

Chairman's Report 2025–2026

Tēnā koutou katoa,

It's my pleasure to welcome you to the Spokes 2026 AGM and to reflect on a year of strong, community-driven progress. Thank you all for your dedication through meetings, rides, events and volunteer hours that keeps our advocacy vibrant.

Key Achievements

- **Election engagement:** We strengthened our advocacy during the local elections by meeting with councillors, sharing candidate questionnaires, and providing clear visual guides to help voters support active transport.
- **Albany Street advocacy:** Our coordinated response, including the well-supported awareness ride and media engagement, helped keep cycling solutions for Albany Street firmly on the agenda, right through to the final rounds of Council decision-making.
- **Growing connections and visibility:** Monthly meet-ups, Coffee Outside, and attendance at DCC transport meetings helped keep cycling front-of-mind. Our relationships with groups such as Dunedin Tracks and Trails and Urbanerds continue to grow and enrich our collective impact.
- **Communications uplift:** Thank you to Jessica de Heij for strengthening our communications where it was most needed.
- **Another successful Bike Breakfast:** A warm thank-you to Heike Cebulla and Charlotte Flaherty (DCC) for delivering yet another positive and well-attended event.
- **Renewed national alignment:** With Nathan Kershaw joining the Cycling Action Network board, we have a revitalised link to national advocacy work.

Challenges & Opportunities

As with many volunteer organisations, time and capacity remain ongoing challenges. We have many strong ideas such as our low-cost infrastructure proposals for Council but developing them fully requires sustained volunteer effort. Improving our responsiveness and communication around Council matters will further strengthen our visibility, credibility, and influence.

Focus Points for 2026

- **Leverage the election year:** Build on the momentum and relationships formed during the local elections to strengthen our influence heading into the national election cycle.
- **Strengthen partnerships:** Deepen collaboration with aligned community groups, businesses, and organisations to support and champion active transport solutions.
- **Build a positive online presence:** Develop a strong, constructive digital voice that champions cycling infrastructure, celebrates progress, and positions Spokes as a trusted advocate.
- **Expand community-building initiatives:** Continue and grow initiatives like Coffee Outside to foster a visible, welcoming cycling culture and help more people ride with confidence.

Acknowledgements

My heartfelt thanks go to the volunteers, partners, and allies who power Spokes. In particular:

- **Heike Cebulla** for leadership on rides and events

- **Jessica de Heij** for communications support
- **Charlotte Flaherty (DCC)** for continued partnership on Bike Breakfast
- **Nathan Kershaw** for reconnecting us with CAN
- **Robyn West** for driving Coffee Outsides that were held this year
- **Fraser Step** for creating clear election visuals outlining candidate position
- And to every member who contributed, whether at meetings, rides, events, or behind the scenes, your commitment keeps this movement moving.

Ngā mihi nui to you all for helping make cycling safer, more visible, and more valued in Ōtepoti Dunedin.