



# Not The Spoken Word

Bi-monthly newsletter of The Western Australian Historical Cycle Club Inc.

## Club Logo Update

Following the vote to create a new club logo taken at the August meeting committee met to put in place a process.

It is evident that club members are keen to put their pens, pencils and mice to good use and member submissions will be accepted up to Oct 14th with a view to voting on them at the Oct 15th meeting.

A brand designer has helpfully suggested some questions that we should ask ourselves when considering the design of a new logo. These questions are an abbreviated form of the type that designers and advertising agencies use to understand their clients before they begin any graphic design work.

1. What and who do we represent?
2. How do we want our club to be perceived by the general public?
3. Is there anything unique about our group that we wish to show?
4. Why should people want to join our club?
5. What services do we offer to members?
6. How do we compare to other clubs or associations in this area of interest?
7. Is there anything that must or must not be incorporated in our logo?
8. Where will the logo appear?

Please give some thought to these questions before suggesting or voting on proposed designs for our new logo. Whilst we need to agree on a design fairly quickly so we can get on with producing new cards, polo shirts, advertising material etc., we do need to 'get it right', preferably with the approval of the vast majority of our membership.

Please email written submissions to [info.wahcc@gmail.com](mailto:info.wahcc@gmail.com)  
Email images (jpegs only) using the subject line **WAHCC Logo** to [seen89corner40find@photos.flickr.com](mailto:seen89corner40find@photos.flickr.com).  
Post hardcopy to **WAHCC PO Box 224 Applecross WA 6953**

Submitted images can be viewed here: <http://bit.ly/wahcclogo>

## Unthanks You Valda Much Valda Unthanks Amazing Ride Adelaide-Melbourne Record Shattered

### H.O. Balfe in The Referee, Oct 27th 1938

When you read about a young woman who smashes a cycling record over hundreds of miles, what is your reaction?

Do you visualise a hard-bitten, brawny, knotty-muscled 'he-female' with a weather-tanned face on which you could strike matches? If you do, you're wrong; Joyce Barry; glamour girl of Australian distance cycling, proved that months and months ago. Now Mrs. Valda Unthank, latest to smash an inter-capital record with her amazing dash last week from Adelaide to Melbourne, follows suit.

They're both charming feminine types, who look as if a round of golf would be their most strenuous pastime.

In the years that have passed, our athletic sisters have progressed from the adventure of a five miles 'tour' on mud-guarded, low-g geared 'wheel', to track and road racing on the 'bikes' their brothers once regarded as sacred to them alone.

Although it is with Valda Unthank and her Adelaide Melbourne record of last week that this story is concerned, in the main it wouldn't be chivalrous to disregard the others.

Joyce Barry, we know. Like Valda Unthank, she is 'tops' at the moment. Vera Harding and Anna Keenin, respectively 23-year-old brunette and 20-year-old blonde, who reached Melbourne last Saturday after having 'tandemed' from Perth (W.A.), are right in the limelight.

Pretty Elsa Barbour; first woman to set an Adelaide Melbourne record, and Mrs Price of Launceston Hobart fame, really pioneered the business of long distance riding against time by women.

We take off our hat to them all. It seems incredible that they should possess the stamina, endurance and courage to do what they've done but, there it is.

## Valda Tells The Story

Had you listened to Valda Unthank's laconic replies to my questions last Saturday, you might well have imagined that the riding of more than 400 miles and the smashing of an important record was nothing in her young life.

She left the general post office Adelaide at 5 o'clock last Wednesday evening ... rode right through to Melbourne without sleep ... and arrived at the G.P.O. Melbourne at 2.43 a.m. on Friday.

*'Did you have a good ride, Valda?'*

*'Oh, yes, very pleasant.'*

*'Any trouble on the way?'*

*'No, only a puncture.'*

*'How were the roads?'*

*'Pretty bad on the South Australian side, but splendid in Victoria.'*

*'Were you troubled by head winds at all?'*

*'Oh no, I didn't notice any.'*

*'I suppose loss of sleep must have affected you?'*

*'No, as a matter of fact, it didn't. I had prepared myself for that.'*

*'How did you go about that?'*

*'Well, I did some long riding in training, and I made up my mind I wouldn't be sleepy.'*

What a woman! Imagine getting home late and thinking she'd be fast asleep!

*'And what now? I understand there's a record in Tasmania you're going to attack?'*

*'Yes, I believe there is. But I don't know when, I leave that to the organisers. I'm just the bike rider, you know.'*

What a woman! God's gift to organisers. They make the plans, Valda does the rest.

Valda trained to a plan. Her friends plotted a route from Adelaide to Melbourne via Bordertown, instead of Adelaide-Melbourne via the Coorong - the track

other record attempters have traversed, and she rode over it once to make its acquaintance.

## And Now - How She Broke The Record

On the advice of her husband and Jack Dalton, Valda took things easily at the start. They wanted her to 'warm up' first. In the early stages, until she had climbed the Mount Lofty ranges, she only averaged about 13 miles an hour;

Gradually, increasing her speed, she soon maintained an average of 18 miles, an hour. The first 50 miles were covered in 3 hours 12min; 100 miles in 7.5.20; 150 miles in 11.56; 200- miles in 16.19; 250 miles in 19.12; 300 miles in 22 15; 350 in 25.15; 400 miles in 28.20; 450 miles in 32.0; and the full distance, 475 miles, in 33 hours 13 minutes. Valda covered the last 16 miles in 50 minutes, and when she dismounted at Melbourne G.P.O. was fresh, though very leg-weary.

In this case, the record is reckoned as from post office to post office. When Elsa Barbour made her record she rode by way of the Coorong, Warrnambool, and Geelong covering 507 miles as against Valda's 475.1. Elsa's time, 71 hours 36 minutes undoubtedly was a very meritorious ride. What is more to the point, however, is that Valda's time betters by 13 hours 14 minutes the Adelaide Melbourne record time for men, 46 hours 57 minutes made by Ted Waterford in his Melbourne-Adelaide-Melbourne record in 1934. This is the official record for men for the Adelaide Melbourne ride. It was made on a course of 543 miles.

Valda Unthank's ride was checked officially by Mrs. N. Smith, who followed throughout by car as representative of the Victorian Women's Amateur Cycling Association. Incidentally, Valda is hon. secretary of the Australian Women's Amateur Cyclists' Union, and also is an official of the Victorian Tourists' Association.

As capable a rider on the track as she is on the road she is holder of the following records; Victorian quarter mile (board track), 32 1/5th sec; Melbourne-Nyah (240 miles), 15.28.23; Sale-Bairnsdale (45 miles), 2.18; Melbourne-Wonthaggi (85 miles) 4.51.30; Melbourne-Wonthaggi-Melbourne (174 miles), 10.13; tandem, Sale-Bairnsdale, 2.7.31; one mile, tandem, 1.23.

After enjoying a short spell, Valda Unthank will go to Tasmania where she will attack major long-distance records and carry out official duties on behalf of the Australian Union.



# Club Calendar

## Ride - Sept. 23rd 10am Whiteman Park

Revolutions Transport Museum, Whiteman Park, Whiteman  
Club contact Phil Harris 0402 735 881

## Sept. 23rd 10am - 4pm

West Coast Bicycle Show and Shine  
Shelley Beach Park, Riverton Dve N, Shelley

## Market - October 13th 8am

City of Vincent Bike Market  
BARLEE STREET Carpark - entry via 590 Beaufort Street,  
Mount Lawley Seller set up from 8am, buyers 9 – 12 noon.

## Ride & Display - October 13/14th

Beverley Heroic - Beverley  
100 mile ride 6am 14th  
50mile ride 8:30am 14th  
Classic Bike Show - both days in the Town Hall.

## Meeting - October 15th 7:30pm

Applecross Clubrooms

## Display - October 17th 6 -9 am

Ride 2 Work Day Elizabeth Quay - Free breakfast!

## Display - November 10th 10am

Live Lighter Bonjour Perth Fench Festival, Market Square,  
Subiaco.  
Access to our display site is from the south end of Brigid Rd  
Vehicles must exit the area by 9am.  
Club contact Rob Frith 0411 555 607

## Display - November 14th 9am

Have A Go Day - Burswood Park  
Club contact Merv Thompson 9450 2579

## Meeting & Auction - Nov. 19th 7:30pm

Applecross Clubrooms

## Display - December 1st 7pm

Channel Seven Christmas Pageant - St Georges Tce, Perth  
Club contact Mal Bell 0428 718 073

## Christmas Wind Up - December 9th

Applecross Clubrooms - 12 midday.

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Vice President: William Riseborough  
Treasurer: Frank West  
Secretary: Robert Hunt  
Committee Member: Malcolm Buckland

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## In The Shed With ... Phil Harris

### What are you currently working on?

I'm not working on any bikes at this moment in time because I don't have any spare dollars.

### How many rideable bikes do you have?

All the bikes I currently have are rideable. I've never counted them because I've never had the desire to do so. On the Tour de Ruste, Dave Clark counted over 50 displayed in my backyard, but I do have more than that as some are in museums.

### If push comes to shove what is your favourite bike?

My favourite bike is always the one that I'm riding at the time and I've probably just finished restoring.

### What was your first bike?

My very first bike was a Gresham Flyer tricycle I had at the age of around 5. It was a tricycle with a car type boot. I didn't learn to ride a two wheeler bike until the age of 11.

### Pick a bike any bike.. in your dreams what are you riding?

I'm happy with the bikes that I have.

### Whistle while you work? Give us a tip on the sounds that fill your workspace.

I don't whistle while I work, I have a radio in the shed which is playing old fashioned rock and roll.

