



Not the... Spoke 'n Word

Volume 4 N° 4

NEWSLETTER

November/December 2002

It's time once again to wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and may all your cycling be puncture proof. This club has steadily improved its image and acceptance by the public, so that we are now beginning to see the need to limit the number of displays being requested by various organizations. Another good thing is the increasing number of interesting West Australian built machines being rescued from oblivion by members.

NAME TAGS

Would any member not having a name tag please contact Merv ASAP so that he can arrange one for you.
(08) 9450 2579

MACHINE DISPLAY SHEETS

If you need a display sheet for any of your restored (or unusable) bikes that you wish to present in our displays, contact Peter Wells, providing details, age of bike, etc, and he will arrange for our approved sheet to be produced.
(08) 9459 1750

MINUTES OF MEETING 16th SEPTEMBER 2002

Present – 17 members.

Apologies – John Palmer

Minutes of Previous Meeting – Read and accepted. Moved D. Clark, seconded K. Ward.

Financial Report – Closing Balance \$2,249.16 at 28th Aug. Moved P. Harris, seconded A. Naber.

New Member – Paul Redman was welcomed.

Correspondence In –

➤ Nicky Armstrong re Rally 2003 Historical Cycles Down Under. Information is available for interested parties.

Events

➤ Wickepin – the President advised that not enough people were able to go this year.

➤ 22nd Sept - 50 years of the 'New Causeway'. Start time 10.30am. Cost of the bay for display \$12.00.

➤ 6th Oct - Social ride 10.30am at Hester Park.

➤ 13th Oct – Auto Jumble at Cannington.

Events Continued

➤ 10th November – Opening of the Munda Bidi Trail at Dwellingup.

➤ 3rd Nov – Mandurah Show.

➤ 7th Dec – Christmas Pageant.

General Business

➤ Dave Clark reported that a professionally restored delivery bike was to be auctioned at Hayes Auctions – reserve price \$1,500.

➤ The meeting was also informed that Malaga Imports has two wooden bikes for sale, one with brakes for \$700. They also have a wooden penny-farthing for inspection.

➤ Club T-shirts were discussed – colour and type to be agreed upon.

➤ Phil Harris showed the First Aid box purchased on behalf of the club.

➤ Ken Ward suggested that people could bring in books for the library, and had put some in himself. Members are welcome to borrow library books, to be returned at the next meeting.

Show & Tell

➤ Paul Redman showed an Acetylene Bike Lamp and an Australian Standards book.

➤ Ken Ward showed some delightful miniature bikes made from wire.

➤ Alan Naber auctioned a rear view mirror for glasses – this went to Merv Thompson for \$5. Dave Clarke bought a Calendar/Poster for \$1.

➤ David Brown showed 5 Star Malvern Star on frame and a skid star.

➤ Ray Martlew told of a "Rotto Cycle Hire" bike he brought home from Rottne.

➤ David Brown offered a vote of thanks to Mal Buckland for his donation of 10 bikes.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm, and during supper Ken Ward showed and talked about some wheels.

NEXT MEETINGS: 18th November Monday at 7.30pm -
20th January 2003 Monday 7.30pm

VCC Club Rooms 6B Hickey Street, Ardross

WAHCC Committee - President: Merv Thompson 9450 2579

Treasurer: Don Smith 9573 1081

Historian: Ken Ward 9364 3601

Articles for Newsletter: The Editor Peter Wells
25 Constantine Court Thornlie WA 6108 (08) 9459 1750

Vice President: David Clark 6278 1048

Secretary: Merrill Martlew 9451 1186

Post Office Box 516 Bentley 6982

Events Co-Ordination: Phil Harris 9459 7146

Denis Gibbs 9398 2792 David Clarke 6278 1048

MINUTES OF MEETING 22nd OCTOBER 2002

Present – 15 members and 1 visitor.

Apologies – Eric and Jean Barrett

Minutes of Previous Meeting – Read and accepted. Moved M. Buckland, seconded P. Harris.

Financial Report – Closing Balance \$2,417.09 in funds with \$2,409.93 of that being held in the bank.

Correspondence In

- Gosnells Oct 27th event was tabled as was a pamphlet from WA Cycle Tours.

Events

- Phil Harris reported on the Gosnells ride, which was attended by six people despite the rain. The Gosnells Museum was opened early especially for the club, which was of particular interest and recommended to others.
- Walter Edom reported on the '50 years of the New Causeway' day at which vintage cars were also present. Historical talks and musical items were enjoyed, but once again the rain dampened the situation.
- Peter Wells reported on the auto auction, which was attended by 5 members of the club. This was considered to be good publicity even though Merv left the club banner behind.
- 29th Oct is 'Have a Go Day' from 9am – 3pm. Pamphlets were tabled, and Merv Thompson talked on the event. Walter Edom, Ken Ward, Peter Wells and Merv Thompson all agreed to take part.
- Nov 3rd Mandurah Show – will not be attended by the club as it clashes with other events.
- Nov – Midland Fair at Midland Workshops. This is a big event, which will be attended by Phil Harris, Walter Edom, Denis Gibbs, Merrill & Ray Martlew, Merv Thompson. Meeting on site 8.30am & 9am
- March 16th 2003 The Rotary Club event at Thompson's Park will be attended by the club.
- 8th Dec – opening of the Munda Bindi trail at Dwellingup where the club will be represented by David Clark and Alan Naber.
- 7th Dec – Christmas Pageant.
- There will be no December meeting.
- A committee meeting will be held at Merv Thompson's house on 4th November.

General Business

- The November meeting will be a social event, with everyone bringing a plate.
- Phil Harris attended a swap meet with a DWS and spoke to a gentleman who has 20 bikes. Secretary is to send him a newsletter.
- ABC film company is looking for a razor back bike.
- Name Tags – anyone without a name tag should advise Merv Thompson.
- Alan Naber had a visitor from German Historic Cycle Club and another from Dresden.
- Dave Clark moved that a shelter be brought for Club Displays. Carried.
- Dave Clark is moving and needs a home for 5-club bikes.

Show & Tell

- Ken Ward advised that there are some new books in the library. The Bicycle in the Bush is now available again in the shops.
- Dave Clark displayed a Miners Bike, which he and Phil Harris had put together for the Perth Mint Display.

Show & Tell Continued

- Ray (visitor) showed a saddle, which he is interested in swapping for a T-bar shifter for a rally or other things to do with 20" bikes.
- Peter Wells showed a bike from 20/30s looking for a Gordonson Badge.
- T-shirts were discussed, Dennis Gibbs showed several types of T-shirts, and it was thought the one he was wearing is the most suitable.
- Ray Martlew showed a tandem home made by Harry Pyle in 1974 from two pre-war bikes.
- Saskia showed an Austral made by Malvern Star, this bike attracted a lot of interest.
- Merv provided a feature sign to be used at club displays featuring 2 lights and a miniature penny-farthing. This is a beautiful piece of work, and was obviously much appreciated by everyone. Thank you Merv.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm.

THE NEW CAUSEWAY 50TH ANNIVERSARY

A cold, blustery wind, with rain threatening no doubt put most members off the ride to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the new Causeway linking Perth to the western suburbs across the Swan River.

The original Causeway had been built in 1843, and although upgraded over the years had far outlived its usefulness by 1952. During the post war period the car population rapidly expanded, and the Causeway saw long lines of almost stationary traffic stop-starting across during peak periods, even worse than the mess caused by an accident or a wet day at the Narrows Bridge these days. It was known as the Causeway Samba.

However, six hardy cyclists turned up at the start point at the carpark in the area just north of the Causeway, and set off for the ride to Windan Bridge, through East Perth, then back to McCallum Park, where the bikes were displayed. All riders had a trouble free run except for the Editor, who had a vital part of the Stormey Archer gear selector mechanism come adrift, so that only high gear was available.

Of course this made any hill pretty hard to conquer from then to the finish, especially with the windy conditions. They don't make things like they used to - and the company has now ceased trading, so bang goes the warranty. After all, the part had only lasted for fifty-three years.

Those taking part were –

- Walter Edom – Indi 500 Sports, back from a stint in the bush
- Dawn Thompson – Ladies Raleigh
- Merv Thompson – 1945 Swansea Police cycle
- Harry Perry – 1947 Swansea Semi-racer
- Phil Harris – Malvern Star Delivery Bike
- Peter Wells – 1947 Swansea Semi-racer

CAN YOU HELP?

It seems that most bikes made before W.W.II had no provision for attaching pumps to the frame other than by clamp on fittings. After hostilities the use of brazed on fittings became the usual thing. Can anyone throw more light on this? I have a couple of Malvern Star bikes, one definitely pre-war, the other, a five star bike, of uncertain age, with no pump fittings, and would like to know more about this situation.

Please contact the Editor if you can help in this matter.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Armstrong Cycles were still being built in 1970, after being first produced in 1894.
- Tommy Gordon, founder of Gordonson Cycles, won the first Northam-Perth road race in 1912, on one of his own machines, naturally.
- Swansea Cycles advertised in the programme on the 1970 Northam-Perth road race (29.8.1970) so they had been in existence from 1927 until 1970.
- In 1946 W.J. Lucas Ltd advertised the fact that they had produced over 16,000 Lucas cycles, a pretty fair total for a W.A. firm with our relatively small population. But in those days a big proportion of West Aussies rode bikes to work or to school.

ORANGE TREE FARM RIDE – OCT 6TH

Contrary to rumours, Phil Harris is not getting an award from the Water Corporation for ensuring that it always rains when he organises a run, thereby easing Perth's water supply problems.

But despite heavy rain and strong winds overnight, and under threatening skies, a small group of riders met at Hester Park for a ride along the Canning River through great undulating country, passing under four bridges, over another, and crossing the roadwork's of the Roe Highway, eventually to finish up at the Orange Tree Farm Museum, in Gosnells.

This area was first taken up by settlers in 1830, just one year after the arrival of our first immigrants to this vast state.

Apart from a little Scotch mist, and strong winds, the ride to the museum proved uneventful for most, although one who shall remain nameless managed to get her cycle tangled up in a wire fence – luckily it wasn't barbed wire.

The museum proved very interesting, with two bikes among the exhibits a very early Armstrong ladies with chain case, and an early gents roadster.

After a leisurely lunch the riders headed back, this time encountering strong headwinds when negotiating open areas, especially towards the end of the ride. The rain held off until we had about ¾ mile to go, getting heavier for the last couple of hundred yards where we were able to shelter and get our breath back.

Thanks Phil, for a great day out, and also thanks to Lynn, who acted as courier with our packs, thereby making the ride easier for all.

Those taking part were –

Walter EDOM – Swansea Roadster

David Northan – Curved frame Malvern Star

Dawn Thompson – Ladies Raleigh

Merv Thompson – Raleigh Superbe

Phil Harris – 1947 CWS

Peter Wells – 1951 Swansea

LIBRARY NOTES

Some books have been added to our library thanks to the generosity of Alan Naber. Among them is The Data Book, which is filled with drawings of bikes and components covering the period 1877 to 1959. The fascinating thing is that so many components remained practically unchanged for much of that time, so that it should be much easier to source suitable parts for those earlier bikes. It seems that pedals, cranks, handlebars, and similar items have remained virtually unchanged for longer periods than many suspect.

I would advise anyone contemplating the rebuild of a bike of that period to take the time to read this book, it will help you no end. See Ken Ward at the monthly meeting, and check the availability of this and other great reads in our library.

THE RISE AND FALL OF CYCLING

Some interesting facts came to light when perusing old race programmes, and they show just how much our lifestyle has changed in seventy or so years.

In 1934 the League of West Australian Wheelmen conducted a Two Day Test Race, from Guildford to Northam and return, and from Guildford to Mandurah and return. This event replaced the usual Beverley-Perth race.

There were 43 starters in the event, in four grades. Unfortunately no results are to be found in the programme, so I shall no doubt have to visit the State Library to seek them for you. But a most significant fact is that seventeen firms advertised either their cycles or cycle components in the programme.

And almost all bikes advertised were West Australian built.

Now, compare this with the programme for the 1972 Northam-Perth Cycling Classic road race. Despite the fact that our population had increased considerably in half a century, there were only 35 starters. But, sadly, there were only three cycle firms advertising their wares, all other adverts were for builders, fencing contractors, or similar.

Of course, in the intervening years the motor car had taken over our lives, the urban sprawl had meant that many had much further to travel to work, and the increased traffic on our roads was making cycling more dangerous, so that many were forsaking pollution free and cheap, healthy transport. And the sad corollary was that many long-term cycle firms were closing or finding other means of earning a crust.

That, dear reader is Progress.

'DAWN AND MERV MAKE SPIDERMAN'S DAY'

(by W. Edom)

It was 8.30am on a bright Sunday morning (3rd November 2003) in Midland, when I glimpsed our President and his lady (Dawn and Merv T.) delivering the Club's exhibits for this year's Midland Workshop Festival. The WAHCC exhibit was to be situated in the hard-core collector-enthusiast's "engine room" of the vast workshop campus. Last year our exhibit was located inside the Powerhouse. The new site was in an open, shaded area, nestled between the 'rhythmic chugs' and 'trumpeted toots' of 19th Century steam engines (courtesy of the WA Machinery Preservation society's). Clearly, Dawn and Merv were challenged to a no-holds barred competition for the spectator's attention. As I shall reveal, the challenge was easily met and surpassed admirably, climaxing in the appearance of none other than "Spiderman", who promptly awarded the exhibit his overwhelming approval.

On display were: 1886 Singer "Challenger" Penny Farthing; 1890 Columbia children's tricycle; the custom-made M. Thompson miniature Penny Farthing ("The Mervyn Star") and its stand - an at-scale replica Gas-Streetlight; an unrestored late 19th Century (about circa 1890) children's bicycle, 1920s-style and a display of bike badges, licence plates and other memorabilia.

Between 11am, when visitors really began to filter past in crowds, and 4pm at closure, thousands of spectators had inspected Merv and Dawn's rapidly assembled display. Many of the crowd were parents with small children, who were instantly wide-eyed and spellbound by the entrancing display of 19th century cycling relics. Amongst the typical gasps of delight at the mini Mervyn Star PF and its real life-sized companion, the Singer PF were comments such as "Wow!! That looks funny, but that one's even funnier!!". The display was also ably attended by Merrill and Ray Martlew. A free luncheon of a hot-dog and cuppa was provided at the rear of the Powerhouse for those exhibit attendants who could find the discreetly prepared sausages and rolls early enough!

Because Merv is an "Ole" boy from Bassendean (like Phil's cousin - Rolf), he was delighted to spend much of the time catching up with hundreds of friends from the area.

However, the social occasion did not distract Dawn and Merv from their main objective. They still made sure the younger generation was entertained with frequent assisted-rides on the "Mervyn Star" and assisted-climbs up into the Singer's lofty seat.

By mid-afternoon, the entertainment rose to a crescendo when the aforementioned super-hero was invited to test-ride Merv's eye-catching 1920's red tricycle. In the course of doing so, thanks to Dawn's safe guiding hands (Bearing in mind the implied public liability risk despite a superhero's competence level) the gathering braced itself during one of the numerous unanticipated ear shattering, adrenaline-pumping toots from the monster steam engine next door. At this point, the brightly painted, red and black web-faced little super-hero clearly stated before his parents. "This really made my day Mum and Dad!!"

On behalf of all our club members, I wish to thank Merv and Dawn yet again for their tireless efforts, which I feel on this occasion resulted in a most entertaining and excellently presented exhibit for both the young and not so young.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2002

Nov 18th Monday - MONTHLY MEETING and SOCIAL EVENING. Bring a plate.

Dec 7th Saturday - Channel 7 Christmas Pageant

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

2003

Jan 20th Monday - MONTHLY MEETING

Feb 17th Monday - MONTHLY MEETING

Feb 21st - March 2nd

Historic Cycles Downunder Rally, Evandale, Tasmania. Are any West Aussies attending?

Feb 23rd Sunday - Rockingham Safety Bay Ride. Bring your bathers.

Mar 14th Friday - Bike to Work (Bike Week)

Mar 16th Sunday - Whiteman Park Classic Car Show - Club Display

Mar 17th Monday - MONTHLY MEETING

Apr 15th Monday - MONTHLY MEETING

May 19th Monday - AGM

Jun 8th Monday - Pinjarra Festival (Tentative)

Jun - Riverton Forum Club Display (One week)

Jun 16th Monday - MONTHLY MEETING

FOR SALE-SWAP-WANTED

For Sale

The club has a number of complete bikes (ladies and gents) available at a ridiculously low price to members. Contact Merv for full details (08) 9450 2579

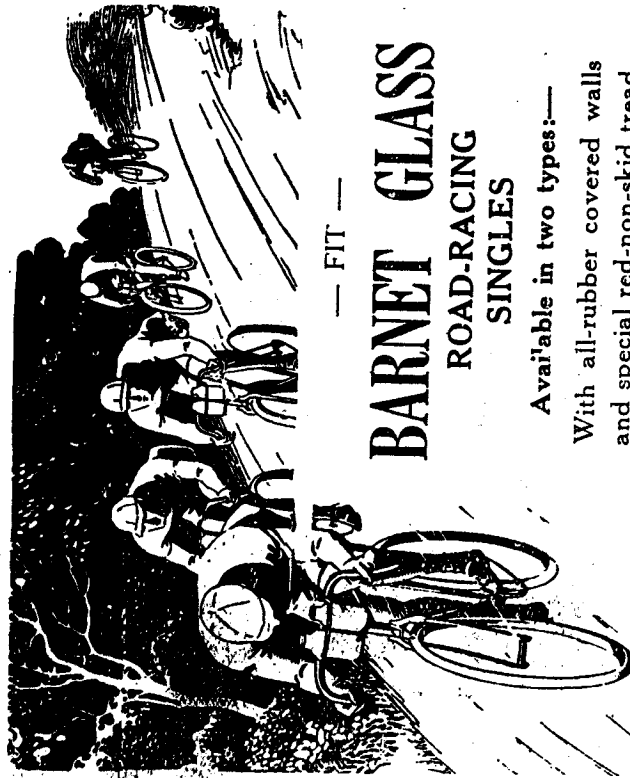
Wanted

Gordonson head stem metal badge.
27inch box section rims, 32 and 40 holes, to complete my 5 Swan racer
Peter Wells (08) 9459 1750

1934

Barnet Glass Cycle Tyres

PERTH DEPOT — 891 HAY ST.



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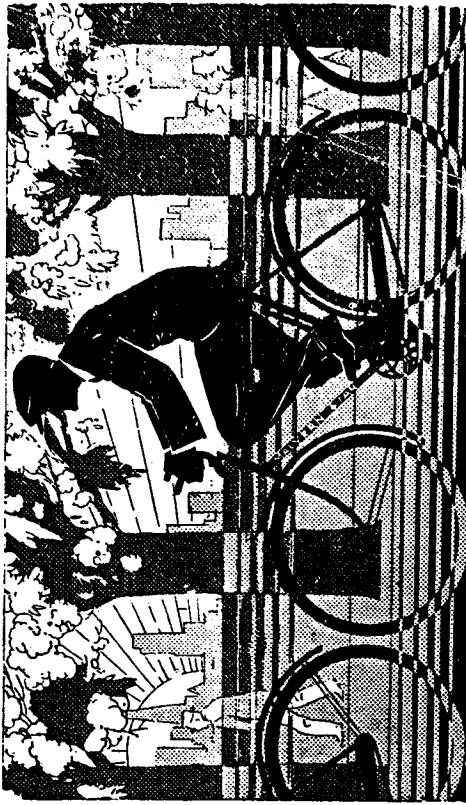
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