

## Chair's monthly report

### Conference report back

#### Velo-city conference: Access to Life Rio de Janeiro 12- 15 June 2018

I was fortunate to attend and present at the annual Velo-city Summit 2018, a premier international conference on cycling and urban mobility.

*Velo-city conferences bring together those involved in policy, promotion and the provision of cycling facilities and programs. Engineers, planners, architects, social marketers, academic researchers, environmentalists, business, and industry representatives join forces with government at all levels ranging from municipal politicians, policy makers and educators in knowledge sharing in order to build effective trans-national partnerships to deliver benefits worldwide.*



*Velo-city 2018 Rio focused on the main theme Access to Life, linked to the overall goal of cycling inclusion. Building on topics of previous Velo-city conferences such as Health, Infrastructure, Technology, Governance and Data, Velo-city in Rio explored the fusion of these discourses through cycling inclusion.*

I found Velo-city to be energising, informative and inspiring. I have previously attended a Velo-city in Adelaide 2014. At that time, it seemed as if Auckland had reached a tipping point but still had a long way to go to catch up with cities that had embraced cycling as a legitimate mode of transport. Four years later it was really encouraging to tell the Auckland story (surprising many people with the progress that has been made) and to have it confirmed that Auckland is on the right path to a sustainable, smart city.

As highlighted at the conference the benefits for all of investing in cycling are overwhelming. Attending the conference reinforced for me that we've now reached a stage in Auckland where we know why we need to do it, we've heard from plenty of overseas experts how we need to do it, we have the funding confirmed, community support and the political will – we just have to get on with it!

My full conference report back, including my presentation “**I'll just take the bike**” and details of my conference expenses will be tabled at the board meeting on 17 July 2018.