

## 2011 President's Report

A year of great challenge and change has been negotiated with tremendous success. Critical achievements include:

- A new level of engagement with all levels of government
- An influx of new people into the Committee to spread workload and allow turnover in positions
- Strong numbers of new members despite the organization transforming from small mainly-for-insurance fees to one where members are prepared to pay for higher quality information, services and professional advocacy.
- Progress towards supporting bicycle riding throughout the state, not just in the Hobart area.
- Development of a comprehensive prioritized action plan to guide bicycle infrastructure planning by all stakeholders
- Maintained prominent and respected influence in the community to foster bicycle riding

Establishing a strong relationship with Bicycle Network was the key mechanism leading to these achievements, and that came about because Bicycle Tasmania had already been built up over many years by steadfast members and an incredibly tenacious committee. We are now in a strong position and ready to gain real benefits from that strength.

Members should feel they are getting value out of being a part of Bicycle Tasmania, and should also feel proud of what they are helping to achieve. Members also contributed by encouraging others to join, by helping to broadcast information, and by volunteering to help at events. Although members may never meet face-to-face, it is an organization in which we can work together and achieve much.

### Awards

The 2011 Bicycle Tasmania "Clips" award, for a group making a significant contribution to utility cycling in Tasmania, was presented to Tamar Bicycle Users Group (TBUG) by Mayor van Zetten of Launceston.

The 2011 Cycling South "Cadence" Award, for an individual who made long term and significant contributions to bicycle advocacy in Tasmania, was awarded to Andrew Heard. Andrew is now taking a

break after eight years as web editor and secretary of Bicycle Tasmania. He also led the review that resulted in forging the new relationship with Bicycle Network.

Bicycle Tasmania was a finalist in the Groups Achievement category of the 2010 Australian Cycling Achievements Awards.

## Events

- Monthly social rides continue, with some good turnouts
- Valet parking at the Taste Festival, Sustainable Living Expo and Treadlightly Festival, and this year also at the Clarence Expo and the MONA opening (with 450 bikes handled in 2 days!) These are great for connecting with riders and creating income.
- Sandy Bay Road Family Fun Day was a major expense but an outstandingly effective advocacy event.
- Bike Week was run without the grant funding of the previous two years. Numbers were slightly down in some events, but still strong. The Round the River Ride was taken over from CyclingSouth which made the final Sunday a stretch for our volunteer capacity.
- Ride To Work – stall at Hobart Community Breakfast, and looking for new ways to promote it this year
- Ride To School – becoming involved in promotion this year
- Big Ride – a last-minute washout in 2010!
- Super Tuesday bike count was also a partial washout, but more than 20 counters directed their \$50 “rewards” to BT

## Finance

Although Bicycle Tasmania has adequate cash reserves, the new arrangement with Bicycle Network has totally changed our financial situation. Now all member fees go straight to BN, who provide member services and insurance, RideOn magazine, staff wages and support, and a host of other support to BT. Thus, all BT operating funds must now be raised without member contributions. Reliance on a small number of fund-raising events (rides and valet parking) exposes us to greater uncertainty, as demonstrated when the Big Ride was washed out last November. Budget planning has not been required previously but is prudent now, and this process has commenced.

A grant application to purchase first aid and office equipment has been submitted. This year two large valet parking banners were purchased from reserves.

### **Memberships**

The position of Membership Secretary has been abolished as BN now maintain our membership system. The membership period is now 12 months from time of joining, rather than year from January 1. Membership fees for an individual rose from \$65 to \$105, but now include RideOn magazine. A very small extra increase (to \$109) took effect from 1/7/2011. New memberships have more than replaced those lost, with total numbers about 10% up on the same time last year. We expect further gains as Tasmania based Bicycle Victoria members convert to BT.

### **Campaigns**

Two recent campaigns of particular note are:

- Why I Ride: BT has strongly supported this innovative behavior-change campaign – which you will see much more of soon.
- We continue to promote the Sandy Bay Road Walking and Cycleway project. In February we held a very successful Family Fun Day, with 270 people of all ages taking the opportunity to ride along Sandy Bay Rd and enjoy a picnic at Long Beach. A petition with over 2000 signatures was presented to HCC.

### **National**

A major attempt is taking place to bring together all major sporting and non-sporting cycling bodies into a national Bicycle Coalition. BT has been actively involved in this difficult but potentially valuable process.

### **Statewide Engagement**

As a member of the Tasmanian Bicycle Council, BT has been involved in promoting bicycle use throughout the state. Moreover, the staff position provided through the BN agreement is explicitly aimed at supporting development in all parts of the state. Liam

spent several periods in the northern areas, attending meetings and liaising with bicycle groups, councils and other stakeholders. The key challenge is to demonstrate sufficient relevance in the north so that riders and bicycle groups there will chose to join or be actively connected with BT.

We have prepared submissions to several state-wide reviews. Synergies are being explored with allied organisations such as the Heart Foundation.

### **Local Engagement**

BT maintains representation on Hobart local government committees, provide submissions and attend workshops and focus groups.

The BN arrangement means we can no longer offer affiliate membership to groups like Southern Pedals, so we are exploring ways for these groups to operate as collections of BT members and so access BT insurance for the events they stage.

### **Communications**

A great final edition of Spoke magazine was published in late 2010. The excellent bi-monthly RideOn magazine is now provided to members. The fortnightly eNews is getting terrific readership. It links to the vibrant new BT blog. Also in the last month the new BT website has been launched, and is already recording strong visitation.

### **Meetings**

Meetings are held on the evening of the third Thursday of the month.

## Office Bearers 2010-2011

President:	Jeff Dunn
Secretary:	Ambrose Canning
Treasurer:	Andy Semmler
Valet Parking Coordinator:	Patsy Jones
Web editor:	Wayne Kelly / Austin Greenwood
Family and Social rides Co-ordinator:	Ian Terry
eNews coordinator:	Liam Correy
Spoke editor (2010):	John Dawson
General Committee:	Kathleen Mohr Greg Dutkovski Peter Hughes

## Staff - Facilities Development Manager

Liam Correy was appointed as Bicycle Tasmania's first employee. Liam's position is 2 days/week and has a broad scope, but the primary goal is promoting the development of bicycle infrastructure and riding throughout Tasmania. Liam is well known from his involvement in Healthy Transport Hobart, Courteous Mass, Hobart Bike Kitchen, and is Chair of the Tasmanian Bicycle Council.

## The year ahead

A proposed major task for the year ahead is to develop a strategic plan for Bicycle Tasmania, to ensure we have a clear picture of where we want to be and how we intend to get there.

Using our new priorities report we can start to work with government and the community to ensure funding is directed to the most worthwhile infrastructure projects.

This year we need to prove our commitment and ability to be relevant to riders in the regional Tasmania.

New activities for 2011-2012 include promotion of Ride To School and introduction to Tasmania of the Super Sunday Bicycle Count.

The position of vice president is being reinstated at this AGM, to spread the load on the Executive. One job of the Executive will be to secure a replacement for Liam, as he expects to travel in 2012.

I want to thank and congratulate the new and continuing committee members for their commitment and excellent contributions. I also thank the members of Bicycle Tasmania for sharing our vision of a Tasmania in which bicycle riding is ... just normal for nearly everyone. I would also like to acknowledge the valued support and guidance of Mary McParland and Stuart Baird during the past year.

Jeff Dunn  
President  
Bicycle Tasmania

14 August 2011

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