

Chair's Report 2022

After another difficult and destabilising year for many in Aotearoa, Cycling Action Network continues to make progress both where it is hard won and where opportunities have presented themselves in the strange turbulence of our recent socio-political happenings. Despite the challenges of the past year, there's no doubt that cycling is increasing in popularity.

Where we haven't faltered is in fighting for more people on more bikes, more often. Paired with the persistently hard work our affiliates are undertaking in their local areas and communities, in encouraging more bums on bikes our focus continues to be on advocating nationally for better cycling – to encourage infrastructure development, positive policy reform, behavioural change, and ultimately a widespread societal shift.

Our focus

1. Promote the benefits of cycling.
2. Improve safety for cyclists.
3. Encourage the creation of a good cycling environment.
4. Develop cycle advocacy and cycle action.
5. Promote integrated cycle planning.

What positive trends are we seeing?

Councils are building bike lanes.

Trusts and volunteers are expanding our trail networks.

News media are increasingly positive about biking.

The Transport Minister is keen to invest, with of course other competing priorities to juggle

The Government's Road to Zero strategy is developing.

E-bikes are attracting more people to the pleasure and convenience of cycling.

What challenge are we facing?

Undoubtedly, as an organisation, our financial sustainability is our biggest and most pressing hurdle currently. In a challenging fiscal environment, it's increasingly important that we continue our momentum to a more sustainable New Zealand – cycling being a big piece of this puzzle. With efforts this year put into exploring corporate sponsorship, grant applications, and donation drives, we remain in a precarious position that we must continue to problem solve.

The coming year will see us continue to focus on expanding our membership base and applying for grants we're eligible for. To everyone, I encourage you to help spread the word on the need for public donations to keep up the national advocacy that we so sorely need.

As cycling advocates, there's so much to do. We want school bike sheds to be overflowing. We want biking on city streets to both be safe and to be attractive, even in the absence of high fuel prices. We want businesses to be on board with building bike lanes. In pursuit of these goals, I want to shine a light on some key highlights of the year.

Safety

CAN continues to advocate for a [Vision Zero](#) approach to road safety, which the Government has now adopted. A foundation of Vision Zero is that we all make mistakes, but no-one should be harmed as a result. This year the Government has launched a new [Road to Zero](#) campaign.

With support from Waka Kotahi, CAN continues to run the [Share The Road](#) programme aimed at teaching safe behaviours and building empathy between truck drivers and cyclists. Richard has adapted incredibly this year by taking the workshops online, being both well received by participants, and opening up opportunities for more people to attend the workshops virtually. This year Share The Road delivered 59 driver workshops and 19 cyclist workshops.

Safer speeds are an essential factor in a safe transport system, so it's good to see the Government is addressing this through its [Setting of Speed Limits Rule](#) process.

Kids on bikes

A focus on kids biking is included in the [Government Policy Statement on Transport \(GPS\)](#).

Waka Kotahi continues to fund the [Bike Ready](#) cycling education programme.

We expect to see more use of 30 kmh speed limits around schools.

Infrastructure

CAN continues to advocate for Waka Kotahi and councils to invest in bike-friendly streets. The GPS provided for increased investment throughout New Zealand. Some cities have made good progress (e.g. Christchurch), some have ambitious plans (Wellington) while others have much to do to build networks of bike infrastructure. You still can't bike over Auckland Harbour Bridge.

Political and public influence

CAN has an extensive programme of talking with a range of decision-makers in central and local government, business, the community and news media. Our aims are to establish relationships, build trust, identify common ground, and work together where our aims overlap. A great highlight last year included CAN involved in picking up [Transport Minister Michael Wood from Wellington airport, cycling to Beehive](#) along the Cobham Drive cycle path.

CAN is a regular, credible and constructive voice in news media and on social media. A recent tweet on an RNZ interview has attracted more than 85,000 impressions, and [Stuff proactively approaching Patrick for an opinion piece in February](#) that was widely shared and read online.

Building the network

Behind the scenes, CAN is building our capacity for impact. Our governance structure is set up to support our mission and we continue to attract high-calibre volunteers and financial support.

Local groups all around New Zealand have been amazingly active in campaigns for better streets. I couldn't possibly do any of them justice here by highlighting any one activity or group, as they've all been fighting the good fight in supporting the regionalised issues of their communities.

To finish up – our people

To the CAN Board Members and all CAN volunteers, thank you for giving up your time and for coming together out of a shared passion. It's your efforts that

To all regional affiliate groups, thank you for the practical action and support you give the cycling movement on the ground. When it comes to concrete and localised impact to communities that's imperative to increased cycling, this comes about as a result of nights spent on Council submissions, volunteering at events, rallying neighbourhoods, and fighting for better infrastructure alternatives. Everyone at CAN is forever grateful for the time you afford to our overarching vision.

And at the heart of CAN is Patrick Morgan, with his tireless persistence and infectious enthusiasm. You are our biggest asset, Patrick. You're respected by all that cross your path, and the way in which you present your passionate arguments, whilst building genuine relationships, is so admired.

Thank you for all that you do, Patrick.

Ride on,

Dea Majstorovic