent	160,200	122,805
Financial liabilities	18,322	12,338	Other operating expenses	138,453	127,933
Employee benefits	163,371	168,121	Finance costs	5,870	4,012
Accrued expenses	26,621	21,385		<b>2,655,410</b>	<b>2,795,354</b>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>309,869</b>	<b>316,771</b>	<b>Profit/(loss)</b>	<b>3,781</b>	<b>(116,637)</b>
			<b>STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS</b>		
<b>Non Current Liabilities</b>			<b>Cash Flow from Operating Activities</b>		
Employee benefits	8,446	24,574	Receipts from customers	2,893,696	2,956,473
			Payments to suppliers and employees	(2,781,247)	(2,753,450)
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>318,315</b>	<b>341,345</b>	Interest received	42,907	53,316
			Interest paid	(5,870)	(4,012)
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>1,954,381</b>	<b>1,950,600</b>	Net GST remitted to ATO	(101,801)	(92,257)
			<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>	<b>47,685</b>	<b>160,070</b>
<b>STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY</b>			<b>Cash Flow from Investing Activities</b>		
Equity as at beginning of period	1,950,600	2,067,237	Proceeds from sale of plant & equipment	1,500	199
			Purchase of plant & equipment	(5,486)	(33,434)
Profit/(loss)	3,781	(116,637)	<b>Net cash from investing activities</b>	<b>(3,986)</b>	<b>(33,235)</b>
			<b>Net increase in cash held</b>	<b>43,699</b>	<b>126,835</b>
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>1,954,381</b>	<b>1,950,600</b>	Cash at beginning of financial year	2,123,042	1,996,207
			<b>CASH AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR</b>	<b>2,166,741</b>	<b>2,123,042</b>

The information on this page is an abbreviated version of the full financial report, on which the Association's auditor, James Kenward of SAAS Audit expressed an unqualified audit opinion dated 12 March 2018. Copies of the audited financial statements and associated auditors report are available to members on request.





A special thank you to the following sponsors and partners for their support in 2017:

Bakers Delight  
 Bosch  
 Brisbane City Council  
 Budget Car and Truck Rental  
 City of Gold Coast  
 Diabetes Queensland  
 Epic Cycles

Goondiwindi Regional Council  
 Ground Effect  
 go via network  
 Heart Foundation  
 Kyogle Council  
 McInnes Wilson Lawyers  
 Moreton Bay Regional Council

Queensland Government  
 SCODY  
 SOS Rehydrate  
 Southern Downs Regional Council  
 Total Generators  
 Tweed Shire Council  
 Winners Sports Nutrition

Bicycle Queensland Inc.  
 20 Horan Street, West End QLD 4101  
 PO Box 5957, West End QLD 4101  
 P 07 3844 1144 | F 07 3319 6855  
 E bqinfo@bq.org.au | W www.bq.org.au



/bicycle.qld



@bicycleqld



/BicycleQueensland

