

Back2Bikes Ltd Annual Report

Financial Year ended 30 June 2023

Message from the Board

The composition of the board has undergone changes in the past year. The board extends its gratitude to founder Mike King and long-time director Robin Waters for their enduring contributions. We would also like to welcome our newly appointed treasurer, Annette Robinson, who joined us in May 2023. Annette brings valuable experience, as she also serves as treasurer at the South Melbourne Community Chest. Additionally, we express our appreciation to Richard Seddon for his diligent work in establishing a robust finance framework over the past 18 months.

The board has conducted comprehensive reviews and implemented changes across various areas, including occupational health and safety, volunteer on-boarding, technology, insurance, finance, and workshop operations. Furthermore, the board has successfully negotiated a three-year licence extension with the City of Port Phillip. We extend our thanks to our ward councillors, Mayor Heather Cunsolo, Peter Martin, and Marcus Pearl, for their continued support of Back2Bikes, not only in this process but throughout their tenure on the council.

Over the past 18 months, Back2Bikes has taken steps to further expand its bike donations to individuals who otherwise would not have access to a bike. This strong achievement of our charitable aims has framed another successful year for Back2Bikes, and the board eagerly anticipates the year ahead.

Our People

The Board

- Cho Oliver - Company Secretary (Since FY 2021-22)
- Annette Robinson - Treasurer (Since FY 2022-23)
- Geoffrey Smart - Chair and Operations Director (Since FY 2021-22)

Workshop Managers

- Mark Bradley - Monday-Tuesday (Since FY 2016-17)
- Dylan Falkenberg - Wednesday-Saturday (Since FY 2020-21)
- Robin van Grootveld - Monday and Wednesday Evening (Since FY 2022-23)

Our Volunteers

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our volunteers who are the backbone of our organisation. Their ongoing efforts enable us to continue assisting our community.

Our Partners

- City of Port Phillip
- South Melbourne Market

Donor Partners

- Australia Post Parcel Centre
- Squadra Foundation
- Westpac South Melbourne

What We Do

Social Impact

We raise funds by selling refurbished bikes and conducting courses to support community cycling. This includes providing bikes to individuals who cannot afford them. Our approach empowers both our volunteer mechanics, who gain self-sufficiency in bike repairs, and the recipients, who achieve newfound freedom to travel longer distances at minimal ongoing cost.

Environmental Impact

Repairing and reusing old bikes offers significant environmental benefits. By diverting bikes from landfill through our volunteer program and donating them to those in need, we contribute to waste reduction. Cycling, being a pollution-free mode of transport, also reduces the reliance on resource-intensive alternatives like driving.

At the Workshop

It has been a transformative year in our workshop. As part of our new licence agreement with the council, we underwent a complete reorganisation of the layout. This provided an opportunity not only to improve the workshop's physical arrangement but also to enhance our bike workflow management, from receiving donated bikes to their eventual sale or gifting to recipients recommended by caseworkers. Our dedicated volunteers and staff worked diligently over a week in late November 2023 to execute this reorganisation. The outcome is a cleaner and more organised workspace that requires less daily setup time.

Transition of Sundays to Monday and Wednesday Evenings

We express our gratitude to Steve Nurse, the first dedicated program manager to refurbish bikes for clients of our partner social organisations. Steve built a solid foundation for this work. We are pleased to announce that Robin van Grootveld has assumed the role of working with volunteers on Monday and Wednesday evenings to refurbish bikes for our clients. Each recipient receives a helmet and lock along with the bike.

In the last financial year, we provided bikes to clients of various partner organisations, some of which are listed below:

- Sacred Heart Mission
- Community Refugee Sponsorship Australia
- Uniting Church Victoria
- Balance Support
- Alfred Health
- St. Vincent's Health
- Wintringham
- Salvation Army
- AMES
- MacKillop Family Services
- Healthfind
- Asylum Seekers Resource Centre
- Reclink
- OzChild
- VACCA
- Launch Housing
- Spectrum

Refurbished Bicycle Sales

Selling refurbished bikes is a core aspect of Back2Bikes' operations. Aside from fulfilling our recycling mission, the surplus funds generated from bike sales and servicing enable us to run our workshop and provide bikes to those who cannot afford them, promoting a cost-effective and healthy mode of transportation. By purchasing a refurbished bike, customers also contribute to waste reduction in the community. Importantly, our refurbished bikes offer superior quality compared to inexpensive new bikes. Each bike undergoes a comprehensive service, including the installation of new brakes, gear cables, brake pads, chains, and quality-checked tires. Additionally, front and rear reflectors and a bell are fitted. We provide a simple warranty: if adjustments or repairs are needed due to fair use, customers can bring their bikes in, and we will rectify the issues. Customers can also exchange bikes if the style or type does not meet their expectations.

Servicing

Back2Bikes now offers a limited range of servicing options to help cover overheads. Our aim is to ensure customers' bikes are properly maintained with economical solutions in mind. We offer good-quality second-hand parts that align with the customer's budget and requirements. This sets us apart from regular bike shops, where the emphasis often lies in selling new bikes and parts as a solution to repair issues. Back2Bikes guarantees a turnaround time of no more than ten days.

Donate a Bike

Generous members of the public and the Victoria Police donate over a dozen bikes to Back2Bikes every week. We deeply appreciate all donations received. However, we must select bikes suitable for refurbishment. Bikes that do not meet our criteria are salvaged for their usable parts, while the rest are responsibly recycled as scrap metal, ensuring minimal waste. In recent times we have seen a significant increase in the quality of bikes received.

Bicycle Maintenance Classes

Currently, we are not offering the six-week bicycle maintenance class. We are evaluating the type of classes that may be offered in the future.

Women's Group

We are proud to be running our evening Women's Group for the fifth consecutive year, aiming to attract more female participants to the workshop. As there is a gender imbalance among our volunteers, this initiative seeks to bridge that gap.

In the Community

Pop-Up Workshops

On the last Saturday of each month, in collaboration with the City of Port Phillip and South Melbourne Market, we provide free bike tune-ups. Led by Mark Bradley, our volunteers average 15 tune-ups during a three-hour period.

Port Phillip Specialist School

Our dedicated volunteers Ian Bray, Ian Winch, and Pete Henkel continue their valuable work with the Port Phillip Specialist School on a regular basis. The fleet of bikes and trikes often feature unique designs that require innovative approaches to refurbishment. Back2Bikes covers the full cost of any necessary parts to repair the school fleet.

Montague School

In the second half of last year, our volunteers refurbished the entire school fleet at no cost to the Montague School.

Port Melbourne Secondary College

During the first half of 2023, our co-manager Mark Bradley conducted two six-week bicycle maintenance courses on-site at Port Melbourne Secondary College. We extend our gratitude to Trek Bicycles Australia for their financial assistance in running the first course. Students, parents, and staff expressed their satisfaction with the positive outcomes achieved through these courses.

Kew Traffic School

We consistently provide regular servicing for the 160 bikes at Kew Traffic School.

Recycling

We are committed to recycling any unused parts or bicycles and actively contributing to the circular economy. We ensure responsible waste management by recycling parts and bikes that are unsuitable for refurbishment. Additionally, all metal components and tyres that cannot be reused are sent for recycling. Tyre recycling is an indispensable expenditure in our pursuit of constructing a sustainable circular economy.

Financial Report

Profit and Loss Statement in \$ for 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

Income	FY2223	FY2122
Bike Maintenance Workshops	5,563	4,914
Bike Parts + Accessories	24,482	23,425
Bike Pick Up	120	290
Bike Sales	112,128	103,764
Bike Servicing	39,048	55,683
Donations and Grants	1,905	10,835
Other Income	1782	2,585
Total Income \$	185,028	201,495
Expenses		
Admin Expenses	9,347	13,550
Bike Expenses (Bikes,Parts,Accessories)	35,694	51,266
Insurance	4,853	4,940
Sunday Refurb Expenses	10,253	6,991
Volunteer Amenities	16,740	13,530
Wages, Super Payroll Expenses	92,480	89,195
Workshop Expenses	8,399	12,713
Other Expenses	5,627	5,170
Total Expenses \$	183,393	197,356
Net Earnings \$	1,635	4,139

The Future

After conducting reviews and implementing operational improvements over the past year, Back2Bikes is now prepared to explore additional avenues that empower individuals in the cycling community. Providing a bicycle can get marginalised students to school and give adults the transport they need to reach their full work potential.

We aim to continue the successful bicycle maintenance courses at Port Melbourne Secondary College and to expand to other schools in the area. We will also explore further opportunities to educate the general community about bicycle maintenance.

With the unwavering dedication of our hardworking volunteers and staff, we continually strive to increase the number of refurbished bikes that can be sold or given away.

Back2Bikes stands in a strong financial position, fostering our optimism for the future. We believe that our strong position enables us to expand existing programs and establish new initiatives that empower volunteers by providing them with skills and community.