



Volume 13 No 6

# Spoke'n Word

NEWSLETTER

May – June 2012

## MINUTES OF MEETING 16<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2012

*Meeting opened 7.30pm.*

*Present* - 15 members present.

*Minutes of Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> March 2012* - Read and accepted after amendment by Alan Hind telling of another body taking old bikes for restoration. Moved Andrew Blackmore, seconded David Townsend.

### *Treasurer's Report*

Balance B/F	\$4,105.36
Income	\$ 359.00
Expenses	\$ Nil
Balance	<u>\$4,464.36</u>

It was suggested that we should put some funds into an interest bearing account. The Treasurer will look into this.

The Treasurers Report was accepted, moved Phil Harris, seconded Ken Ward.

### *Correspondence In*

- Newsletter of the Penny Farthing Club of South Australia.

### *Correspondence Out*

- Nil.

### *General Business*

- Public Liability Insurance. COMVAS meeting planned for 22<sup>nd</sup> April has been postponed for two weeks.
- Plastic stickers for car windscreens have been obtained by Merv Thompson and given to those present at the meeting.
- Cards to be given to interested parties by Club members can be obtained by Andrew Blackmore at a cost of \$26.00 for 250 cards and it was agreed that these should be bought.

### *Events*

- 24<sup>th</sup> March – Brookton Old Time Motor Show. Phil Harris told us about things of interest there and heard of a Stingray available in Beverley for only \$600.00.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> April - Car Show at Whiteman Park. Cars must be removed from the display area by 9.00am and may not return until after 3.30pm.
- 6<sup>th</sup> May – Moondyne Festival at Toodyay. Merv Thompson suggested that the \$100.00 donation offered by the organisers be used to subsidise the travelling expenses of those Club members attending. Moved Merv Thompson, seconded Alan Hind.
- 21<sup>st</sup> May – General Meeting.
- 27<sup>th</sup> May – Mt Henry Bridge Ride. Details later.

### *Show and Tell*

- Dave Townsend brought a MASI road bike in superb condition and also a Malvern Star.
- Phil Harris showed an early exercise bike called an AVION apparently made in WA in the 1930s when the cycle business was going downhill.
- Alan Hind showed an interesting frame with a large F on the steering head.
- Merv Thompson has a number of bikes for disposal and will arrange viewing in Welshpool for those interested

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

## MINUTES OF MEETING 21<sup>st</sup> MAY 2012

*Meeting opened 7.30pm.*

*Present* - 12 members present.

*Apologies* – 4

*Minutes of Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> April 2012* - Read and accepted. Moved Robert Hunt, seconded Phil Harris.

**NEXT MEETINGS: AGM - Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June 7:30pm**

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July 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.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Balance B/F	\$4,464.36
Income	\$ 72.00
Expenses	\$ 76.00
Balance	<u>\$4,460.36</u>

The Treasurers Report was accepted, moved, Mal Bell seconded Phil Harris.

### **Correspondence In**

- Nil.

### **Correspondence Out**

- Nil.

### **Events**

- 22<sup>nd</sup> April – Classic Car Show at Whiteman Park. The later date resulted in cooler weather with good attendance and keen interest in our display.

- 6<sup>th</sup> May – Moondyne Festival at Toodyay. This event was well organised and plenty of people attended. Those present were Merv and Dawn Thompson, Harold and Judy Perry, Fred and Ena Rumokoy, Phil Harris, Tony Hall and Robert Hunt.

- 27<sup>th</sup> May – Mt Henry Bridge Ride. Meet at the car park under the bridge at 10.00am.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Leonora Festival. Merv Thompson will attend.

- 18<sup>th</sup> June – AGM. Nominations wanted for all positions on the Committee. We need new blood as a matter of urgency so step up you newer members.

- 24<sup>th</sup> June – Speed Dome. We provide our own food this time.

- 22<sup>nd</sup> July – Tour de Ruste. Details later.

### **General Business**

- Merv Thompson has a call from a group in York asking whether we would be willing to attend a possible future event. He confirmed our interest.
- Public Liability Insurance. No progress to date. In the worst case we may face a premium of around \$800.00.
- August bus outing. We are looking for a suitable destination. Jim Selkirk, a country member, has a large property near Gingin if we are interested in seeing around that area.
- Yellow Club stickers. Larger ones suitable for trailers, etc are available from Merv at \$3.00 each.
- Interest on Club funds. Mal Bell advised that Bendigo Bank offers accounts to social clubs and they may offer a better rate than Police and Nurses. Harold and Mal to check this out.
- Country accommodation. Robert Hunt advised that this can often be found through CWA and similar organisations.
- Donations. If you receive a bike or parts from a third party you are advised to get them to sign a form transferring ownership to you otherwise

you may have them demanding it back in several years time. A suitable form will be obtained for members.

### **Show and Tell**

- Phil Harris brought a Superturbo road bike which is surplus to his needs and he values it at around \$150.00.
- Merv Thompson brought an unused Australia Post delivery bike saved from the scrap heap several years ago.

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

#### **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June**

As you were advised in the last issue of this publication, we have our AGM in June, and it would be nice to see some of our newer members come to the fore and give some of our long standing committee members a rest. Since I may not be attending as many events due to health issues it would be nice to see more members doing a report on events for inclusion in the magazine.

Peter Wells

### **RIP STUART BONSER**

Our member Stewart Bonser died recently. He was a prominent road racer in the early post war years.

### **COMING EVENTS**

- **Speed Dome Display Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June**  
Once again our display at the Cycling Track Championships will show the public cycles from ages past, and will highlight some of our West Australian built road and track race bikes. You need to be at the venue on the Eastern side of the Speed Dome by 9.00am at the latest. This year you need to bring your lunch and drinks since the Club will in future be paid to attend. This should save all the hassle that occurred in recent years.

The actual racing is very spectacular, with a number of top riders from all over Australia competing. Please wear your Club regalia if you have it and YOUR NAME BADGE or you may not gain entrance to the Dome.

Club shirts and caps are available from Peter Wells if you need to buy some.

- **Tour De Ruste Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> July**

This year we will be visiting the fabulous George Webber Collection. Apart from the fantastic exhibits to suit all tastes, both male and female, George will have his BBQ all fired up for us. Bring along your own food, drinks, etc and of course your camera. The event will start at 10.00am at 9 Stirling Crescent, Hazelmere.

DON'T MISS THIS AMAZING WORDL CLASS COLLECTION.

## **ANNUAL BUS TOUR – SEPTEMBER**

A venue for our bus tour is needed, preferably with a historical setting. Any suggestions will be appreciated. A radius of around 150 kilometres from Perth is desirable.

## **CLASSIC CAR SHOW**

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April**

This year the Show was held a month later than usual and the move proved to be just what the car and bike people wanted, with probably the best attendance ever, and the crowds of spectators obviously appreciating the huge variety of transport of all types and ages.

Our display consisted of 26 bikes of all ages and types, plus some very early childrens' playthings, but we only had one PF unfortunately. However, any efforts to ease the conflict between a member of the Show Committee and a number of exhibitors bore fruit, because I was approached by the Secretary of the CCC, who not only allowed my almost 50 year old bike trailer to remain as part of our display, but assured me that the matter had been attended to. In fact the person concerned was very subdued all day, so perhaps we will see our PFs back in 2013!

Those attending were Harold and Judy Perry, Merv and Dawn Thompson, Tony Hall, Phil Harris, Robert Hunt, Andrew Blackmore and Peter Wells. We need to get members to use display notices giving details of their bikes and I can easily produce them if they give me the relevant details. We have A4 sheets with the Club logo that only need to have the relevant information, date, model, any unusual features etc. They will not cost you a cent and you can either frame them or have them laminated.

When it came time to pack up our gear, it was a case of many hands make light work, and we were soon ready to roll, except for one small problem. There were so many trying to leave the area that the exits were at a virtual standstill, so we, like a lot of other exhibitors, elected to sit and wait, have an ice cream or a drink or two, and chat of this and that (bikes of course) until about five o'clock. Even then there was a bottleneck until we got onto the main road system, although we did keep moving slowly for most of that time.

If you didn't attend you missed a great day with pleasant company and beautiful surroundings. Strange, but true, we never had one enquiry about joining the Club, the first time in ages for that to happen.

## **MOONDYNE FESTIVAL, TOODYAY**

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

Despite the weather forecast of rain for a week ten Club members travelled to Toodyay to ride and display our bicycles during the Colonial Festival.

This has been a first for the Club and fortunately we managed to avoid a few black clouds which hovered over the town during the events.

Our display of twenty bikes was well received by the public and we were fortunate to have a large area in the centre of the town – and were entertained by a young group of highland dancers during the day.

The festival celebrates the life of Moondyne Joe a convict in the 1850s. He was a legendary bushranger renowned for escaping and consequently many of the days activities centered around the 1850s era.

A group of six Club members decided to spend a weekend at Toodyay (some 100kms from Perth) and were fortunate?! to obtain the last available booking at a cottage some 12kms from Toodyay.

When we eventually arrived at our destination on Saturday – no one was there to greet us in this remote bushland area and we found the 100 year old cottage locked! We had to drive to Toodyay Tourist Centre to discover that the key was under a mattress on the verandah! BIG DEAL! When we returned Fred and Ina had arrived and had found the key.

Our frustrations were soon rewarded when we found the single mud brick renovated cottage had a large lounge a clean kitchen and toilet and three bedrooms. All floors were made from hand cut timber.

With the lounge fire to warm us up and no TV we all thoroughly enjoyed a pleasant nostalgic and relaxing short stay at the cottage.

Those who attended the festival were Harold and Judy Perry, Merv and Dawn Thompson, Fred and Ena Rumokoy, Phil Harris, David Clark, Tony Hall and Robert Hunt who also managed to stay overnight in Toodyay.

Merv Thompson

## **THE MT HENRY BRIDGE FIASCO**

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May**

The weather was perfect; parking was easy, the route was on good cycle paths, the scenery world class. The attendance was abysmal. Let's have no excuses, if you don't want the Club to have regular rides, say so, and the organisers can have a break.

Allowing for several members being on the sickliest, to have only three, yes, three starters, on a basically flat ride is an insult to the organisers.

However the trio set off around the river, stopping for a coffee break, as well as to admire the beautiful river views, and eventually having take away lunches. There were many other cyclists, walkers, stroller pushers, and well behaved dogs taking advantage of that beautiful cloud free just right autumn day.

The riders were Judy Perry, Alan Hind and Phil Harris. Also present but under doctor's orders was Harold Perry.

Where were you?

### **SPOKE LACING**

There are two methods of lacing spokes, tangentially or radially. Tangential spoking is when the spokes are laced so that they are not at right angles to the hub or rim, and actually cross over one another when the wheel is built. Radial spokes are at right angles to both hub and rim.

The reason for building wheels tangentially is to get more strength in the wheel to resist braking and pedalling forces. The more times the spokes cross, the stronger the wheel, which is why for many years rear wheels had more spokes than front ones, and usually crossed more often. That accounts for front wheels having less spokes than rear ones, and usually less crosses. The only reason for modern wheels having 36 spokes per wheel is because it is cheaper to have all rims identical, and our roads are much smoother than the old rutted and pot holed gravel or sandy roads of our ancestors and of course all bikes now have much better brakes both front and rear.

### **STEERING HEAD BEARINGS**

Some self aligning and some early Continental type head fittings (the type that are pressed into the tube) take 5/32 steel balls, not 1/8. They will NOT be caged bearings.

### **WEST AUSTRALIAN BUILT BIKES**

I have been informed that someone has been enquiring electronically regarding WA built bikes. As the Club has a list of around ninety such machines I would like to get in touch with them, they might even be able to give us more makes, could even want to join our happy band of enthusiasts for our cycling heritage. Unfortunately, or perhaps fortunately, 'cos it is possible to waste a lot of time with these modern gadgets, our Editor is not into those things, so let me know if you have the means to contact the enquirer, it could be of value to the Club.

Peter Wells 9459 1750

### **AVION INDUSTRIES**

Phil Harris has just acquired an unusual exercise bike that features a Sturmey Archer hub brake unit for the wheel, and cycle components throughout the framework, which is incidentally lugless. It even has a Brooks saddle. The brand is AVION, and in the late 1950s Aussie Cycles were manufacturing hospital equipment under that brand to augment their cycle business as that side slowed down. So Phil has unwittingly come to light with an important piece of West Australian history, one with a cycling theme.

### **SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NEWSLETTER APRIL 2012**

Two interesting items in the latest SA Penny Farthing newsletter. Firstly, the coverage of the Evandale PF Championships that included two PF riders from WA, Daniel and Catherine Talbot. Both these riders featured in the results sheets, so we must get these two enthusiasts to join our Club.

The other item is about delivery bikes, and that the SA Club is holding a delivery bike picnic run. We have a number of members with various trade bikes, both two and three wheeled versions and it would be great to get them all together for a shortish flat ride, - possibly Lake Monger.

### **CLUB LIBRARY**

The Club has a good selection of books, both technical and historical, but no one seems to take advantage of this mine of information. Of course we don't read much anymore, we are too busy with electronic gadgets, but you can't always get details of early West Australian bikes or cycling, so why not ask our Librarian, Harold Perry to show you what is available. You can borrow books for up to 2 months.



### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2012**

- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June – Annual General Meeting
- Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June – Speed Dome Display
- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July – General Meeting
- Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> July – Tour De Ruste
- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> August – General Meeting
- Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August – Ride to be advised

Life is like a ten-speed bicycle. Most of us have gears we never use.

Charles M. Schulz