



THE BICYCLE INSTITUTE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
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**Report to BISA committee, on 2009 project, to source and supply bikes for
"Deadly Treadlies" in Alice Springs, and other organizations with similar aims**

Mike Brisco, 28 Feb 2010



Jeffrey Manthoni, with 62 bikes, boxed, to take to the road freight depot in Adelaide. Bikes are for freighting to Coober Pedy, and to Amata on the APY lands, in outback South Australia
30 Nov 2009

Background

Deadly Treadlies, an organization in Alice Springs, used bicycles, to engage and work with young people. In recent years it's been run by Alice Springs Youth Accommodation and Support Services (ASYASS), a recognized not-for-profit, which provides a range of support, for young people, including accommodation. Deadly is a national leader in its type of work, and won numerous awards.

In April 2009, Deadly contacted us about getting secondhand bikes from Adelaide. It was becoming hard to get enough old bikes in Alice. Since 2003 BISA has run a small, voluntary bike recycling scheme, to provide bikes at no charge to refugees settling in Adelaide and to other disadvantaged groups. We volunteered to collect bikes for Deadly, as long as Deadly could transport bikes to Alice.

In May and June We placed appeals in newsletters of Adelaide cycling organizations, and a local radio station. By the end of June people had donated over 130 bikes, plus some parts and accessories. Deadly and Talbot Transport were organizing a shipping container.

For BISA outcomes of these types of project, are never guaranteed. Our partners are often small organizations, their funding is often precarious, their future is never 100% certain. Deadly was a national leader in its work, and had been going for several years. However, it relied on donations and grants to keep going. During the 2008-9 economic downturn, many not for profits suffered as supporters cut back. The larger organizations tended to cope better than smaller ones, as they had flexibility to re-schedule, downsize, and re-prioritize, and in addition may have had reserves built up that they could use to get by. Smaller organizations were hit particularly hard by the recession, as they lacked the flexibility and resources, to survive in these ways. Deadly had funding applications in, but in August 2009, and was forced to close. Deadly kept us informed of their situation throughout.

Contingency Plans

In late August, it became clear Deadly were unable to continue, and we activated contingency plans. We took on ourselves, responsibility to ensure the bikes ended up used, as their donors had intended. This involved fixing up the bikes ; identifying alternative recipients in remote areas, and arranging transport and delivery. Donors were kept informed of events, and we offered to return their donation, if they wished.

We first sought organizations in Alice Springs, taking over from Deadly, or doing similar work. There were 2-3 small organizations identified, but none could accept the bikes. Deadly had good workshop facilities, as encouraging young people to work on the bikes, was part of their aim. None of the other organizations had these on the same scale.

We widened the search, seeking organizations in remote SA and NT, and offering bikes free of charge for work with young indigenous people. For this we are grateful to Karpa Ngarrattendi, the Aboriginal Health Unit at Flinders Medical Centre, for emailing information. 16 organizations contacted us , mostly not-for-profits or public service, involved in: young people; aboriginal communities; disadvantaged groups; remote areas. We were able to make arrangements to distribute bikes to 12 of these, with possibility of assisting another organization at a future date.

Bikes for distribution

The original appeal produced 163 bikes, mostly from the public. Most were men's mountain bikes ; there were some children's bikes, some BMXs, and a few road bikes. Most bikes were in good condition, though needed checking and servicing, and for outback use, thornproof tyres fitting.

We felt this was a one-off opportunity to send bikes to remote communities. As demand exceeded donations, we looked for extra bikes.

BISA's other recycling scheme "Bikes for Refugees" had surplus, and we transferred 76 bikes from to the Outback scheme. The Australian Refugee Association also gave us 25 bikes (old or in need of repair). This provided 101 extra bikes for the Outback scheme.

In return, we used 14 bikes originally donated to "Deadly Treadlies", to directly assist refugee families with their specific cycling needs.

Thus the 14 bike originally donated to the Outback scheme, and used for other purposes, made 101 bikes available for the outback - approximately a 7-for-1 swap. We felt this was consistent with donors intentions, that their donation be used to help outback communities. At the same time, BISA was also able to meet needs of refugee communities in Adelaide.

Servicing and shipping.

BISA also took responsibility to check, repair and service the bikes, - tasks that Deadlies were to have undertaken - and responsibility to organize transport to remote areas or regional areas. This added significantly to the costs and time needed for the project.

Deadlies staff Len Minty, bike mechanic Peter Good, and from Bottles 'n' Chains Community Workshop, advised on making bikes reliable for outback use, where repair facilities are limited. The best are single speed bikes, with back-pedal brakes, ie BMX bikes and children's bikes. Several communities have BMX courses. Mountain bikes could be used, but their gears and brakes, were prone to damage . Road bikes with narrow tyres are OK in town conditions, but less suitable on rough sand/gravel roads or BMX courses. Bikes also needed thornproof inner tubes, otherwise get punctures within hours or days. All bikes need to be robust and reliable, as can be difficult. A total of 158 bikes were checked, cleaned, serviced, road tested, and adapted for Outback conditions.

The work involved in servicing cleaning and delivering 203 bikes, was too much BISA's volunteers. From Aug-Dec 2009, we employed two teenagers, recently arrived in Adelaide as refugees, to assist on Saturday afternoons. Besides supplying bikes, BISA uses its bike recycling scheme, to provide work experience opportunities for refugee teenagers. They often are keen to obtain part time work, but find it difficult to secure jobs in e.g fast food, supermarket shelf filling, due to lack of employment history, and lack of familiarity with the labor market here. BISA can by funding part time jobs, supply a small amount of income, and also experience, an employment record, and we supply references to help them apply for other jobs. Funds come from sale of a few of the bikes donated , usually the older ones, less suitable for distribution for riding, but of interest to collectors and restorers.

Distribution of bikes to recipient organisations

By Christmas 2009, all 203 bikes suitable, had been handed on. 101 bikes needed road-freighting to remote areas, and needed to be part-dismantled, packed in bike boxes, and delivered to transport company freight depots in Adelaide. The rest were delivered - by car + trailer - or in a hired 3 ton truck.

12 organizations received a total of 203 bikes, free of charge. We decided to distribute bikes widely, and all but one organizations that contacted us, that we were able to make arrangements with, received something.

Seven high-value bikes were forwarded to Mission Australia in Alice Springs. In Summer 2009-10 they are running a holiday bike activities program for young people, and this was the closest we could identify, to Deadlies work. The largest consignment - 46 - went to Families SA, for use on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara lands in the far north of SA. Another 16 went to Umoona council at Coober Pedy. Another 50 went to schools in Port Augusta and Whyalla, which have special programs for their indigenous students. 12 went to Highgate Primary School in Adelaide, for their "partner schools" around Katherine in the NT. 67 went to organizations in Adelaide and in Mt Gambier, working with indigenous communities, to set up bike-repair projects. Finally 26 bikes, mostly bikes unsuitable for outback use, went to organizations that work with other disadvantaged groups of young people: FamiliesSA Assessment Unit at Gilles Plains; Bowden Brompton special school at Elizabeth; and Plaza Youth at Whyalla. All bikes were distributed by 23 Dec 2009.

Financial costs

We estimate the financial value distributed, as \$22,095. This is based on market prices of secondhand bikes, plus improvements, plus costs of delivery. It includes \$3,000 in transport costs, that recipients kindly met - but otherwise BISA would have had to pay.

The final cost to BISA was \$4,659, which represented an unplanned expense, due to our having to fix up bikes ourselves, and arrange transport ourselves. Final cost include labour (\$1865), thornproof inner tubes (\$1250, at wholesale prices or below), other spares (\$305) and transport/delivery (\$1239). An anonymous BISA member paid these expenses during 2009, in the hope of reimbursement later from BISA. 18 bikes were retained to sell, to help cover costs - these are old models unsuitable for outback conditions, but possibly of interest to restorers or collectors. They may fetch \$400-\$800, depending on market conditions.

Administration

The project was run by the Bicycle Institute for South Australia inc, (BISA), a voluntary community not-for-profit organisation, which works to encourage cycling and cyclists in SA, and specializes in people who use bikes for transport.. More information, www.bisa.asn.au. Co-ordinator of BISA's bike recycling scheme, is Mike Brisco, 13 Mines Road, Campbelltown, S Australia 5074 - tel 8365 7489.

Further information

We welcome inquires for more information. Our system tracks bikes individually, and we are happy to share with donors, on request, information about where their donation ended up. contact Mike Brisco email mike.brisco@flinder.edu.au., or chair of BISA, Jeremy Miller (chair@bisa.asn.au).

Acknowledgments

First, thanks to all who donated bikes and parts for the "Deadly Treadlies" project. We also thank donor, for taking time to bring bikes to our collection points. This meant what time our volunteers had, they could use to service and pack bikes, instead of having to go to pick them up. This meant at the end of the day, more bikes went to recipients.

Also, thanks to all volunteers who donated time to clean, repair, and pack bikes for transport. BISA, a small community organization, receives no outside support, and depends on volunteers and members, to do what it does. Supplying 100+ bikes to people in remote Australia, involves much work.

Special thanks also to **Kevin Clark, Clarks Cycles** at Kensington - for unfailing advice, support and supplying thornproof inner tubes at below wholesale price

Thanks also to:

- JT Cycles at Holden Hill**, for supplying close on 100 bike boxes, needed for shipping
- Plympton Cycles** - donation of many almost-new bikes
- Lifecycles, Kensington**, for more boxes.
- BikeSA** - large donation of bikes, and helping publicize the Appeal
- Adelaide Mountain Bike Club**, for helping publicize the scheme
- SAPOL at Port Pirie** - donations of bikes
- Goolwa Bicycle Users Group** - bike collection
- Alex Moncrieff**, Coromandel, for sourcing of bikes
- Rickos at Campbelltown**, for sourcing bikes
- Scott at Campbelltown** for helping sell bike frames, on Ebay to raise funds
- Jeremy Miller, Sam Powrie** - bike sales
- All people who volunteered to help at the BISA working bee in December ..**
- Tamba Keifa, Jeffrey Manthoni** - work experience trainees, BISA
- Peter Good** - technical advice & support
- Len Minty of Deadly Treadlies**, r co-ordination , and for advice on outback conditions.
- Sue McMillan** - for acting as bike depot in the southern suburbs
- Brian Jenkins** - assistance with boxing up bikes for freighting
- Families SA** for organizing transport of 60 bikes to the APY lands
- Umoona Community Council, Coober Pedy** for transport of bikes to there
- Mission Australia**, for organizing transport of bikes to Alice Springs
- Talbot Transport**, for assisting with transport to Alice.
- Tracey McNee** of ASYASS for assistance & support
- Mark Swindells**, Mission Australia, Alice Springs - liaison and sending a DVD of their Summer 09-10 cycling activities, in central Australia

Recipient Organisations

| Organisation | Location | Broad aim | Complete Bikes donated | bike "as is" |
|---|---|---|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| *EJ Eyre High School, | Whyalla | Jeannette Cowan - program to encourage school attendance & year 12 completion among students from disadvantaged backgrounds | 30 | |
| Plaza Youth | Whyalla, | Bike building project, for young people | | 8 |
| *Kumanga program | Hindmarsh, Adelaide | Bike building project, urban people of indigenous heritage | | 10 |
| *Highgate Primary School, | | Forwarding to sister schools near Katherine, NT | 12 | |
| *Mission Australia | Alice Springs & Yulara, NT | 2009-10 School holiday bike program at small indigenous towns around Alice e.g Docker river, Apatula, Mutitjulu (Ayers Rock). | 21 | |
| *Wilsden Primary School | Port Augusta | school curriculum | 20 | |
| *Pangula Mannamurna, | Mt Gambier | Health & support services for indigenous community, - bikes used for a bike building project | | 16 |
| *Families SA | Fregon, & Amata, and on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Tjutara lands, SA | Bike activities program with indigenous communities, in remote areas | 46 | |
| Families SA | Gilles Plains Assessment Unit | Cycling for young people living at the Unit | 7 | |
| *Umoona Community Council, | Coober Pedy, SA | Bicycle activities - indigenous community | 16 | |
| Anglicare - Reconnect | Brompton Bowden school, Salisbury E, Adelaide | Bike building project, | | 11 |
| *Bottles & Chains Community Bike Workshop, Yulara & Mission Australia Mutitjulu | **Yulara/Mutitjulu | collaborate with Mission Australia school holiday program | 6 | |
| | | | 158 | 45 |
| Overall total, bikes distributed by the Scheme | | | 203 | |

* working with indigenous communities

Numbers of bikes received, and fate of bikes

Bikes received

163 obtained for BISA's Deadly Treadlies appeal - bike shops, public

25 from Australian Refugee Association

76 transfer from "Bikes for Refugees" scheme

TOTAL 264

Bikes distributed

203 distributed to community groups - see table

18 retain to sell, to raise funds to cover parts & labour

14 transfer to "Bikes for Refugees" scheme

25 beyond worthwhile repair, used for spare parts only

4 fate not recorded (label missing)

TOTAL 264

All bikes distributed by 23 Dec 2009



Attention: Mike Brisco
Bike for Refugees Scheme
13 Mines Rd
Campbelltown
South Australia 5074

Dear Mike and fellow supporters of Deadly Treadlies,

Re: Donation of bikes to Deadly Treadlies program- Alice Springs

It is with great disappointment and frustration that I write this letter to advise the Bikes for Refugees Scheme that Deadly Treadlies has ceased operation.

As of the 30 June 2009 we stopped delivering programs to the many young people who actively and willingly wanted to participate in the activities offered by Deadly Treadlies. Sadly, on 31 July 2009, due to no funds, both Deadly Treadlies Program Officers ceased employment with Alice Springs Youth Accommodation and Support Services (ASYASS) all equipment was disposed of and the work shed returned to the landlord.

It has been a disappointing outcome for all involved with Deadly Treadlies, including the young people, their families, ASYASS staff, schools and ASYASS management. Unfortunately, it appears that neither the Australian or Territory Governments felt the need, or saw the benefits, of investing in an innovative program such as Deadly Treadlies.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved and committed to donating and collecting bikes for Deadly Treadlies. I would also like to extend a heartfelt thanks to those who strongly advocated for our program. Sadly, there is not a similar program in Central Australia that we could donate the bikes you have collected to. I will advise Mike immediately if I discover any similar projects.

With Much Appreciation,

Tracey McNee
Manager
ASYASS
19 August 2009

Alice Springs Youth Accommodation and Support Services Inc.

Office: 12 Undoolya Rd, Alice Springs NT 0870

Postal Address: PO Box 9094, Alice Springs NT 0871 Phone (08) 8953 4200

Fax: (08) 8952 4168 Email: office@asyass.org.au After Hours Phone: (08) 8953 4096 ABN 35 451 745 525



Truckload of bikes for delivery to schools with indigenous students, in Whyalla and Port Augusta.



High value bikes for shipment to Mission Australia, Alice Springs, for school holiday program in Summer 2009-10

Some of the bikes .



Certificate of Appreciation

This certificate is awarded to

***Bicycle Institute of South
Australia Inc.***

**Thanking you for the donations of bicycles to
Indigenous students to help attend school**

**Jeanette Cowan
Aboriginal Education Teacher
Edward John Eyre High School
Grundel Street Whyalla SA**

