



Active transport for a healthy, environmentally friendly community.

Whitehorse Active Transport Action Group Inc.

Incorporation No: A0098729X

ABN: 63 938 570 447

Web: www.watag.org Twitter: @WATAG10

Annual Report

December 2019

Aim:

WATAG's aim is to achieve improved health and environmental sustainability.

We believe this can be achieved by:

- Promotion of safe participation in active transport for all people – walking, cycling and mobility travel
- Promotion and advocacy for greater access to, and use of, public transport for all people
- Promotion and encouragement of safe and respectful behaviour towards other transport users when 'on the move'.

And by liaison with:

- Relevant local, state and federal governments and authorities in relation to the planning and construction of active transport infrastructure for walking, cycling, accessibility and public transport connectivity.
- Other like-minded groups to achieve the above outcomes.



WATAG is registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission ABN 63 938 570 447

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Presidents Report Year ended 30 June 2019

In my second report as President of the Whitehorse Active transport Action Group Inc. (WATAG), I can report that the Management Committee has had an active, challenging and yet productive year.

The issues around active transport requiring direct advocacy are many and the committee agreed early in the year that trying to take on every one of the issues was simply not possible. We decided to focus on four areas that we believed were of greatest importance to the Whitehorse community, North East Link, Box Hill Metropolitan Activity Centre, City of Whitehorse's Easy Ride Routes and other key matters, and the Box Hill to Ringwood Rail Trail - Laburnum to Blackburn section. All of these are multi-year matters so our work is not just in 2018-19.

There were a number of other highlights from WATAG's work for 2018-2019 that were achieved outside of these four main areas and you can find out more about them on the WATAG website (www.watag.org) here you will find excellent content curated by Chris Trueman including

- [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.
- [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.

Direct advocacy

- **North East Link –**

WATAG had representatives (Peter Carter, Chris Trueman and David Morrison) on the NEL Community Technical Discussion Group (CTDG). The (CTDG) – Walking and Cycling produced an outstanding independent report on Walking and Cycling opportunities which could be implemented as part of the NEL project. The NEL refused to include these sensible options in the 'reference design' and said it would be up to the bidders for the project to use these ideas to enhance their bids. This is effectively saying that walking and cycling ideas, beyond the absolute bare minimum, is a kind of window dressing – an after-thought – to catch the Government's attention.

WATAG members were extremely active on the CTDG, and had a major impact on the report's content and its preparation. Check out [the report here](#).

WATAG members also spent many hours preparing submission for the EES hearings into the NEL, and then spent many days actually at the hearing presenting their submissions.

- **Box Hill Metropolitan Activity Centre**

Box Hill will soon have the second highest concentration of high-rise buildings in Victoria (apart from the Melbourne CBD) and will be larger than both Canberra and Hobart in terms of high density development. The population of the Box Hill central precinct is forecast to double within the next 4-5 years with the developments that have been approved as of end-2017.

WATAG believes that innovative planning is urgently needed by State and Local Government to allow for this large increase in population to live better. Chris Trueman has lead WATAG's advocacy in this area engaging with the steering committee for a new Box Hill Transport Interchange and COW's Box Hill Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG).

- **City of Whitehorse (COW)** – Easy Ride routes & other matters:
WATAG regularly communicates with COW 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.

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.

I would like to highlight our detailed submission to the COW budget process this year – see or [download here](#). Unfortunately COW, just like many other local councils, concentrates on the provision of infrastructure for formal sports at the expense of other ways of getting necessary exercise. COW's latest budget perpetuates this problem. The scenario we presented was that, based on the current year figures (2018-19), 82% of the population who are not involved in structured club/sport will receive just 12% of the budget related to sport and recreation capital expenditure.

WATAG has been very actively trying to work with Council to implement their 2016 Bicycle Strategy. We are disappointed to report that despite WATAG's representation that for the third year running no meaningful progress was made on the Easy Ride Routes.

- **Box Hill to Ringwood Rail Trail** - Laburnum to Blackburn section
This section has been a sore point for such a long time WATAG lead by Graeme Stone has worked hard with all the stakeholders, VicRoads, COW, and the local MP Paul Hamer and while we have much greater interaction with them all there is a belief that the outcome will be less than satisfactory. WATAG believes that it is inevitable, due to the large number of high density residential developments slated for the area north of the railway, that a northern route will be required to service the area's new residents and we will continue to watch for opportunities to promote its early adoption.

WATAG is open to any suggestions that people might have around improving active transport in our community, I would encourage anyone with an interest to contact us or to join as a member (only \$10 pa) or even to just subscribe to our free newsletter, visit the [WATAG Membership](#) page and sign up today.

We think that our demonstrated ability to "*get the message out there to the public in an informative, up-to-date and reader-friendly way*" will help to address the political and social issues faced by Whitehorse and the wider community in what we believe is a very challenging future.

It has been my privilege to work with this Management Committee, over the last year they have all contributed in significant ways to WATAG's advocacy. I would like to acknowledge the work of Chris Trueman for his tireless efforts in maintaining our website, social media accounts and the production of the excellent Active Whitehorse News. Also, while all of our committee members have made substantial contributions I would like to commend the outstanding work done by Peter Carter for our submission to the North East Link project.

I am confident that WATAG has built good foundations 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.

Whitehorse Active Transport Action Group Inc.

Balance Sheet

As of June 30, 2019

	<u>Jun 30, 19</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Chequing/Savings	
Bendigo Bank Club Account	1,036.60
Cash	0.00
PayPal	80.00
Total Chequing/Savings	<u>1,116.60</u>
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	0.00
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>0.00</u>
Other Current Assets	
Undeposited Funds	0.00
Total Other Current Assets	<u>0.00</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>1,116.60</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>1,116.60</u></u>
LIABILITIES	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Accounts Payable	0.00
Total Accounts Payable	<u>0.00</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u><u>0.00</u></u>
NET ASSETS	<u><u>1,116.60</u></u>
EQUITY	
Opening Bal Equity	0.08
Retained Earnings	700.87
Net Income	415.65
TOTAL EQUITY	<u><u>1,116.60</u></u>

Whitehorse Active Transport Action Group Inc.
Income & Expenditure
July 2018 through June 2019

	<u>Jul '18 - Jun 19</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Gifts and Donations Income	520.00
Membership Dues	
2018/19	25.00
2019/20	80.00
Total Membership Dues	<u>105.00</u>
Total Income	625.00
Expense	
Bank Service Charges	1.55
Dues and Subscriptions	50.00
Gifts and Donations	50.00
Licenses and Permits	57.80
Venue hire	50.00
Total Expense	<u>209.35</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>415.65</u>
Net Income	<u><u>415.65</u></u>