



Not the...

Spoke 'n Word

Volume 5 N° 1

NEWSLETTER

May/June 2003

MINUTES OF MEETING 17th MARCH 2003

Present – 15 members.

Apologies – Ray Martlew, Myrene Bell, Mal Buckland.

Minutes of Previous Meeting – Read and accepted. Moved Peter Wells, seconded Mal Bell.

Matters Arising –

It was suggested that a place be made in the attendance book for apologies to be noted.

Correspondence In –

➤ Merv Thompson advised that his police bike had been displayed at the opening of the new Kensington Police Station.

➤ Letter from Joy Ward re get well card.

➤ David – letter from the Goldfields.

➤ Vote of thanks was passed to the three members involved in the display bike together.

➤ 8th March Mandurah Fair – was attended by three people with 14 bikes.

➤ Rockingham recreational ride is being held on March 23 with drinks and watermelon to be supplied by the club.

➤ 5 members are riding to the 'Bike to Work' breakfast.

➤ The day at Whiteman's was a success with 33 items of interest, the club had a prime spot and excellent weather – plenty of interest from passing public.

➤ Application forms for joining club are needed.

➤ Melville Fair is on the Sunday of 'Bike Week'.

➤ April 13th social ride around the bridges with a stop at the Bell Tower for coffee.

➤ May 18th Swap Meet at Clubrooms, with a sausage sizzle.

➤ AGM May 19th.

General Business

➤ A Gazebo of excellent quality has been purchased on behalf of the club by Peter Wells. It was then agreed that Peter be authorised to purchase a cover for use with the gazebo.

➤ T-Shirts – Peter Wells is to confirm the price and obtain colour samples.

➤ Merv Thompson advised that he has found suitable albums for the club photo collection.

➤ Paul Redman has become the custodian for the club bikes formerly residing with Walter Edam.

Show & Tell

➤ Ken Ward showed photos from Canberra.

➤ Paul Redman showed a Swan cycle with 28" wheels, dated early 50s.

➤ Merv Thompson showed a motor for an auto cycle.

➤ Alan Naber gave a report on the Historic Cycles Down Under convention held in Canberra. He described 10 days of old cycling events.

➤ Sally Dillon gave a presentation of women's cycling fashions. The Canberra Bike Museum was of particular interest.

➤ Meeting Closed at 8.50pm.

➤ Peter Wells showed a Carbide Lamp.

MINUTES OF MEETING 28th APRIL 2003

Present – 15 members.

Apologies – Jean & Eric Barrett, Mal & Myrene Bell, Ray Martlew.

Minutes of Previous Meeting – Read and accepted. Moved Phil Harris, seconded Ken Ward.

Agreed Business Arising would be dealt with in General Business.

Financial Report – Closing Balance \$2,396.29 after having paid for the gazebo and cover.

Accounts were presented for payment for insurance and hire of hall. Both were passed for payment.

Events

➤ 16th March – the Melville Fair brought a lot of interest.

➤ 13th April – Ride around the bridges was a good day, in beautiful weather, only 7 people attended.

➤ 18th May will be a Swap Meet and sausage sizzle.

➤ 19th May AGM.

➤ 7th-14th June Riverton Forum – volunteers needed to man the display.

General Business

➤ It was suggested that the club subsidise a Christmas in July outing.

➤ David Clark reported that Channel 31 gave a good coverage of the display at Whiteman's.

➤ Peter Wells reported that the Club T-Shirts has not arrived as expected. The price will be \$27 each for short sleeves and \$30 for long sleeves. It was agreed that the club would pay the cost of having the badge designed.

➤ Ken Ward informed the meeting that he was not happy with the existing set up for the library. David Clark offered to find a mobile bookcase, which would better display the books.

Show & Tell

➤ Mal Buckland brought in a Miller Headlight.

➤ David Clark showed a bike, which had been a delivery bike, and is looking for extra parts for it.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

NEXT MEETINGS: 19th May Monday, AGM at 7.30pm

16th June 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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our A.G.M. is with us once again, on Monday, May 19th. Most of our committee are prepared to continue serving, but after serving as President since the formation of the Club, Merv Thompson has decided that it is time for him to stand down, and for another member to take the chair.

All positions become vacant, so now is your chance to come forward to help your club achieve even greater success.

And Ken Ward has indicated that he will not be continuing as Librarian. Another position that we need to fill is that of Auditor, a requirement under the Incorporation Act.

Don't forget that Annual Subscriptions are also due at the A.G.M. and our Treasurer will be only too happy to accept your \$20.00.

The Club has had a great year, thanks to the efforts of members of the Committee, but also to the support of all members at the events during the past twelve months.

SHIRTS SHIRTS SHIRTS

We have finally arranged for a supply of shirts for members. They are good quality Polo shirts, in Royal Blue with white trimmings, and the club logo embroidered in three colours.

They are available with either short or long sleeves, and in the usual range of sizes. Prices will be \$26.00 (short sleeve), \$29.00 (long sleeve). Long sleeve shirts need to be specially made, so will take an extra two weeks to procure.

Will any member requiring shirts please contact Peter Wells (08) 9459 1750, indicating size, sleeve length, and number required. Cheque should be made payable to the Western Australian Historical Cycle Club, or if your cheque book isn't big enough, to the W.A. Historical Cycle Club.

MANDURAH ANTIQUE FAIR

Although only two club members and one other cycle enthusiast attended, there were thirteen pedal operated machines on display, a display that attracted quite a lot of attention on one of the hottest days this summer. This heatwave no doubt accounted for a lower than usual attendance, but the organisers appreciated our efforts. This year the Peel branch of the Veteran Car Club put on a good display alongside the bikes, which also attracted a lot of interest.

Bill Burrows, from Mandurah, had a number of well restored bikes there, and Phil Harris and Peter Wells took a trailer load of restored and "as found" machines along. Phil also had couple of Cyclops pedal cars and a Cyclops trike, which brought back happy memories to quite a few onlookers.

WHITEMAN PARK CLASSIC CAR SHOW

The annual Classic Car Show saw a big turnout of cars, commercials, motorcycles, and also an impressive display of pedal powered transport. The weather was kind for a change, and we had arguably the best seats in the house, on the hard standing alongside the main entrance to the Motor Museum. And we tried out our new Cabana, which proved to be a great asset, giving plenty of shade, and a focal point to our display. I should mention the collection of children's tricycles and pedal cars, which fascinated so many children - some of them with grey hair and walking sticks.

The big crowd of spectators didn't really encourage riding our machines, but some members tried, although they didn't seem to stay away from the display very long.

We had, I believe, cos' I didn't do the counting, thirty three exhibits, and that wasn't counting David Clark.

So thanks are due to those who turned up to put on a great display covering over a hundred years of cycling history.

Those taking part were -

Bob Barrow, Mal Bell, Myrene Bell, Mal Buckland, Gareth Buckland, David Clark, Phil Harris, Alex Naber, Dawn Thompson, Merv Thompson, Peter Wells.

MELVILLE FAIR - MARCH 23RD

Despite overnight rain, the weather proved just right for our attendance at this event. Once again a small band of members turned up with their bikes for a display, and also for a ride around the river foreshore in Melville. Our machines were displayed next to a group of cars belonging to members of the Veteran Car Club, and by a strange co-incidence our cabana was a twin of the one erected by the four wheeled brigade.

Once again our display caused much interest from young and old, especially the penny-farthings and Rudge Rotary. There was no doubt about the usefulness of our display notices, they kept onlookers informed of the relevant points of interest on individual items on display. I am always intrigued at the big number of ladies who spend considerable time appraising each bike displayed. But, then, I suppose many of them grew up in an age where almost everyone used bicycles to get to school, to work, or to do the shopping, as well as a means of keeping fit and having fun.

Blustery breezes proved to be a deterrent to riding very far around the river foreshore, so we chose not to ride too far, but the cycleway was quite interesting as it meandered around the river, with plenty of twists and turns as we passed through areas where bird calls abounded from trees, and with native flora along the waters edge. There were several fold-up bikes among the riders this time, the prevalence of hub gears also dominant.

Those in attendance were -

Mal & Myrene Bell, Merv & Dawn Thompson, Merrill Martlew, Phil Harris, Peter Wells.

I must also thank Frank Cocks for the loan of his nicely restored BSA folding army bicycle, which forms part of his collection of army transport of World War II.

Peter Wells.

RIDE AROUND THE BRIDGES - APRIL 13TH

Although the weather was perfect for cycling, clear skies, warm sunshine, and virtually no wind, only seven riders showed up for a ride along the riverside paths that link the Narrows Bridge and Causeway. The Swan River looked a picture, and the skyline from either bank was most impressive, making the enthusiasm of those taking part well worthwhile.

Those taking part were -

Dave & Ann Northan, and friend, Merv and Dawn Thompson, Phil Harris, and A.N.Other, who shall remain nameless, cos' I can't think who it was.

Peter Wells.

THAT SPEEDWELL ADVERT

I wonder how many members have had a good look at the advert for speedwell cycles in the last issue of this newsletter?

It appeared in a 1934 race programme, the Beverley-Perth annual one, I think, from Ken Ward's collection of memorabilia.

It has a pretty clear illustration of a top quality sports cycle built in Australia, and quite clearly shows Endick, or box section, wheel rims, as well as the popular Major Taylor handlebar extension. The handlebars are of an unusual bend, possibly in favour with Duncan Gray, and the rear brake has the lever fitted to the right hand, which to me seems odd, since hand signals in traffic would have precluded the use of the brake. I wonder, however, just when those wheel rims came into use? The Gordonson belonging to Gareth Buckland has them fitted, and I suspect that they are the correct type. Most full size bikes had 28 inch wheels in the thirties, and they were still available after the war especially in the bush. Sports bikes had 28x1 1/4 tyres.

CANBERRA NEWS

The International Cycle History Conference held in Canberra recently was attended by two of our members, Alan Naber, and Ken Ward. They both voted it a worthwhile event, and Alan gave an interesting talk on the event, as well as some of the rides taking place in conjunction with the Conference.

It was interesting to see that Ken has had some of his research into West Australian racing cyclists included in the April 2003 edition of the Canberra newsletter. In fact this issue is chock full of items of interest, and recommended reading for all our members. See Ken after the next meeting and borrow a copy from our library, you won't be disappointed.

BRITISH CYCLES - 1949

I recently had the good fortune to be given a 1949 issue of British Cycles and Motor Cycles, a trade publication which is full of interesting advertisements of many of the makes of cycles available in the UK at the time, as well as some of the accessories and components then on the market.

Of interest to me was the availability of what is now the normal type of steering head bearings, something that didn't take on with West Australian cycle builders until much later. We only saw the old self aligning type with dozens of loose 1/4 steel balls, the type that so many self help cyclists had trouble with, especially when they managed to drop a steel ball down between the head tube and the fork stem. This caused damage on both those tubes so often found on older machines, and which must have caused some problems with the steering.

Also available was a big range of alloy components, from handlebars, stems, side pull brakes, wing nuts, and so on. And there were several brands of derailleur gear sets from 2 to 5 speed that I have never even heard of. And most manufacturers were prepared to build a machine with whatever accessories or fittings that you wanted, so in reality you could have a custom built bike.

Of course, the same applied here in Australia, but usually only the more discerning rider took more care selecting the various options available to him. The average rider usually settled for a roadster, or a semi-racer off the shelf, with perhaps a Sturmey Archer three speed unit if he had hills to negotiate. It took a few years of peace before we were able to choose from a good range of accessories, and many of them were finished in black, as chromium and nickel was still in short supply. In fact, in 1951, Morris Minors appeared in Australian showrooms with silver painted hubcaps and headlamp rims, to be replaced at a later date by locally plated items.

The cycle trade stayed faithful to many components for sixty or seventy years, with virtually no change in basic items such as cranks and pedals, which is a good thing for those of us interested in the earlier machines. We are gradually building up a better picture of the history of cycling, and our library is proving its popularity and worth with the number of books being loaned each month. Ken Ward is doing a great job with this part of the club, and you can help him and other members by prompt return of books.

Peter Wells.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2003

May 18th Sunday - Swap Meet at Clubrooms - Meet at 10am. Sausage sizzle. Bring your spare/unwanted bikes and bits.

May 19th Monday - AGM

Jun 7th - 14th - Riverton Forum Club Display (8 days)

Jun 16th Monday - MONTHLY MEETING

Jul 21st Monday - MONTHLY MEETING

Aug 18th Monday - MONTHLY MEETING

FOR SALE-SWAP-WANTED

WANTED WANTED WANTED

Volunteers wanted urgently to help man our 8 day display at Riverton Forum. This is our big fundraiser, the one that helps keep this club financial without calling on members to dig deep into their pockets with substantial increases of annual subscriptions. Let Phil Harris know when you can spend some time talking bikes with an interested public. Even half a day will ease the load of others attending our display.

Phil Harris (08) 9459 7146

WANTED

Parts for 1948 Swansea 5 Swan Road Racer. Quill pedals, 2 brake levers, steering head, bearings, narrow leather saddle, genuine Swansea handlebars with continuous curve from centre. Paul Redman (08) 9330 2092

FOR SALE

At the Swap Meet, May 18th - Restored Swansea Semi Racer, various frames, wheels, hubs etc. All off Australian built bikes.

BE THERE EARLY TO GET THESE BARGAINS

WA CYCLE MANUFACTURERS

* Armstrong	Armstrong Cycle and Motor Agency	Perth
* Arrow	Arrow Cycle Co	278 William Street Perth
* Aussie	Aussie Cycles (T.J. McDonald)	269 William Street Perth
Alpha	Harris Scarfe & Sandovers	Perth
* Ascot	Ascot Cycles	Belmont
Bluebird	Boans Ltd	Murray Street Perth
Congress	Congress Cycles	152 William Street Perth
Elliott	Elliotts (Nothing to do with Super Elliotts)	127 William Street Perth
Excel	Bairds Ltd	Murray Street Perth
*Flash	Flash Cycles	492 Beaufort Street Mt Lawley
Flying Eagle		South Perth
Flying Arrow		Perth
Fleet		
* Gordonson	Gordonson Cycles	342 Wellington Street Perth
Gordon	Gordon Cycle & Motor Co	287 Murray Street Perth
Goodchild	Goodchild Cycles	Perth Road Bassendean
Hillman		Scarborough
Ideal		Perth
* Kookaburra	Kookaburra Cycles (A. Grady)	Fremantle
Lucas	W.J. Lucas	Hay Street Perth
Moon		
* Pilot	W. Jackson	Perth
* Panther	C.T. Collins	30 Angove Street North Perth
Paramount		
Royal Star	M.J. Bateman	Perth
* Regal	T.J. Fry	93 Rokeby Road Subiaco
* Regent	Fry's Cycle & Motor Works	80 Rokeby Road Subiaco
Rainbow	Sandovers	Perth
* Sprint	Harry Elsdons Cycle & Motor Cycle Depot	554 Albany Highway Victoria Park
* Swansea	Swansea Cycle Co	Fremantle
Star	Star Cycle Works (Wal Chinnery)	Guildford Road Maylands
Swift		
* Speed King	H. Legg	9 Elder Place Fremantle
* West	West Cycles	511 Hay Street Perth
Western Star	Craig & Co	152 William Street Perth
* Wheelman	Fry's Cycle Work (L. Fry)	Rokeby Road Subiaco
* Steele Bishop	Steele Bishop	Perth
Zenith	Zenith Cycles	Maylands
Flying Atom		Mt Hawthorn
Flying Ace	Bradford's	Perth
Run Well	Geoff Pianta Cycles	Collie
Philco	Phil Kidd Cycles	Claremont
Speedlite		Maylands
Express	Express Cycles (1982 - ?	302 Beaufort Street Perth

NB Armstrong started manufacturing cycles in 1894.

*** Asterisk denotes firm built own frames.**