



*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](http://www.watag.org) Twitter: @WATAG10

# Annual Report

Year ended 30 June 2022

## 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

Mail: 2/4 Salisbury Ave Blackburn 3130  
Email: [secretary@watag.org](mailto:secretary@watag.org)



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## Presidents Report Year ended 30 June 2022

The COVID-19 pandemic dominated the first half of the year. For community groups such as the Whitehorse Active Transport Action Group Inc. (WATAG), it profoundly affected our ability to meet, work together and engage with others.

This played out in a number of ways, committee meetings on Zoom and limited face to face meetings as we engaged with different parties. Despite this committee members effectively engaged with a range of stakeholders and I would particularly commend Chris Trueman, Graeme Stone and David Morrison for the work they did. Each committee member has years of experience in community activism, a passion for improving active transport and as a group have a wide range of sophisticated skills.

We did see the departure from the committee of [David Berry](#), another of our dedicated members, as he moved out of the area to be closer to family. David has stayed on as a general member, our thanks goes to him for his voice of reason, delivered calmly and with a true passion for giving back to the community.

I made this point last year, but it was worth repeating. One of the negatives of COVID is that it has been difficult to engage other members of the community. We are aware that we are a bunch of old white blokes, we know diversity is vital for both representation of all parts of our community and the sustainability of our work. So we were very pleased to have Irene Moser join the Committee this year. Irene has a passion for non-car active travel and her work as a Professor at Swinburne University relates to our active transport objectives. See [our June 2022 newsletter](#) for more about Irene's excellent credentials.

As we come out of the lockdowns we restarted our face to face meetings at Blackburn Lake and this venue allowed us to run a much more open and casual event as a social gathering at our Christmas meeting. Its success has seen us implement something similar every couple of meetings usually with a speaker relevant to active transport. I would like to thank Chris Trueman for work he has done making these events happen and to the different speakers who have given their time to us.

By definition the City of Whitehorse (WCC) is the level of government we need to engage with the most. In previous years it is fair to say we have had many disappointments around the level of engagement from both officers and councillors. I can see good general improvement in the way officers have engaged, especially at senior levels, requesting input and take the time to listen to us on a number of projects. We are grateful to the CEO, Simon McMillan, for his leadership in this area. Recently, WCC has brought on board an officer with significant experience in active transport and we can only hope that experience is put to good use.

I don't think our engagement with councillors has been at the level of past years and it is easy to feel sometimes that active transport isn't high on their list of concerns/interests, given how important that is to the health and well being of our community that gives me cause to worry.

Already, I believe we are seeing this manifest itself with the [Easy Ride Routes](#). They were part of the 2016 Bike Strategy (so already a bit late). The first few were commissioned (not fully) but the implementation has stagnated, why? Well may you ask. Is it a soft target for budget savings and councillors who should go into bat for such things have put their focus elsewhere?

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Our advocacy around the Bike Strategy implementation has been on going and will continue to be, the whole committee has contributed in one way or another. Peter Carter's work both as a previous committee member and an independent community member for the Easy Ride Routes has been significant.

The Covid-19 crisis has generated a staggering response world-wide to improve active transport, here in Victoria a number of local governments made some great changes, creating protected lanes, reducing vehicle speeds, and including active transport in their daily thinking. Given the issues we are dealing with affect all of Whitehorse residents (over 160,000 people) it is too important, especially in a post Covid recovery world, not to take up this challenge.

This plays out in the small things as well, I could point to the insertion of bollards (repeatedly) onto shared paths that escalate the danger to people in wheelchairs, mobility vehicles and cyclists manifold in a way that often defies common sense. Or dare I point out the number of times concrete guttering is replaced or upgraded with no crossover even though there are pathways on either side of the road.

The issues around active transport requiring direct advocacy are many, it is difficult for a small group of volunteers, no matter how dedicated or knowledgeable to advocate on all matters affecting Whitehorse.

To manage these matters our approach has been to focus on some key areas as a group and to encourage individuals within the group to pursue local advocacy issues as they see fit. We could do with help and welcome any resident keen to help to contact us to see how, email [Secretary@watag.org](mailto:Secretary@watag.org) .

There were a number of other highlights from WATAG's work for 2021-2022 that were achieved outside of the key areas, and I urge you to find out more about them on the WATAG website ([www.watag.org](http://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.

WATAG's aims seem simple – but to achieve them means consideration of a wide range of ideas and proposals put forward by Government, Council and the community.

Below are matters of interest from our website, this will give you some insight into the areas of consideration around active transport:

- [Activity and Health](#) – links to research and reports on how activity benefits health.
- [Activity, Safety and the Law](#) – links to research and reports on safety with particular reference to bicycles on roads such as 1 Metre Matters, and links to road rules and other law related sites.
- [Encouraging activity](#) – reports and ideas you can take on, and ways of encouraging activity in general
- [Community consultation](#) – surveys, forums and reports on what the community thinks, and ways of assessing what the community wants
- [Cooperative use of community resources](#) – examining potential areas of conflict between different uses of resources such as cars and people, walkers and bikes, bikes and dogs, commercial interest and community interest
- [Box Hill Activity Centre developments](#) – planning issues related to the Box Hill Municipal Activity Centre and Transit Interchange and how they affect Active Transport modes.
- [North East Link plans & developments](#) and the effect on Active Transport in Whitehorse and beyond.
- [Local Whitehorse developments](#) – localised planning and resource use matters which can have an impact on Active Transport

- [What's happening elsewhere](#) – interesting reports and information about how the wider world is dealing with Active Transport matters

WATAG is open to any suggestions that people might have around improving active transport in our community. We are particularly interested in having speakers that can cover any topic that will help our community to get active.

I would encourage anyone with an interest to contact us or to subscribe to our free newsletter, visit the [WATAG Membership](#) page and sign up today.

I often feel our ability to get the message out there to the public is quite unsuccessful. I know there are some who believe we are too accommodating of others in our advocacy. It may be so, I believe we are committed to our mission and that we will persist for as long as it takes, in many respects we have no alternative choice as this where we have chosen to live.

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 contribution from David Berry.

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.



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## Treasurer Report 2021 -2022

WATAG accounts have been kept using a private copy of Quickbooks until 2021 when this program became unavailable as free software. The accounts were transferred to a free public domain software program called GNU accounting which can be installed on a pc. The 2021 – 2022 accounts below were prepared using GNU.

However it is not ideal for an organisation to have accounts which are only available on a personal pc, so the accounts were transferred to a recognised online software package ZOHO in June 2022. This is available for free use by small organisations like WATAG. Accounts will be reported using ZOHO for 2022-2023

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### WATAG Inc Balance Sheet 30/06/2022

#### Assets

*Assets* \$0.00

*Current Assets* \$0.00

*Cash* \$0.00

*Bendigo BanBendigo Bank* \$2,494.08

*PayPal* \$61.21

*Accounts Receivable* \$0.00

*Imbalance-AUD* \$0.00

*Orphan-AUD* \$0.00

**Total Assets \$2,555.29**

#### Liabilities

*Liabilities* \$0.00

*Accounts Payable* \$0.00

**Total Liabilities \$0.00**

#### Equity

*Equity* \$0.00

*Opening Balances* \$1,935.78

*Retained Earnings* \$0.00

**Retained Earnings \$619.51**

**Total Equity \$2,555.29**

**Total Liabilities & Equity \$2,555.29**

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## WATAG Inc Profit & Loss Period Covering 01/07/2021 to 30/06/2022

### Revenues

*Income* \$0.00

*Donations Received* \$480.00

*Grants* \$0.00

*Interest Income* \$0.00

*Bendigo Bank Interest* \$0.00

*Membership* \$0.00

*2021 Membership* \$180.00

*2022 Membership* \$115.00

*Life Membership* \$200.00

*Miscellaneous* \$0.92

*Reimbursed Expenses* \$0.00

**Total Revenue \$975.92**

### Expenses

*Expenses* \$0.00

*Bank Service Charge* \$17.41

*Books & manuals* \$0.00

*Donations* \$0.00

*Event costs* \$0.00

*Venue hire* \$0.00

*Insurance* \$0.00

*Liability Insurance* \$0.00

*Internet* \$144.00

*Miscellaneous* \$0.00

*Office Supplies* \$0.00

*Postage and Delivery* \$0.00

*Printing and Reproduction* \$0.00

*Professional Fees* \$0.00

*Accounting* \$0.00

*Legal Fees* \$0.00

*Subscriptions* \$195.00

**Total Expenses \$356.41**

Net income for Period \$619.51