



Not The Spoken Word

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

Ian C Reid

Early in 2018 I brought along to the club's Show and Tell a beautiful 1965 Ian C. Reid with original paint, decals and featuring top of the range components from Campagnolo, MAFAC, Brooks and Mavic. The bike was built in my hometown of Rushden, Northamptonshire in the UK.

Technology has made it seem a very small world. After buying the Ian C. Reid from a fellow collector in Nottingham I wanted to learn more about the bike, it's past and it's builder. Fortunately I had been given the name of the bike's original owner (Roger Watson) and the power of online forums finally put me in contact with the son of Ian Reid and so to Ian himself. A recent trip to the UK to visit family gave me an opportunity to also visit Ian and his wife at their home in beautiful Wiltshire. They provided a very warm welcome and I was able to find out more about Ian and his racing and business careers.

Reid was a very successful cyclist in the 60s and started in a total of 7 Milk Races (a multi-stage road race now known as the Tour of Britain) as well as competing internationally. He still has all of his racing memorabilia and has kept the last bike that he ever built in July 1966 which he also rode in his final Milk Race in 1967.

In the early '60s he formed a business partnership, Reid and Cottingham Cycles, with fellow cyclist Roy Cottingham. Whilst Cottingham was more the businessman, Reid was the self-taught framebuilder coming from a toolmaker apprenticeship for Hoover. He estimates that he only built "a couple of hundred" frames but his work was recognised and respected by fellow racers. Sadly, his racing and framebuilding careers were both affected by the severe injuries to his wife of only 5 months following a scooter accident when a tyre blew as they were returning from a road race. He continued on as best he could but admitted

that his heart wasn't in it and he ended up burying his frame jigs in the garden. His partnership with Cottingham petered out; after their brief partnership ended they never met again. Surprisingly, Cottingham turned his attention to building some very ornate framesets around 20 years later though Ian claimed that Cottingham had never done any frame building whilst they worked together.

My visit to Ian Reid further reinforced my respect for the riders of that era and their commitment to the sport. I left with some great stories and a few mementos from Ian including an original Milk Race bidon, a "race bible" from the 1968 Milk Race and some race event programs from the '60s. Another memento collected from Ian had come from Roger Watson, the original owner of the bike I now own. Watson had been unable to join the get-together but

had sent a beautiful 1963 Milk Race Team Britannia jersey worn by Roy Hopkins. Watson was an avid amateur cyclist who rode for the Mid-Devon Road Club - a highly successful club that produced several top-level riders like Roy Hopkins. Watson admitted to being a bit of a "tour groupie" and was always hounding the senior riders as they returned from bigger races for mementos of his own, this is how he'd come by the jersey.....55 years ago!. It was another professional racer, Colin Lewis, that had

recommended to Watson that he get Ian Reid to build a frameset for him. In the 1967 Tour de France, Lewis rode with and shared a room with Tom Simpson, who died during the race while climbing Mont Ventoux.

This passion we share is full of stories and coincidences. A chance comment made by my step-mother led me to uncover the Reid and Cottingham story and for me to include a little piece of UK's cycling history in my collection. Did I mention coincidences? Fellow WAHCC member Alan Johnson recalls seeing Ian Reid racing when he was a lad. Alan also hails from Northamptonshire and turns out we were even born in the same hospital. It's a small world indeed.

Richard Patenall.



A Quaint Discovery in Maffra, Victoria.

Clare and I took ourselves off to Melbourne and eastern Victoria in November this year, and although it was fairly well mapped out the routes we took each day were more or less decided on the run. So it was completely by chance that we pulled into Maffra for a coffee break one morning. Maffra is a very pleasant little town, clean and fresh, with a cafe to match. Opposite the cafe was parked a pre-first world war electric car, still very much in daily use, the staff in the cafe informed us. A little questioning and we were soon on our way to The Maffra Shed that houses the Gippsland Vehicle Collection.

This proved to be a medium sized museum with some very interesting exhibits within its collection, including several bicycles. These include a 1940 Malvern Star children's bicycle with fixed wheel, a 1915 B.S.A. ladies bicycle apparently used to further the work of the British Bible Society and equipped with a freewheel and a rather odd brake mechanism, and an 1880's Penny Farthing used to commute between Chiltern and Beechworth by a young apprentice, a distance of some 26 kilometres each way. All are complete and in original unrestored condition. But the star of the show for me was a Pentacycle, something I had never come across before. It is not, of course, a bicycle, having five wheels.

This strange contraption was originally built for the British Post Office circa 1885, and referred to as the 'Hen and Chicks', the large central wheel being the hen surrounded by its chicks, the four small wheels. Designed and patented by an English architect, Edward Burstow, it was an attempt to adapt the 'penny' to carry mail for delivery in the Horsham area. Also known as the Centre-Cycle, it was equipped, fore and aft, with two large wicker baskets. By all accounts these machines were difficult and heavy to both pedal and steer, and despite their obvious benefits in the view of the Post Office, and being well received in Horsham, they appear to have been generally disliked elsewhere. The one in the above photo is a 1935 replica, one of four built and the only one in Australia. Apparently no originals are known to exist, and it is not clear how many were originally constructed. The British Post Office Museum in Brighton does have one, but that too is a 1935 replica. I am indebted to the British Post Office Museum web site for some of the details above.

Will Riseborough



Above; Hen and chicks at Maffra
Right; Patrick O'Leary with his first and only bike.

Patrick O'Leary of Lawrence, Otago

It's mid February and I am cycling in the south island of New Zealand. Between cycling jaunts, tonight finds me in Lawrence, a little historic town south of Dunedin. The town sprung up after an 1861 gold strike and while those heady days are long past, its fascinating history lingers.

Here in 1893 a 20 year old blacksmith, Patrick O'Leary, built the first bicycle constructed in New Zealand. He was an employee of Matthews and Chalmers, blacksmiths. The achievement was reported in the Otago newspaper at the time, the Tuapeka Times.

"...that for finish of workmanship and performance compare favourably with anything of the kind imported from Home".

The achievement was recognised as being not only in the manufacture of the bike but also the tools required in its construction, with only the rubber tyres and driving chain being bought in.

Despite soon after teaching the postmistress of Lawrence how to ride the bike, it appears that O'Leary had satisfied his curiosity and chose not to build on this initiative. He went on to own blacksmith businesses in the region, enjoying a reputation as a good tradesman and horse vet.

After the first world war he turned his business interests towards the automobile, but eventually lost a great deal of money over this venture. Perhaps there's a moral in there somewhere.

Patrick died in 1928 but the bicycle is thought to have survived in his blacksmith's shop until around 1935 when the family lost track of it.

Robert Loughman



Stuck in the Shed with Andrew Blackmore

I always feel a bit abashed when surrounded by the august members of the Historical Cycle Club; This is because ;

- (a) I seem not to actually ride my bikes very much,
- (b) my original motivation in joining WAHCC was to do with two power-assisted Cyclomaster bikes that I have been carrying around in pieces since I was at college and
- (c) even though I have accumulated a LOT of bike bits I still haven't managed to successfully re-build a wheel or choose a gear set and matching chain.

And frankly, my enthusiasm for daily use of my treadlies is somewhat curbed because the houses Wendy and I choose to buy always seem to be at the top of a steepish hill.

What are you currently working on?

A couple of MTB's, rescued from the Joondalup Men's Shed in exchange for a modest donation to the building fund. These are in fact for a friend of my wife's who lends them (against a \$50 deposit!) to the language students boarding with her.

A cannibalised modern electric bike, part of a job-lot rescued for a trifling sum from the local recycling dump. Re-build under way with new battery, charger etc. from eBay; now I just need to perfect my electrical soldering to complete a re-wire of the battery connection.

1950's Cyclomaster (2-stroke motor built into rear-wheel) that I bought from the local, and took apart in my bedroom, much to the displeasure of my landlady, when I was a student and had both hair and ideals.

3 (or more) Cyclomaster motors in pieces;

Saxonette moped with electric starter, original centrally-mounted motor (seized), replacement motor obtained by post from Holland. Currently awaiting repair by my engineer neighbour who is an expert two-stroke enthusiast ... but who I have foolishly distracted with a 1980's Honda 125 cc twin motor

Humber, unfinished project bought years ago from Peter

How many rideable bikes do you have?

Ricardo racer "followed me home" from a WAHCC member at a previous Vincent bike market 'cos it worked and had a "me-size" frame;

Engineer's factory bike with 26" Westwood wheels – bought from Alan Naber just 'cos it's very yellow! Adding a couple of gears would be useful but I did manage to ride it in an Xmas pageant, kitted out as a baker's delivery bike with a basket of bread and myself in baker's gear. But steering proved to be very

unstable at procession speeds with that loaded basket: I somehow survived the ride down St George's Terrace but then came a cropper on a low curb, fell full length and managed to lose my bike-helmet as I dragged myself upright in the completely unlit car-park.

Dunlop tourer 1990's – bought from my local cash and carry when I was living in Belgium 'cos it was on special. Little used then (only then?) 'cos we lived on top of a hill; great for zooming down the hill to catch the tram to go to work, not so good for struggling back up the hill dressed in the required full "whistle and flute".



Post Office electric-assist delivery bike (from a WAHCC member), could still benefit from installation of a less rusty rear wheel with some gears (but note coaster brake), and installation of replacement battery bag.

If push comes to shove what's your favourite bike?

It has to be a bike that I regret losing.

A seriously strong policeman's bike with 28" Westwood wheels. It was stolen from the bike-shed at Parkstone (nr Bournemouth, UK) railway station when I was commuting to work in Southampton.

What was your first bike?

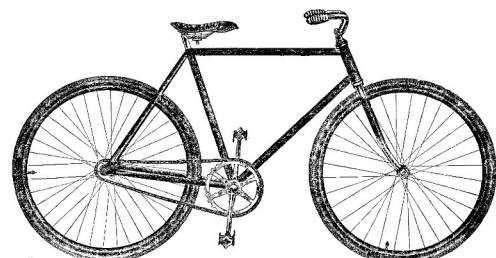
An already-ancient Norman sit-up-and-beg on 18" wheels, cause of much knee-grazing on the gravel farm-tracks behind my parent's house.

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

ANY of above-mentioned projects!

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

Either '70's/'80's rock on 96FM or else - when I really need to calm down 'cos work on whichever project is being more than usually frustrating – Classic FM (but no classical pieces later than 1940, please.



Club Calendar

Sat 16th Mar 2019 8:00am

Vincent Bike Market

Beaufort St, Mt Lawley
Sellers 8am, buyers 9am.

Mon 18th Mar 2019 17:30 - 19:30

Display - BMX Bandits Screening

Bic Reserve, Wilson St Bassendean

Mon 18 Mar 2019 19:30

WAHCC Monthly Meeting

6 Hickey St, Ardross

Sun 24 Mar 2019 10:00

Photo Day

298 Hamersley Road Subiaco

Sun 7 Apr 2019

Display - Kalamunda & Districts

Historical Soc. 50th Anniversary Open Day

Kalamunda History Village, Railway Rd, Kalamunda
All participants to be set up before 9:45am

Mon 15 Apr 2019 19:30

WAHCC Monthly Meeting

6 Hickey St, Ardross

May 2019

Display - Trachmach

Albany

Mon 20 May 2019 19:30

WAHCC Monthly Meeting

6 Hickey St, Ardross

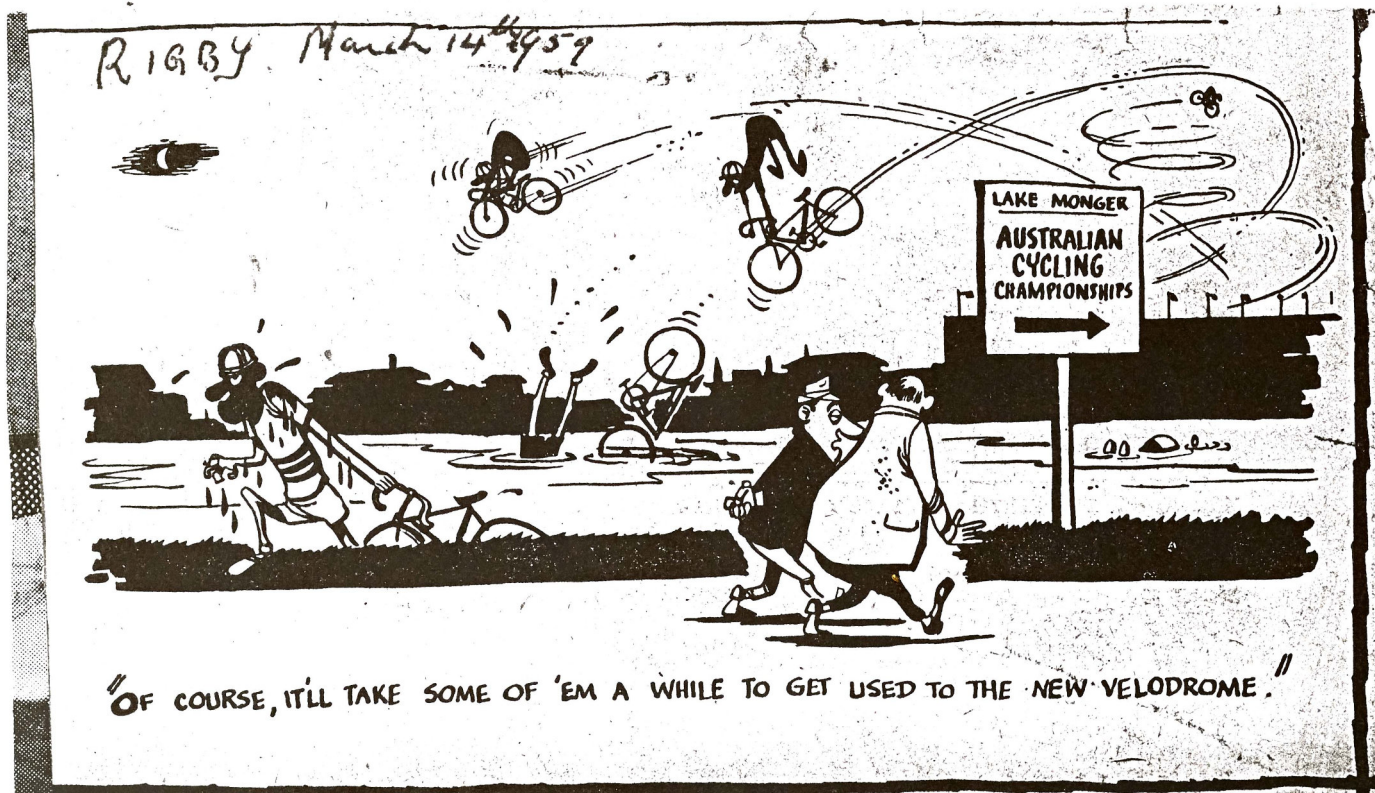
Sat Sun 18 & 19th May 2019

Display

Swansea Cycles - Fremantle Legend

Fremantle Town Hall

Enough events? The right mix? Let your committee know - info.wahcc@gmail.com



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Applecross, WA, 6153 email info.wahcc@gmail.com Chairperson: Robert Frith
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Secretary: Robert Hunt Committee Member: Malcolm Buckland

Paul Rigby cartoon from 60 years ago.

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