



## Queensland Walks Presidents Report 2019/2020

**This last financial year has seen Queensland Walks lay foundations for growth by establishing formal business practices and delivering on key projects as part of Queensland's first Walking Strategy.**

Queensland Walks has evolved from being a well-run volunteer organisation to obtaining its first project funding, employing its first Executive Officer and successfully delivering on projects in an environment hugely impacted by the COVID19 pandemic.

The Management Committee (Board) was refreshed at the October 2019 AGM and we welcomed new members including myself as President, Ben Wilson (Secretary), Shalon Thompson (Treasurer), Andrea Mann and Jane Hedger. Jana Novak stepped down in June 2020. Jana was a founding member of Queensland Walks who has contributed significantly to the organisation and we thank her for her contribution, passion and efforts.

The tremendous work of our founding members and committee led to successfully gaining funding from the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) to deliver on key projects as part of the Queensland Walking Strategy. As such in January 2020, Queensland Walks employed its first Executive Officer, Anna Campbell, who with the support of our Board, contractors and volunteers successfully commenced work on key projects:

- Establishing the Walking Alliance
- Developing requirements and developing the Walk Hub
- Planning and preparing for Queensland Walks' Week in August 2020
- Scoping of a future community activation project.

We would like to thank and congratulate TMR for developing Queensland's first Walking Strategy, especially congratulate the Walking and Cycling team for the delivery of an enormous number of Action Plan items that are already improving the focus of walkability in Queensland. We are proud to partner with them and other stakeholders to implement this strategy for the benefit of Queenslanders.

The shift from being a volunteer led and run organisation to one with employees and key projects to deliver under contract required the establishment of more formal work practices and processes. As such we have had a focus on governance and ensuring effective financial management has been put in place and we continue to build on these functions.

Our key achievements during the financial year included:

- Leading advocacy, community engagement and responding to relevant infrastructure projects to raise the awareness and importance of prioritising walking, walkability and healthy active communities.

- Delivering a successful Walk at Work Week 2019 campaign (unfunded), and Queensland Walks Week 2020 (funded and participant numbers tripling).
- Hosting our first Walking Alliance meeting online, with participants including Minister Mark Bailey, Transport and Main Roads Walking and Cycling team, and key stakeholders from 30 organisations and individuals.
- Commencing work on the Walk Hub resources and developing a new website [www.queenslandwalks.org.au](http://www.queenslandwalks.org.au)
- Establishing protocols and processes for managing operations and finances.
- More than tripling our social media presence through four channels (Twitter, Linked-In, Facebook and Instagram).
- Submissions for Victoria Park, Green Bridge Program, Metro, Cross River Rail.
- Outreach to over 36 council regions.
- Representation at Active Transport Advisory committees in Toowoomba.
- Establishing 'Friends of Queensland Walks' through stakeholder engagement and growing a non-financial member base of well over 500.

I would like to thank Anna Campbell and our Board members for their work and commitment over the 12 months. Together we ensured we met our obligations, continued to work safely and effectively and navigated the organisation through the uncertainty of COVID19.

We will continue to engage, listen and consult with our members, the community, stakeholders and partners so that walking is prioritised when investment decisions that impact on the walkability of Queensland communities are being made.

We look forward to the year ahead and to many more volunteers, members and friends of Queensland Walks joining with us to achieve our vision.

**Michelle Wade GAICD**

**President and Chair, Queensland Walks**