

Chairperson's Report 2021

Cycling in New Zealand is at a crossroads, with the 2020 year seeing many of the gains in cycling infrastructure becoming cemented, whilst also seeing a new round of push back against infrastructure gains.

The highlight of 2020 is that the lock down demonstrated to all of us just what New Zealand's transport system could look like in a post-motor world.

What CAN is doing well.

The CAN brand through Patrick's dedicated work continues to resonate with policy makers in the central government and his efforts provide a legitimate, consistent, and considered response and messaging amongst government agencies.

Our affiliates continue to push for better infrastructure throughout the country. Examples of success is the continued build-out of infrastructure in Christchurch.

What CAN can do better.

Our affiliates need to get better at supporting each other, not just with ideas and moral support but also in engaging with our corresponding communities to build stronger ties with each other and other community based groups.

I believe that CAN can improve how it communicates its successes to the wider community and also find a way to take ownership both directly with the affiliate groups for all successes, including infrastructure, funding, regulatory improvements, and simply put just more people riding.

The eBike revolution is possibly the best opportunity to get more people riding today.

What CAN must do better.

We must adapt to a challenging fiscal environment and find a way to translate the support and increase in people riding bikes at all levels to improved donations and membership.

Membership remains stagnant and appears to demonstrate a disconnect between the wider riding public and CAN's capabilities.

CAN runs the risk of financial distress if a concerted effort to improve membership and donations fails. I believe that the onus must be on both the affiliate groups and the board to find a solution that succeeds in this endeavour.

Where to from here....

1. Strengthen our messaging.
2. Strengthen our affiliates.

3. Strengthen our finances.
4. Improve and increase the support we provide to Patrick (e.g. more resourcing).

I remain convinced that the work CAN does will succeed in changing New Zealand - for the betterment of our families and community, the environment we all live in, and the economy we work in and that we must remain resolute in our commitment while building a better mandate to speed up both behavioural shift and instructure construction.

Ride on,
Jon