



Keir Paterson

As the current President of Bicycle Network, I'm asking for your support to continue on the Board during a difficult time for the organisation.

It's been a tough year of challenge and opportunity. The coronavirus pandemic has meant that we have had to cancel much loved events. People are living and working closer to home and are looking for transport alternatives - we are in urgent need of more government funding of safe riding infrastructure.

As we emerge from the COVID crisis, I'm committed to leading Bicycle Network's efforts to improve advocacy and adapt to this changed and challenging environment.

I returned to bike riding 12 years ago after my Dad and Uncle died suddenly of strokes within a year of each other. At 36, I had high blood pressure and experienced anxiety and depression. It's not exaggerating to say getting back on a bike saved my life.

Over the past four years on the Board, I'm proud to have been involved in Bicycle Network changes such as:

- Being a more outspoken advocate for Minimum Passing Distance Laws;
- Conducting an objective and measured review of mandatory helmet laws;
- Increasing efforts to engage with senior levels of government; and
- Taking a stronger stance on sustainability and the environmental benefits of cycling.

Over the next three years I will be pushing for Bicycle Network to:

- Ramp up advocacy efforts, particularly pushing for better infrastructure to improve transport links post-COVID and minimum passing distance in Victoria;
- Influence local and state government to reduce hazards along popular routes for road cyclists;
- Engage more pro-actively with other bike organisations, including BUGs;
- Encourage and promote diversity, so that Bicycle Network events and membership better represent our community as a whole.

COVID-19 presents Bicycle Network with huge challenges – and also opportunities. Our approach to events will need to evolve as we emerge from COVID restrictions. We'll need to find new ways to give value to members. With the explosion in rider numbers during lockdown, and the need for a COVID-safe transport mode, advocacy is a higher priority than ever. At the same time, it's harder to get the attention of policy makers amid increasing competition for budget dollars.



Continuity, experience and commitment will be critical to the Bicycle Network Board through the difficult times ahead. Please consider giving me one of your votes for Bicycle Network Board.

In my personal life, I'm a husband and a father of three, and all five of us ride for exercise and transport. In my day job I'm a GM at the mental health not-for-profit SuperFriend. I am also a Director of Bicycles for Humanity Melbourne, which sources, repairs and transports bikes for re-use in Namibia. I write a regular column in my local community paper. My professional qualifications include an MBA from Melbourne Business School, and graduate qualifications in marketing, communications and financial planning.

I would love to hear from you with any questions or ideas at keir4bikenetwork@gmail.com or facebook.com/keir4bikenetwork