



# Whitehorse Active Transport Action Group Inc.

Incorporation No: A0098729X

ABN: 63 938 570 447

Web: [www.watag.org](http://www.watag.org)

## Presidents Report Year ended 30 June 2018

Whitehorse Active Transport Action Group Inc (WATAG) is an incorporated association registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

In my first report as President of the Whitehorse ACTIVE transport action Group Inc. (WATAG), I can report that the Management Committee has had an active and productive year.

There are many highlights summarised below

### Public advocacy.

The WATAG website ([www.watag.org](http://www.watag.org)) is our public face. Static web pages tell our essential story with links to:

- [In the News](#) - Interesting News items from all-over, with relevance to Active Transport. This is published in the form of individual blog posts logs which are sent to people who have registered to receive them. They are collated on the "In the News page" at our website. Website posts are automatically posted on our Facebook page.
- WATAG has recently developed an active Twitter account ([@WATAG10](#)) to keep abreast of what others across the world are thinking, and make comment too. Website posts are automatically added to our Twitter feed. A Twitter post summary appears on all our web pages to invite people to view them. They also add vibrant, dynamic and changing content which helps the web page to be interesting irrespective of how frequently (or infrequently) often it is viewed.
- [Active Whitehorse News](#) – a bi-monthly web-based newsletter distributed by email to hundreds of Members, Friends, Supporters and Newsletter Subscribers
- [Active Actions](#) which has many reports about specific topics of interest which can be covered in more detail.
- We had a stand at the Whitehorse Spring Festival in 2017 and will participate again in 2018. On display (and in active use) were a tandem bike, and a penny farthing which attracted a lot of attention. WATAG was interviewed at the Festival for the local Community Radio.
- We actively engaged with hundreds of members of the public at the above Festival and more generally over a period of a month, by conducting a survey which gave participants a chance to win a bike. This gave valuable insights into what people think about Active Transport, and was an opportunity to disseminate information about Active transport.
- WATAG members always attend Council's Ride to Work day and distribute information about our aims.
- We attend local Council Ward Meetings of residents – such as Elgar Contact in order to find what the community thinks, and contribute knowledge about the benefits of Active Transport.
- WATAG members regularly attend ITEANZ meeting to learn and contribute.

### Direct advocacy.

- WATAG regularly communicates with Whitehorse Council on matters relating to Active Transport. We write letters asking for information, offering advice and submit reports we think would be valuable for Council to consider. At times we attend Council meetings and make presentations. One Councillor recently noted privately that they thought WATAG was by far the best lobby group they had experienced as a Councillor.
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- Members meet informally with individual Councillors periodically to reinforce WATAG's views and work out ways we can better work with Council to get better Active Transport outcomes.
- We maintain personal contacts with VicRoads – particularly at a technical level, and communicate with them about ideas and recommendations relating to the development of shared walking/cycling facilities in the region.
- WATAG has actively met with peak organisations in the community such as Victoria Walks, Bicycle Network and RACV about a range of issues, and has had discussions with the Chair of Box Hill Transit Interchange Steering Committee in Box Hill about impending developments on Box Hill.
- We always attend and contribute to any Council, VicRoads or NEL Open Days on Active Transport or related matters.
- Several WATAG Members are members of the NEL Community Technical Liaison Group – Walking and Cycling to try and get the very best Active Transport outcomes if this project proceeds.
- We maintain contact with local disability advocates, and actively work to have their needs considered by Council and other authorities. We have been strong advocates to The Met, and to Council to have infrastructure modified to assist disabled, older and infirm people to move about the community more easily and safely.
- WATAG has made formal submissions and members have presented a t VCAT and other enquiries in relation to development in the Box Hill area and the crucial need to plan for “street scale” access to buildings and public areas as Box Hill develops.

### Areas for advocacy

- WATAG has been very actively trying to work with Council to implement their 2016 Bicycle Strategy. Contributions by our members helped greatly to achieve the successful inclusion in the strategy of ideas related to developing a “low stress network” using Roger Geller’s analysis of cyclist type to encourage maximum participation.
- Members contributed to the development and eventual implementation by Council of a series of TMD modifications to improve cyclist safety.
- We have voiced very strongly our views that any NEL developments should provide infrastructure that gives walkers and cyclists the same world-class facilities that cars and trucks will get. We strongly advocate that the Dutch CROW principals of cohesion, directness, safety, attractiveness and comfort for cycling and walking should apply to all NEL developments. WATAG members have submitted detailed and workable solutions to NEL to overcome deficiencies in the plans so far proposed by the authority.
- WATAG has maintained the view that, just as cyclists and cars need separation for safely in areas of higher traffic, so to do cyclists and walkers where high speed commuter cyclist travel. We believe that accessing these routes should be AAA ie meeting the separate and distinct needs of All Ages& Abilities.
- We are actively working to try and achieve sense, safety and enjoyment for people using shared paths through parkland where dogs are exercised. We recognise both the health benefits of people walking while they exercise their animals, and the great benefits of people cycling for whatever purpose, and are trying to encourage solutions where all needs are largely met.
- Our Members have been very active in seeking solutions to enable the final sections of the Box Hill to Ringwood regional shared path to be built.
- WATAG has taken a special interest in the way Box Hill is developing to try and bring about a town-planning result that will meet the future Active and Public Transport needs of a very much expanded population. We have advocated strongly to Government, Council and the community on this matter.
- We have taken a special interest in advocating that all types of cycling are catered for when infrastructure changes are made eg tandems, tag-alongs, recumbents etc.
- We advocated for the inclusion of a blind person on the Council’s Disability Committee and successfully supported her appointment to that committee. We maintain a strong commitment to having infrastructure designed (or altered if existing) to suit older and disabled people and those using wheelchairs and walking aids, and put that to Council whenever possible.

We think that our demonstrated ability to "*get message out there to the punters in an informative, up-to-date and reader-friendly way*" (as quoted recently by one committee member) will help to address the political and social issues faced by Whitehorse and the wider community as we move forward to a very different kind of future.

It has been my privilege to work with the Management Committee over the eighteen months who have all contributed in significant ways to WATAG's advocacy. I would like to acknowledge the work in particular of Chris Trueman for his tireless efforts in maintaining our website and social media accounts and the production of the outstanding Active Whitehorse News.

I am confident that WATAG has laid the foundations over the past eighteen months for strong advocacy around active transport and that it will continue to grow, support and promote better active transport options within Whitehorse and the wider community.

Jeremy Maxwell  
President  
Whitehorse Active Transport Action Group Inc.

# Annual statement



## *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*

1. **This statement is for the association financial year ending**

30/06/2018

2. **Details of the association**

Association registration number	A0098729X
Name of association	WHITEHORSE ACTIVE TRANSPORT ACTION GROUP INC.

3. **Date of the annual general meeting**

9/10/2018

4. **Number of association members at the end of the association financial year?**

15

5. **Financial information of association**

Gross revenue	\$ 810
Gross expenditure	\$ 373
Mortgages, charges, securities	\$ 436
Gross value of liabilities owed by the association	\$ 0
Gross value of assets held by the association	\$ 0

6. **Did the association administer a trust during this period?**

No	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Name of Trust:

7. **Financial information of trust**

Gross value of assets	\$
Gross value of liabilities	\$
Gross value of revenue	\$
Gross value of expenditure	\$
Mortgages, charges, securities	\$

8. **Were any resolutions passed at the annual general meeting concerning the financial statements?**

No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	What were the resolutions? The 2017-2018 Financial Statement of the Whitehorse Active Transport Action Group Inc. was unanimously ratified by the WATAG members who attended the AGM on 9 October 2018

9. **Submitted by**

Name:	David Leslie Berry
Date annual statement submitted	5/02/2019

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