

Since last year the Board has seen a number of initiatives that we believe will address this key issue.

Firstly, we have approached DPI and subsequently been requested to develop proposals to undertake a survey of the Perth Bicycle Network to update the information on the next edition of Bicycle Maps.

We have also been requested to develop a proposal to organise and deliver a BUG workshop. Some of you may remember this event was last held when we occupied our previous office in Northbridge, so it is probably overdue.

Secondly we are forming a partnership with Bicycle Victoria to jointly promote the "Main Roads WA Lifecycle Great Western Australian Bike Ride" (See article this page). For every WA person who registers to go on the event the BTA will receive a share of the profit. Therefore we will need lots of effort to go into promoting this great event to the WA Cycling community.

Finally, discussions with the WACF and others about the development of a Cycling WA organisation as a one-stop-shop for cycling in WA may address the issue of rising overheads and better access to government support.

While there is still some way to go before these opportunities are fully developed and finalised, we believe that it offers a number of healthy alternatives for the BTA into the medium-term future.

● *Better Utilisation of BTA Volunteers*

Firstly I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank all those who have given up their time to serve on the Board.

However, as I seem to do each year, I am forced to note that much of the load continues to be shared by a few, for the benefit of many.

However as I have already mentioned tonight, 2005 will offer a number of critically important and interesting projects for members to put up their hands to get involved in. Specifically, the promotion of the Great WA Bike Ride and projects for the DPI Cycling Unit; reviewing cycling maps and organising a BUG workshop will require a wide-spread and enthusiastic group of volunteers.

So the message is get ready to help!

● *Government Restructuring and the Future of Bikewest*

There remains a need to continue to lobby the State Government and its transport, planning and infrastructure agencies to ensure that their commitment to providing a 'champion' for cycling in the public sector as well as the cycling programs being delivered are continued in the face of internal cutbacks.

While support at the Ministerial level has

been good, a lack of agency support has seen the effective demise of the Bikewest brand.

Bicycle Federation of Australia

The BTA continues its membership of the Bicycle Federation of Australia (the peak national advocacy body). The BFA provides representation at the National level and until 2002 were the publishers of *Australian Cyclist* magazine which we pass on to our members every two months.

The BFA has now implemented its new constitution, membership structure and system of fees. This has meant that the cost of the BTA's membership of the BFA has been raised significantly.

I would like to again pass on my thanks to David Smith who continues to act as the BTA's delegate with the BFA.

The BFA is presently trying to seek Federal support for the launch and funding of a revised National Cycling Strategy. This issue may require support from state based organisations and could see a call for local lobbying support.

Membership

Presently membership is at approximately 620 and has remained over the 600 mark for the year. Membership has shown a steady trend over the last several years. We gained approximately 73 new members over the last year.

We expect that the lift in the profile of cycling due to the two recent big rides in Perth and the planned Great WA Bike Ride may provide the opportunity to increase membership. But this will need some active strategies to do so.

The number of our affiliated organisations is now eleven.

The number of BUGs in Perth remains at eighteen and the BTA has received interest in forming BUGs from the regional areas of Rockingham and Mandurah.

Events

The last year was a quiet one from an event perspective but two future events being planned are a BUG workshop and the Great WA Bike Ride.

Bike Week. The BTA continues its annual presence at the Bike-To-Work Breakfast and I would like to acknowledge the assistance of Bikewest for organising the breakfast (approximately 2,500 this year) and for supporting the BTA's presence there.

Social nights. Will recommence during the winter months.

Future Directions

The BTA is at somewhat of a crossroads in its development as an organisation. As has been the subject of previous Presidents reports, we can no longer afford to 'drift' on as we are. Fortunately there are a couple of very exciting opportunities in the offering at

present that could have a significant impact on where the BTA goes to from here.

Firstly, the planned partnership with Bicycle Victoria offers a unique opportunity to share in the planning, promotion and organisation of the Main Roads WA Lifecycle Great Western Australian Bike Ride. This partnership has the potential to significantly improve BTA revenue and also assist with membership levels. We also jointly recognise other possibilities to mutually benefit from an ongoing partnership beyond the Great Ride event.

Secondly, discussions have been held over the last 12 months or so with the WA Cycling Federation over the possibility of amalgamating our cycling activities under one banner. The WACF have broadened these discussions to include other WA cycling organisation such as Munda Bididi and some mountain biking interests. This presents an opportunity for cycling in WA to present a unified and powerful voice as well as having a positive effect on the financial burden that all community based organisations struggle with.

Interestingly discussions over a possible merger at the national level between the Bicycle Federation of Australia, Cycling Australia and the Cycling Promotion Fund are also currently taking place.

Main Roads WA Lifecycle Great Western Australian Bike Ride

The year 2006 will see the first long distance cycle ride in WA, promoted by the BTA in conjunction with Bicycle Victoria (see enclosed leaflet). The ride will be for 2 weeks, from 19th March to 1st April 2006, with options to do sections or the whole of the ride.

We are looking for riders who wish to participate and volunteers to assist during the ride. Assistance will be needed long before the ride starts, so your assistance could cover times other than the actual ride dates.

The enclosed leaflet gives you all of the information that is currently available.

You can register directly with the BTA both for the ride and as a volunteer to assist on:

phone/fax (08) 9420 7210 and leave a message on the answering machine;
email bta_wa@hotmail.com or btaevents@multiline.com.au;
and we are preparing the web site to also take your enquiries at www.multiline.com.au/~bta/