

Not the ...

# Spoke'n Word

Volume 13 No 3

NEWSLETTER

Nov – Dec 2011

## MINUTES OF MEETING 17<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2011

*Meeting opened 7.40pm.*

*Present* - 12 members and 1 visitor present.

*Apologies* – Denis Gibbs, Ken Ward, Robert Hunt

*Minutes of Meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2011* - Read and accepted. Moved Mal Bell, seconded Walter Edom.

### *Treasurer's Report*

Balance B/F	\$3,406.28
Income	\$ 442.35
Expenses	\$ 184.00
Balance	<u>\$3,666.63</u>

The deposit for the hire of the bus to Williams has yet to be returned.

### *Correspondence In*

- Letter from Brian Smirk resigning from the Club.
- Email from Comvas regarding Public Liability Insurance with receipt for payment and Certificate of Insurance. (The question as to whether members over the age of 80 are covered is yet to be answered).

### *Correspondence Out*

- Letter to Brian Smirk accepting his resignation.

### *Events*

- 26<sup>th</sup> September - Mystery Bus Tour. This was a very interesting visit to Jesse Martin's Model Village near Williams. Congratulations to Jesse and to Merv Thompson for arranging the visit.
- 9<sup>th</sup> October – Revolutions and Whiteman Park ride. Disappointing as signs to the new location were inadequate. Trains were not running and attendance was poor.
- 27<sup>th</sup> November – Christmas Function with Mal and Myrene Bell at 5 Mulberry Court, Maida Vale. Please RSVP on 9359 3335 by 14<sup>th</sup> November if you have not done so already.

### *Show and Tell*

- Phil Harris showed an Avanti Cruise Matic cycle

fitted with an auto change 4speed rear hub. He also brought copies of a book Cyclopaedia showing many interesting and unusual bikes developed over the past century.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm.

## MINUTES OF MEETING 21<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER 2011

*Meeting commenced at 7.40pm.*

*Present* - 15 members and visitor David Townsend of Wesley College.

*Apologies* – Mal and Myrene Bell

*Minutes from the 17<sup>th</sup> October meeting* - Read and accepted. Moved Walter Edom, seconded Dave Clark.

### *Treasurer's Report*

Balance B/F	\$3,666.63
Income	\$ 501.35
Expenses	\$ 156.60
Balance	<u>\$4,011.38</u>

*(Income includes refundable deposit on hire of bus)*

Treasurer's Report accepted. Moved Phil Harris, seconded Ken Ward.

### *Correspondence In*

- The Department of Transport wrote advising details of Cycle Instead Bike Week 2012 to be held from Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March to Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March. We are invited to organise a community event.

### *Correspondence Out*

- The President replied to Department of Transport advising of a Club Ride on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March as part of Bike Week and that sponsorship will not be needed.
- Letter to Gill Irvine re membership.
- Letter to Seniors Recreation Council (Dawn Yates) thanking them for the best ever Have a Go Day.

**NEXT MEETINGS: Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 7:30pm 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 7:30pm**

**Committee – President: Peter Wells 9459 1750**

**Vice President: Merv Thompson  
9450 2579**

**Treasurer: Harold Perry 9364 7253  
11 Brentwood Ave, Brentwood 6153**

**Secretary: Tony Hall 9446 5738**

**27 Brentwood Ave, Woodlands 6018**

### **Articles for Newsletter:**

**The Editor, Peter Wells 9459 1750  
25 Constantine Way, Thornlie 6108**

**Historian: Ken Ward 9364 3601**

**Librarian: Harold Perry 9364 7253**

**Event's Organiser: Phil Harris 9459 7146**

**Committee Members: David Clark, Walter Edom,  
Alan Hind**

**DISCLAIMER** The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the WA Historical Cycle Club and the accuracy of information published herein is not guaranteed.

### **General Business**

- Bridget Curran of Great Western Entertainment told us that she is writing a History of Ordinary Things and that Mal Bell has been helping her. She is seeking old bike parts such as could have been used by the Wright Brothers in developing their flying machine! Other topics are "Bikes in the Outback" and "Bikes in China". Any assistance will be appreciated.
- Alan Naber has a contact in Melbourne looking for older bikes.
- Robert Hunt advises that Glen Parker and Mercers have Brooks saddles.
- Visitor David Townsend told and showed how boys at Wesley College are finding and restoring bikes and making trolleys.

### **Events**

- 9<sup>th</sup> November - Have a Go Day. This was a most enjoyable day. Our display received plenty of attention and there were larger crowds than in the past.

### **Future Events**

- 22<sup>nd</sup> January - Club Ride. Meet at Phil Harris' place, 24 Ravenhill Road, Thornlie at 9.00am for a 9.30am start.
- 26<sup>th</sup> February - Restoration Day. Meet at Alan Hind's place to learn how to carry out repairs and what tools are available to assist.

### **Show and Tell**

- Phil Harris brought along two old bikes, a Camel and a Malvern Star which he picked up on his travels. He also brought another Street Surfer.
- David Townsend showed a small frame Swansea needing a rear wheel and full restoration.

### **Meeting closed.**

### **WHITEMAN PARK DISPLAY 9<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER**

Torrential rain, thunder and hail, was not a very encouraging start to our outing to Revolutions, but by the time members started arriving at the area the skies had cleared, and it looked very promising. I won't comment on the number of members who had problems finding their way into our position, in spite of having been given a map and - I thought easy to follow instructions. Thank heaven they didn't have to find their way out of a paper bag.

The usual suspects set to and we soon had our shelter and sign erected, and were able to assemble an impressive display of bikes dating from 1907 up to the 1970s, as well as children's bikes and trikes, unicycles, and so on. Although visitors were few to start with they soon became a steady stream of interested people of all ages, some of the little ones taking advantage of Phil's offer for them to ride around the area on some of his kids bikes.

Blanche Barrow got into the swing of things quite

literally by taking up the offer of a free camel ride. Which reminds me of the old joke. A sign at the camel enclosure at the Zoo read "Beware, the camel spits". He was, and it did. Corny I know. There were plenty of interesting things to be seen, both in the Revolutions display and the various activities in the grounds, all free. The steam train made its presence felt with plenty of lovely smelling smoke and blasting of whistles. Our ex Bank Manager thought \$7.00 was a bit much for a ride - it might break his piggy bank. Wot a meannie!

By two thirty all hands set to and not only dismantled but also loaded my bikes and the club gear onto my trailer, for which I was very grateful, my leg giving me a hard time for some as yet to be found reason. It was good to see new member Robert Hunt turn up with some interesting bikes.

Those present were Harold and Judy Perry, Dave Clark, Phil and Troy Harris, Bob and Blanche Barrow, Alan Hind, Robert Hunt, Fred Starcken, Peter Wells.

### **OCEAN RIDE FOR MS**

Around 2000 participants assembled at South Beach around 7.00am on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2011. Two courses were offered; a 30km ride directly to Whitford Nodes or a 50km ride which involved an additional section of 10km further north followed by a return to the finish. Cycle repairers were present for last minute problems such as flat tyres and the like. Coffee was also provided as riders waited to start according to their anticipated speed. Numerous cycling clubs were represented and a plethora of cycling machines could be seen (Phil spotted two beautiful his and hers Pinarellis!)

As we flowed through Fremantle, the pace was very slow until around Leighton. The ocean vistas as we travelled along the coast probably make this ride one of the best in Perth. Throughout the course roads were well marshalled, cyclists were clearly separated from other traffic and a sweeper bus and trailer service for the weary was also turned on! This author was so impressed with this option that he even went to the trouble of waiting for the bus at Cottesloe!! Waiting at the finish, a variety of live entertainment, including brass bands, dancing cheer-girl squads, free massage, and free food/drink was offered. Prizes for the major sponsorships achievers were awarded - one team titled "For Pete's Sake" raised over \$10,000.

Phil rode a 1980 Schwinn racer and finished in less than 1 hour 30 minutes, while yours truly, on Phil's Steele Bishop racer finished in about 2 hours (for 25kms!!). I particularly enjoyed the "mascots" race - Mr SMARTRIDER won, but I was supporting Robbie Rotomotion (a helicopter).

A footnote: I wish to thank Mr Harris for his impeccable preparation of the classic Olympic Steele Bishop cycle used – during one of our training sessions: Phil discovered a highly effective technique of front wheel removal – even faster than the “quick-release” mechanism. However, you must attach the large framed Steele Bishop cycle to a tiny vehicle. Phil discovered that by backing into a non-mountable kerb, the front wheel “popsoff”. Sadly, the likely downside of this option is wheel rebuild.

*Walter Edom*

### **HAVE A GO DAY 2011**

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November, Old Jupiter Pluvius was sending it down in buckets, in fact I think a complete bucket landed on my car’s roof. And we had gale force winds.

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November. Beautiful clear skies, and a gentle zephyr of a breeze, perfect for our display. A dark cloud in the west soon dissipated, and by the time your scribe eventually arrived after being held up in traffic the other exhibitors were all set up ready to party. This year we were supplied with a gazebo, so we only had to erect our sign, and with all hands helping me, we were able to relax and wander around the various exhibits.

Our new position was much better than our previous one, and although we were right alongside a PA system it was only used for any important news items, which did not bother us at all. There were close on thirty exhibits on our display, and we were kept on our toes constantly answering questions about our bikes, the Club, and help with sources of spare parts. It must have been a record crowd, because at times it was almost impossible to move around the area. Mal Bell in particular never stopped answering questions about the Penny Farthings.

Those present were Mal and Myrene Bell, Tony Hall, Merv and Dawn Thompson, Harry and Judy Perry, Peter Wells.

### **OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY**

About thirty members and friends met at the Bell residence on a cool and windy evening for our end of year Bun Fight. We were greeted by what looked like Penny Farthing heaven, with an incredible display of these machines plus the Rudge Rotary and several childrens Penny Farthings. In fact they were extraordinarily Ordinary. Since there was plenty of daylight several members tried their hand at riding (with a couple of supporters) Topy Geer’s newly arrived machine, much to the amusement of onlookers.

Then it was time for the part time cooks to do their best at the BBQ while the ladies attended to the salads and sweets, everyone in a very happy mood. It was good to see some of our country members present, some covering 60 miles to get there.

After the meal and cleaning up had finished, a slide show of a Club event, and a members trip to several historic sights and buildings in Victoria earlier this year. It was another great event thanks to the generosity of Mal and Myrene Bell and all those attending.

### **FOR SALE**

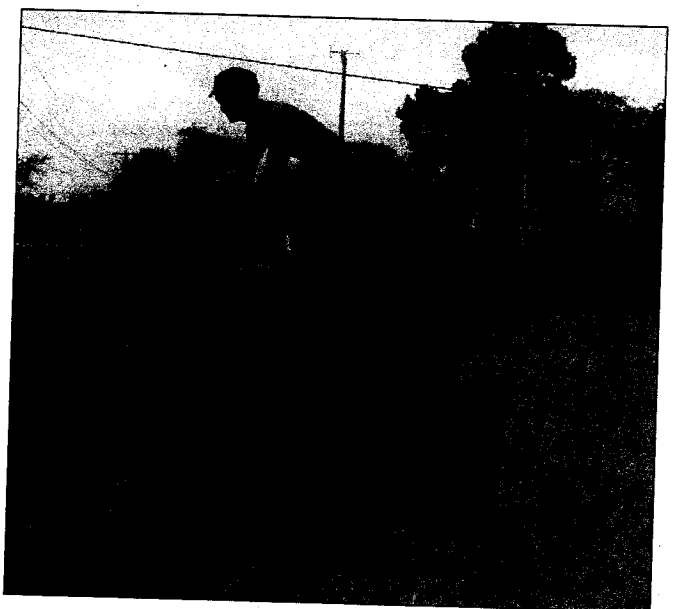
We have a supply of Club shirts, caps, and head bands for your summer hat. The shirts cost \$27 (short sleeve), \$30 (long sleeve), \$13 caps, hat bands \$6. Available in S,M,L,XL. Available from Peter Wells 9459 1750, these items look really great on our rides or displays.

### **NAME BADGES**

If you have lost your name badge contact Peter Wells for a FREE replacement one. We have a few new members now and I am sure that they would appreciate knowing who they are talking to, so wear yours at every Club event. I think a \$2.00 fine for not wearing your badge, like a number of clubs are doing, might find a response from the slackers.!

### **HUBERT OPPERMAN**

When in Victoria a few months ago I was driven to Echuca, a port on the Murray River, some 1066 miles from the South Australian coast at Goolwa. Along the way we came across a bronze statue of a man riding a bike. The man was Hubert Opperman, one of my boyhood heroes, and probably one of the greatest cyclists of all time. So, I simply had to take a couple of photos, but the plaque may not be too clear, so I have copied it for your perusal.



Aussies competing in England or Europe in those days were at a disadvantage because they did not have ready access to the latest lightweight bits and pieces, and our Australian roads were nowhere near as good as those in Europe, so our riders used stronger but heavier components when racing. Australia didn't see much lightweight gear until the mid 1930s. I think that the statue is in Corio, but don't quote me.

#### OPPY

Hubert Opperman was born in Rochester. His early job as a telegraph boy encouraged his love of cycling. Throughout the 1920s and 1930s Oppy was the dominant figure in Australian cycling. He first won the Australian Road Racing Championship in 1924. He won it again in 1926, 1927, and 1929. At the same time he was becoming an International star. This statue is modeled on his stunning victory at the Bol D'Or in Paris in 1928. In the same year he was highly placed in the prestigious Toure de France. His first place in the 1265 km Paris-Brest-Paris road race of 1931 was the highlight of his sporting career. That year he was voted Sportsman of the Year by a French newspaper. In 1991 Sir Hubert attended the Centenary Celebrations of the race and was honoured with the gold medal of the City of Paris.

Oppy retired from cycle racing in 1940. He celebrated his retirement with a Twenty Four Hour Marathon at the Sydney Velodrome, breaking one hundred and one records in the process.

After war service in the RAAF he entered Federal Politics holding the seat of Corio for the Liberal Party from 1949 until 1967. During this time he served as Minister for Shipping and Transport and Minister for Migration.

In 1967 he was appointed Australian High Commissioner to Malta, receiving the OBE in 1952, and was Knighted in 1968.

This statue was officially unveiled on his 90th birthday, 29th May 1994.

#### COMING EVENTS

- Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January - Thornlie Ride. Meet at 46 Ravenhill Road, Thornlie at 9.30am for a pleasant ride along the Canning River. Phil Harris will even show you his collection. BYO lunch, drinks etc.
- Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February - Restoration Day. Meet at 10.00am at Alan Hind's residence, 4 Koel Street, Langford. There will be demonstrations on how to check frames and forks for alignment, adjusting wheel, centre bracket, and head bearings. General maintenance. How to true a buckled wheel. Special tools available to make life easier for us. BYO lunch and if you have a particular problem (non-marital) bring it along, our team of experts may be able to help you.

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2012

- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January - General Meeting
- Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January - Thornlie Rise (see Coming Events)
- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February - General Meeting
- Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February - Restoration Day (see Coming Events)
- Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March - Guildford Fair
- Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March - General Meeting
- Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March - 25<sup>th</sup> March - Bike Week
- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April - General Meeting
- Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April - Classic Car Show Whiteman Park

## Seasons Greetings

Once again, as another year ends, we wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year, although since quite a few of us are retirees it may be hard to be prosperous. So, instead I wish you all good health and plenty of tailwinds on our rides.

