

Adelaide Community Bicycle Workshop – report to BISA committee –

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The Workshop opened in August 2011, and is now nearing the end of its second year.

Activities

During the second year, the workshop has continued to open almost every Saturday morning, with on average 6 jobs a week, or 300 jobs during the year. Many have been visitors wanting help with bike restoration or bike repair, and also there is regularly work for the “Bikes for refugees” program. The Workshop has also been opened occasional weekdays, for special projects, or for general maintenance activities. Most Saturdays there have been several volunteers present, and several visitors.

Volunteers from the Workshop also assisted at several events off site including “Bring & Fix” stalls for Playford council and Charles Sturt council; three bike give-away days with the Australian Refugee Association at Salisbury, Marion and Underdale; plus organising bike maintenance classes for a local boarding college, as part of the students Duke of Edinburgh scheme.

The workshop has been able to tackle nearly every job that visitors have requested – suggesting it is currently, equipped fairly adequately to meet demand. It is currently equipped for 6 people to work on bikes at the same time, with 6 basic tool sets, plus 1 set of specialized bike tools. In addition it has built up a toolkit for off-site use, sufficient for 10 people to do basic bike maintenance. Tool losses have been few, mainly breakages; these have been replaced as they occurred.

During the year the Workshop maintained stocks of spare parts and consumables, thanks to stock checking by volunteer Stephen. It also acquired sun shades for summer work outside. Flinders Medical Centre School of Medicine donated several cupboards, which assist with storage.

Finances

On 30 June 2013, the Workshop held \$2048.80 in cash, and was owed \$75.00 (the latter since received). The workshop owed \$1034.25 (to M Brisco, value of receipts for purchase of parts, tools and consumables). This left a balance of a surplus of \$1014.55.

On 30 June 2012 (a year before) the balance was a surplus was \$197.00.

Thus \$817.55 was accumulated over 2012-3. Around half came from payment for attending events off-site. (\$400).

Expenditure during 2012-3 was . \$1805.67: \$705.12 on tools mostly new; \$847.00 on parts; \$253.55 on other items, including sun shades .

Earnings during the year came from donations from visitors; sale of secondhand parts; payments for volunteers attending events off site.. New parts are sold at near-cost, so contribute little to earnings. It is noteworthy that earnings from donations and sales of secondhand parts alone, have consistently cover expenses so far. When the workshop opened, there was considerable doubt

whether this business model, would be sustainable, or whether other funding would have to be pursued. Thanks are due to volunteer Don, for helping to bring this about.

Future

Interest seems to be growing over time. Currently we set up 3 or 4 work stations most Saturdays, and can expand to 5-6 if demand grows. Storage of bikes is always an issue, as the "Bikes for Refugees" project, gets a large and variable number of donations. this situation will need monitoring during 2013-4. Future plans include a course on bike restoration scheduled for Sept-Oct; and possibly assisting with a bike event for W Torrens Council in early 2014. . Saturday mornings often prove busy, it would be good to have a few more volunteers to help visitors, specially during the warmer months. Financial arrangements seem adequate – the workshop aims to merely cover expenses, and current arrangements do that successfully.

Acknowledgments

The Workshop relied heavily on a number of volunteers during the year. A few turn up almost every Saturday; others volunteered for a few months or weeks. They are all due a vote of thanks, for helping make the place a success.

The Workshop also owes thanks to the many members of the public, who have donated goods or money. There have been some significant donations of spare parts during the year, and they have all contributed to keeping the Workshop going and helping people fix bikes.

Mike Brisco

19 July 2013.