



Queensland Walks 2020 Annual General Meeting Executive Officer report February - November 2020

Thank you for attending our AGM both remotely and in person. I'm proud to report that this is the second year in which we have offered an online AGM. Ahead of our time!

My tagline this year seems to have been '*everyday walking has been undervalued and underfunded, and for far too long*'. A pandemic however gave us a chance to leverage the discussion about the importance of walking, and afforded the community to remember the value of walking, and be reminded of the significance of local community facilities like their local park or bushwalk.

The pandemic and lock down was wedged between two very important elections this year. Firstly, our local government election whereby Queensland Walks alongside our important stakeholders wrote to most Mayors and Councillors asking them to support healthy active communities through walking infrastructure, strategies and programs, and more recently the state election. Whilst we were disappointed to not have an election commitment specifically for the continuation of the Queensland Walking Strategy Action Plan, we will continue to advocate for this and deliver on currently funded projects. Queensland Walks through the work of the Queensland Walking Alliance project wrote to the political parties calling on their commitment to funding a [Footpaths for Queensland project \(F4Q\) as well as other requests](#).

A quick retrospective 2019/2020

In July 2019 as the then President of Queensland Walks, I personally took leave from the paid workforce to be able to focus on Queensland Walks moving into a better position financially, to deliver on Walk at Work Week, strengthen our awareness and reach, and put the organisation in a position to take on funding. My aim was for Queensland Walks to deliver on funded projects and develop into an organisation capable of making positive and strategic 'steps' for all pedestrians in Queensland. At the last AGM I stepped away from the role of President in 2019 and warmly welcomed Michelle Wade who brought with her a wealth of board experience, governance and marketing skills to complement the organisation. We also attracted new Executive Committee members in Ben Wilson, Jane Hedger, and Shalon Thompson all who have brought a wealth of Board experience and varying industry knowledge readying for an organisation to transition. I submitted my resignation from the role on the Executive Committee / Board in January, declaring my interest in the funded Executive Officer position, with a recruitment process following. I was honoured to take on the position of Executive Officer in February, and commence on projects immediately – we had no time to waste!

This year has been incredibly busy, with the need to be responsive to change and adapt to COVID and respond to the elections as well as budget, design and contract the projects. As an organisation it was necessary to focus on our funded projects primarily.

Some of the achievements during our period of funding included:

- Conducted various radio interviews on national and local commercial and ABC and 2 x TV news
- Designed and delivered a new website and the first phase of the Walk Hub
- Delivered an online membership system with e-commerce
- Delivered an online ticketing system for future events
- Launched and tripled the participation of the Queensland Walks' Week, with 80% of participants new to the campaign, and roughly 70% who had not heard of Queensland Walks prior to the campaign (See Queensland Walks Week report)
- Launched the Qld Walking Alliance (after a cancelled launch at Parliament House due to COVID), two meetings delivered and a state election letter formed and sent to political parties
- Scoped a community activation project in a regional location
- Joined the Active Transport Committees for both Brisbane and Toowoomba
- Submission to major projects Victoria Park, Green Bridges, Cross River Rail, Ipswich, Toowoomba, Rockhampton, Cairns submissions and more
- Attended and represented International Federation of Pedestrians (IFP) international assemblies and COVID-specific meetings, attended interstate advocacy organisation events and continue to collaborate with interstate pedestrian organisations Victoria Walks and Walking SA as well as Sydney Walks, Living Streets Canberra and other like-minded pedestrian organisations.
- Advocated on behalf of members and community members as well as co-advocacy with healthy active organisations.

As an advocacy organisation we tread the fine line between project delivery and a wider scope of advocacy locally, across the state and nationally. This has provided opportunities and challenges in not being able to do all the things we hope to do:

- Limited resources meant that we were unable to commit to additional activities such as joining the CWANZ (Cycling and Walking Australia and New Zealand) committee.
- Short lead-times on events, on notifications and meetings due to limited resources.
- Challenges on a national context with differing road rules and therefore as an organisation we need to be careful in our approach and strategy in managing footpath conflict and new technologies.

I'd like to congratulate and thank all our individual Friends of Queensland Walks for their support and encouragement in 2020, stakeholders and members and the hardworking board for all the incredibly hard work and dedication, support and encouragement for the work we do.

I would like to especially thank all our key stakeholders who provide us with a generous amount of time and knowledge, and in particular I would like to acknowledge the following people and organisations who have provided Queensland Walks with direction, guidance and support:

- Heart Foundation: Stephen Vines, Ali Durham, Rebecca Lowe and Sheree Hughes.
- 10,000 Steps, Anetta Van Itallie and Corneel Vandelanotte
- QORF / Outdoors Queensland, Dom Courtney and his hardworking team
- Nature Play QLD, Angela Wright
- Inclusion Moves, Geoff Trappett
- Cancer Council Qld, James Farrell and Paige Preston
- Cool and Covered, Louise Baldwin
- Australian Institute of Landscape Architects – Qld, David Uhlmann and Melanie West
- Diabetes Qld and the My Health for Life program
- Health and Wellbeing Queensland
- Vision Australia
- Bushwalking Queensland
- 7 Senses, Tobias Volbert
- Ethos Urban, Greg Vann
- Bicycle Queensland, and all the Bicycle User Groups, Space for Cycling
- Zwart Transport, Jerryn and her team.

I'd also like to thank our volunteer technical advisory group, who kindly provide expert technical guidance and advice when needed. We would also like to acknowledge the incredibly hard work by the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) Walking and Cycling team: Adam Rogers, Robyn Davies, Lea Gamble and Andrew Ross as well as Michael Langdon and their teams who consistently promote walking and awareness of the needs of all pedestrians of all ages in the urban environment.

We'd also like to thank any political representative/s in council and state and federal government who have, and continue to support walking in their community and in their portfolio, and in particular the Minister for Transport, Mark Bailey who made a commitment to walking in funding the Queensland Walking Strategy and has helped promote and attend our events.

Last but not least, I would like to thank our very dedicated Board, especially Michelle Wade, Ben Wilson and Shalon Thompson who have spent long hours on the organisation. It's been a wonderful Board to work with and I'm excited to see many of those Board members agree to volunteer their valuable time for another year. Thank you!

I am genuinely looking forward to seeing Queensland Walks flourish in 2021. With an eye on renewed and new funding, and a consistent voice, we know that we can make walking an every day option for all Queenslanders.

Anna Campbell, Executive Officer