



Not the ...

Spoke'n Word

Volume 14 No 3

NEWSLETTER

Nov – Dec 2012

MINUTES OF MEETING 15th AUGUST 2012

Meeting opened 7.40pm.

Present - 15 members and one visitor present.

Minutes of Meeting 17th September 2012- Read and accepted. Moved Phil Harris, seconded Dave Clark.

Treasurer's Report

Balance B/F	\$3,674.91
Income	\$ 498.40
Expenses	\$ 56.00
Balance	<u>\$4,117.31</u>

Correspondence

- A letter was received from Avon Events and Marketing outlining their proposal for our attendance at the 2013 Avon Valley Festival over Easter 2013. This will be discussed later.
- Toodyay Moondyne Festival - 5th May 2013. We have been invited to attend. We have agreed to be there.
- Have a Go Day – 14th November 2012. Details of location etc have been provided and this event promises to be bigger than ever. Cars are to be out of the area by 8.00am.
- **Events**
- 7th October – MS Ride from Fremantle to Hillary's with various distances. This event was attended by over 1800 bikes. Mal Bell put on a display of Penny farthing and other bikes. Plenty of spectators were there despite it being a cloudy day with some rain.
- 21st October – Garvey Park Ride. 9.30am for a 10.00am start.

General Business

- We were given a very interesting talk by Stan James author of the book "Two Wheels, Dust and Flies". This book describes three rides Stan took between 1973 and 1977 when roads were a lot rougher than they are today.

Stan rode a standard Malvern Star bike fitted with a 5 speed Sturmey Archer gear set. He rode from Brisbane to the Snowy Mountains and on to Melbourne and Tasmania. Later he rode in New Zealand, both North and South islands and later still rode to Perth and Dongara. He brought these trips to life during his talk which was much appreciated by us all.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

MINUTES OF MEETING 19th NOVEMBER 2012

Meeting opened 7.40pm.

Present - 15 members present.

Minutes of Meeting 15th October 2012 - Read and accepted. Moved Phil Harris, seconded Robert Hunt.

Treasurer's Report

Balance B/F	\$ 4,117.31
Income	\$ 614.36
Expenses	\$ 72.20
Balance	<u>\$ 4,659.37</u>

(Income refund of deposit from bus hire \$484.26)

The Treasurers Report was accepted. Moved, Mal Bell seconded, Merv Thompson.

Events

- Have a Go Day – Wednesday 14th November Burswood. 12 members had 33 bikes on display. It was a well organised event in a good location with plenty of shade.
- Channel 7 Christmas Pageant – 15 December We are limited to 20 participants and indications are that 10 – 15 members will be going. A request that members be exempt from wearing helmets has apparently been granted verbally by the Police Department.
- Avon Valley Festival – Easter 2013 Avon Valley Festival organisers would like us to

NEXT MEETINGS: NO DECEMBER MEETING

Monday 21st January 7:30pm

Monday 18th February 7.30pm

Committee – President: Peter Wells 9459 1750

peter.wells@westnet.com.au

Vice President: Merv Thompson
9450 2579

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

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Historian: Ken Ward 9364 3601

Librarian: Harold Perry 9364 7253

Event's Organiser: Phil Harris 9459 7146

Committee Members: Andrew Blackmore, Alan Hind

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attend for each of the three days and to this end are prepared to pay \$100.00 per day for us to be there.

- Moondyne Festival Toodyay – 5th May 2013. We have confirmed that we will be attending and they will pay \$150.00 for our attendance.

Show and Tell

- Robert Frith showed a restored Armstrong Track bike. Discussion indicated that it could have been 1909 vintage.
- Peter Wells brought along a box of high end parts which had been donated. These were offered for sale with proceeds going to Club funds.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

CHANNEL 7 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Saturday 15th December

The Club will be participating in this event, but is limited to 20 riders.

Please contact Peter Wells on 9459 1750 for details if you are thinking of taking part.

COMING EVENTS

- Sunday 13th January – Rockingham Ride
Meet at Rotary Park, Esplanade, Rockingham for a 9.30am start. Ride to Point Peron and local area. BYO lunch, drinks etc. For more information contact Phil Harris on 9459 7146.
- Sunday 24th February – Tomato Lake Ride
Enter area from Oats Street and park at the eastern end of the entrance roadway. This is a SMALL WHEELS ride, so bring along your folders, Bickertons, Moultons, etc. If you don't have one, ask around, there are plenty around. BYO lunch, drinks, etc.

MS CLUB DISPLAY – WHITFORDS NODES

Sunday 7th October 2012

An early start saw several Club members arrive at our destination with the threat of rain not very far away. The unloading of some very interesting machines dating from the mid-19th century to the 1970s, from one, two or three wheelers, for both young or old, soon took place, and we settled down in a nice gazebo only to be told it wasn't ours. So, we settled ourselves in the open until a gentle but persistent drizzle set in, when we moved, along with many other bike enthusiasts, to any shelter available. The drizzle soon turned into rain for a while before a reluctant sun reappeared, warming things up, considerably to everyone's relief.

By the time a few early riders began to arrive our numbers had increased slightly and all the various stalls were ready for the rush. It seemed a bit slow until the main groups began to arrive then it was hard to realise the number of women and children among the entrants. There were kids riding in front of a parent on special seats, at the rear of modified

carriers and even on special carriers on parents backs. Most riders also had decorations on their helmets or on their clothing so it was a very colourful group.

There was plenty of food for all, and the other good thing was the way everyone put their litter in the many bins provided. Our display created a lot of interest from both the young and the not so young. Mal Bell had a couple of damsels give his tricycle a spin up the path while an intrepid gent was allowed to ride a PF, coping quite well.

Members taking part in this very good charity event (although not riding) were Mal and Myrene Bell, Harold and Judy Perry, Robert Hunt, Phil Harris David and Ann Northan, Peter Wells. There were some twenty or so machines on display, along with memorabilia covering a century of a bygone age of cycling. I only noticed two or three pre 1970s bikes being used in the event. There must have been untold thousands of dollars' worth of bikes in the ride. It is time for our younger members to enter this charity ride next year, wearing our Club shirts.

On our way home the heavens opened up, and Phil and I had difficulty seeing the road ahead. See you there next October??

Post Script –

The following Tuesday's West Australian had screaming headlines on the WA litter problem, yet my experience with car, motorcycle, and bicycle clubs has been that club people do not litter our environment. They take pride in their mode of transport, and the environment.

MS RIDE – DISPLAY

The Club received a very nice thank you letter from the MS people, and asking us to continue supporting them. It would be great if some of our members – the younger ones preferably – actually took part in the ride next year. Apart from helping a great cause, it is a chance to show off our older bikes especially if members wear their Club shirts. There are a number of distances to do and by the big number of kids and parents with little ones perched on seats or even on special back packs the ride can't be too difficult. Give it some serious thought between now and next October.

MS raised \$273,499 on the day, a wonderful effort.

GARVEY PARK RIDE

Sunday 21st October 2012

For the first time in many months there was a good turnout of riders for an event, and five of them new members. Organiser Phil was over the moon, so hopefully we will now see more support from members.

The weather of course superb, and the course not difficult. Phil had brought a couple of extra bikes to put on display, these being early machines that were tried by our newer members. A very nice veteran Armstrong was among several bikes brought along by our new recruits, and this influx of both new young blood and different mounts augers well for the Club.

The only starter to strike machine trouble was Andrew Blackmore, his derailleur cable breaking, leaving him in an impossibly high gear, so he returned to the pits for some urgent repairs, but could not go any further. They don't make them like they used to. It was also good to see young Orlando Phillips take part and complete the course in good shape, being the youngest rider to come along for quite a while.

A number of members settled down in the shade to talk bikes and enjoy picnic lunches, while several had to depart early for other commitments. Maybe we will now see more members bringing along their better halves and children to events, because we do try to cater for the whole family. Young Dave Clark also deserves a special mention in despatches for a stirring performance.

Those taking part were – Phil Harris, Tony Hall, David Clark, Alan Hind, Harold and Judy Perry, Robert Hunt, Andrew Blackmore, Tim Eastwood, Robert Frith, Karen Phillips, Orlando Phillips, Andrew Sturmer and although a non-rider, Peter Wells.

HAVE A GO DAY

Wednesday 14th November

I believe that there were over thirty exhibits at the Club display this year, covering a century of cycling history and development. Each year this popular event seems to have more exhibitors and onlookers, with some 200 different displays or activities.

The weather was perfect, and members made good use of the free tea, coffee, or cool water. The usual onlookers were there asking how anyone managed to climb onto and ride the Penny farthings. Those present were Mal and Myrene Bell, Harold and Judy Perry, Toppy Geer, Alan Naber, Phil Harris, Merv and Dawn Thompson, Robert Hunt, Tony Hall.

Your scribe was unable to be present due to an eye operation, the first time I have missed one of my favourite days out, but things are now looking better.

OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday 25th November

Once again, thanks to the generosity of the Bells, we had a wonderful evening, catching up with some country members who journeyed to the big smoke for the occasion. It was also good to see some of our newer members making up our numbers; we need

these younger enthusiastic people to come along to our social events as well as meetings and rides.

Luck was on our side weather wise because there was so much rain on Saturday evening that the Bell's swimming pool overflowed, and water almost entered the house as the verandah area was also swamped. Reminiscing and talking bikes - the men anyway – and a lot of interest in the array of veteran tricycles and penny farthings on display carried on for some time. The ladies of course must be congratulated for the wonderful spread of salads, sweets and cake for everyone to partake of. Of course the new cooking area adjoining the gazebo was the icing on the cake, no more crowding and everyone remarked on how great it was.

So another year has gone swiftly by, and we can look forward to the new year with more confidence than this time last year.

ANOTHER VETERAN BICYCLE IN THE CLUB

At the November meeting a beautiful Western Australia veteran bike was the envy of all present. It has been fastidiously restored with correct period fittings and period type white tyres which really set it off. The bike is an Armstrong probably of around 1908 vintage.

INCREASING INTEREST IN OLDER BIKES

I have had a number of phone calls and emails over recent months, from far off Brisbane to Bunbury and points in between, with cycling enthusiasts seeking information about the availability of parts or of Western Australian bikes. It seems that since the source of early bikes left on verges has dried up, enthusiasts are now looking for bits from our members and other likely places. Some enquirers have tried known sources over east, so it looks to me that the price of restoring will rise through the increase in price of spare parts, and of course for plating, painting, and other specialist works. Rod Charles, historian and restorer of Geelong, tells me that the same thing is happening over East, but I suppose with the huge increase in cycling in Australia this is only natural.

DATING CYCLE COMPONENTS

Many parts such as hubs, cranks, and even handlebars, have patent numbers stamped on them, but this is not necessarily the year of manufacture. The numbers are often still to be found many years later, Eadie Coaster brakes being one instance. Sturmev Archer usually had the month and year stamped on the hub shell until the early 1950s. Williams cranks had letters stamped on the chain wheel, but of course like all bike components, they wear or get damaged, and the replacement may not be of the same year. So, beware.

GOOD QUALITY BICYCLE TOOLS

For some time now I have been using some special tools for servicing bikes, and have realised that it does not pay to buy cheap tools, even for push bikes. The following tools are available from Jet Cycles in Gosnells, but no doubt other good cycle repair shops also stock them. These are the same tools used in most cycle workshops, and are far superior to cheap tools and are also much better for your blood pressure.

Hydra Glide Chain Breaker from \$25.00

Chain Whip - \$29.00

Pedal Wrench - \$35.00

Bottom Bracket Wrench - \$15.00

Stainless Steel Spokes from 50cents depending on length.

For those members living in the northern areas, Club member Destry Schrock at Guildford Cycles can no doubt offer similar prices, but I suggest that you throw away those old cheap and nasty tools and get some good ones. Might pay to drop a hint in your wishlist for Father Christmas.

SUBSIDING EVENTS

As organiser of the Clubs 2012 Moondyne Festival held at Toodyay on 6th May as a new event I travelled to Toodyay to discuss details with the event organisers who offered \$100 to help cover expenses.

Being a new Club event I offered members a small subsidy to make this a successful event.

The subsidy was to be paid for members only who transported bicycles for the exhibition. Club members voted at our Club meeting to support the motion. I cannot recall any member who voted against the motion! At the time of writing, 28th September, to my knowledge no one has yet to be paid this subsidy!?

While I agree that the Club needs financial support this subsidy was agreed to by Club members – are there any Club members out there willing to organise future events?

Merv Thompson

FINE LINING YOUR BIKE

I recently helped a chap with some of the Club decals, and a couple of odd bits from my collection of period components. He was restoring his father's 1951 Swansea, which was still in complete but tatty condition. After completing his rebuild he showed me some photos of the bike – it looked as good as new. His dad was thrilled at the result, the best birthday present he could possibly get.

The restorer had sourced a supply of fine line tape that is designed to be left in situ, unlike the tape that

I have been using to paint the lines onto the frame. It is available in various widths and colours from Signs of Lines, 5 Meliador Way, Malaga. Phone 9274 5151.

CLUB DECALS

Although we do not have many restorers, the Club has a supply of both frame and name decals available for a number of West Australian built machines.

These have been copied from bikes with original decals still intact. Contact Peter Wells for these items on 9459 1750.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2013

- Sunday 13th January – Rockingham Ride (See Coming Events)
- Monday 21st January – General Meeting
- Monday 18th February – General Meeting
- Sunday 24th February – Tomato Lake Ride (See Coming Events)
- Monday 18th March – General Meeting
- Easter Saturday 30th March – Monday 1st April – Avon Valley Festival, Northam
- Monday 15th April – General meeting
- Sunday 28th April – Swan Valley Display and Ride
- Sunday 5th May – Moondyne Festival Toodyay

Seasons Greetings

Another year has flown by, and although some of our events have been poorly attended, the recent influx of younger members with cycling children brings a welcome breath of fresh air to our aging long-time members. The attendance at Garvey Park was a shot in the arm for our events organiser, so keep up the momentum.

We wish a Merry Christmas and a prosperous and healthy New Year to all our members and associates.

