

4 September 2020

## **SKCC president's report**

Dear Valued Members

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you for your support of the St Kilda Cycling Club in what has been an incredibly challenging year for so many reasons. Your support means we are in a position to capitalise on future opportunities in which there are many.

I would like to personally thank the current committee and the many volunteers for successful 2020. Volunteers who love bike riding are the heart and soul of our club and without these fantastic people who work tirelessly behind the scene at racing, social events and the weekday training rides our club would not be the great club it is today! Thank you so much for the support you give to our members and people of the cycling community.

### Goodbye White Street ☹️

The end of an era of racing at White Street, our home for over 17 years. To let you in on the "behind the scenes" organisation of the 2019 season was absolute chaos! Before the racing season commenced I briefed the committee on the potential costs for the season and the loss that might occur. With additional traffic management and infrastructure costs we estimated the loss would be \$20,000. A significant investment considering our racing typically breaks even or makes a couple of dollars. The committee was satisfied that this was an important last piece of the club history and considering we had the opportunity, we decided we should give it one last shot!

We went about planning and organising the racing but everyday there was a new problem, with a more expensive solution. We knew and understood there would be more professional traffic management and we would not be able to use volunteers however we didn't budget the fact council would not allow us to continue with our storage cage and the toilets in the historic White Street location. A solution for the storage was to hire a truck for the 6-week period. This turned out to be an advantage as it was safer, more reliable, and much bigger than our old van. However, shipping the toilets in and out each weekend was going to be extremely costly on a Sunday rate. Thankfully our good friends at City of Mazda allowed us to use their carpark space and store the toilets there for the shortened season. If you need a car or service make sure you drop in and say hello to Michael and the team!

At one point a couple of weeks out from our first race we were on the verge of cancelling everything including the Shimano SuperCrit! The mounting issues with permits, traffic management, sponsorship not renewing and other costs were getting out of control. Thankfully we have a committed group of people. With the support from Shimano Australia never in doubt we had a very successful last season at White Street. Overall the end loss to the club was \$17,110, and under the budget that had been signed off by the committee.

Finally, I would like to make the point that we fully support the City of Port Phillip decision making on additional traffic management.

**St Kilda Cycling Club**

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The area has changed from dormant soap factory of many years ago to now become the residential address to many. It is disappointing that we didn't have a permanent solution before we announced the end of racing at the White Street location.

White Street will hold many great memories and will truly be missed by the whole cycling community.

#### Non-racing activities

Until the start of our new Covid world, our club continued on the training and social activities we have been known and loved for. With members regularly participating in Beach Road rides and sipping coffee sharing many laughs. The current SKCC cycling kit has been a staple of Beach Road with members wearing it with real pride.

In November there was a weekend away to Bright for some hard training in the mountains. The small group that attended had an awesome time riding some of the best roads in Victoria and of course cannot wait to get back there hopefully in late 2020.

It seems like a distant memory but the 2019 Tour de France was in the 2020 financial year. All those who attended know what a great location and venue the Bells Hotel was with their big screen and plenty of room for people to gather around and chat. It is certainly a disappointment we won't be able to have a similar function again this year.

#### SKCC Future

I am very pleased to report there is some big plans and ideas in the pipeline! I will disclose more at the **AGM** so make sure you zoom in on **Tuesday night, 8th September**. We will be giving an update on the financial situation of the club along with some pretty exciting Albert Park developments which are for members eyes only!

We would love to have you more involved in the club. Even the smallest contribution can make the biggest difference to another person's ability to ride a bike.

Can't wait to see you at the AGM and again when it is safe on Beach Road ☺

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