



# Not The Spoken Word

Bi-monthly newsletter of The Western Australian Historical Cycle Club Inc.

## The Torpy Bros. of Kalgoorlie

I am a new member of the club joining at the Nannup Flower Festival in 2017. On the day I displayed a few of my Peugeot's.

Bikes have always been part of my life. I remember the first bike I got for Christmas as a 5 year old; it was a Runwell. It had a sloping top bar similar to today's designs.

I was born in Boulder in 1947, my older brother Murray and I rode our bikes everywhere, we had a lot of good times taking our loaded up bikes out, spending nights camping with other friends in the bush around the town.

Kalgoorlie had a strong cycle club and we often went to watch the road races held on the town circuit during the road season. We also went to the big carnivals held on the banked outdoor track on the Kalgoorlie oval during the track season.

In '59 Murray entered the under 14's State Schoolboys Cycling Championship. He won the heats in Kalgoorlie on his everyday Malvern Star and our family went down to Midland Junction to support him when he rode in the final of the Championship. One of Dad's work friends, Don Tedge, a rider in the Eastern Goldfields Cycle Club, offered to train Murray and loaned him a beautiful Italian bike called a Gloria. (Don was the younger brother of well known Fred Tedge who worked for Eddy Barron at Flash Cycles in Midland.)

After Murray won the championship I was encouraged to take up the sport. Murray was tall and slim and I short and stocky. Murray became a good all round rider road and track. I preferred the track much more. Murray was sponsored by the local Malvern Star dealer for many years until he was called up for National Service in 1967, this ending his cycling days. Don Tedge trained Murray throughout his career and Fred looked after him when we came to Perth for road races and the track carnivals and state championships. We both competed on many tracks. Midland, Fremantle, Lake Monger and the Collie velodromes. Collie was my favourite track. Other towns we competed in races in were Norseman (which had large cycle club), Geraldton and Esperance.

I always rode PT Stallard bikes that were built in the UK. I was fortunate to win the under 16 3 mile track championship at

Midland in 1963 and along with Perth rider Mike Migatov we represented WA at the national track championships at Wilkie Park in Sydney. It was a great experience.

After Murray went into the army I retired from cycling, a decision I regret. However I continued to ride every day. When the Midvale SpeedDome was built I purchased a track bike and took up non competitive riding there once a week. I enjoyed this very much until I moved to Busselton in 2012. I still enjoy riding my lovely Fondriest bike every day.



It was nice to meet up with a lot of riders at the SpeedDome that Murray and I had competed against back in the '60's. One of these was Colin Rossiter from Collie. Murray rode with Colin and they became good friends. Sadly Murray passed away in 2016 aged 70.

In 2010 I did a 3 day solo ride from Perth to Kalgoorlie to raise money for the Breast Cancer Foundation. With the help of friends and a few sponsors we raised almost \$5000. I had always wanted to do this ride. I recall that when we were competing in road races in the 1960's some of the senior riders from the Eastern Goldfields Cycle Club would ride from Kalgoorlie to Perth as a training ride when they entered in the Midland 100 mile road race.

I joined the Club because I am interested in the preservation of all bikes but especially the bikes of the 1950/60's era. I love the beautiful classic steel frames and the detail that went into them, not to mention all the accessories that were available when building up a bike to compete on.

I have a collection of 10 bikes at present, 8 of them are Peugeot's ranging from 1974 to 1986. I also have a Swansea that was built in Taiwan but assembled in East Perth. It does not have the embossed steel swans on the head stem as when built here in WA, but has the 5 swans in a transfer. I saved this bike from going to the scrap yard and it's one of my favourite bikes to ride.

I look forward to meeting up with some more members in the near future. However if you're ever in Busselton please call in to see our bikes and have a cuppa with Trish and me.

*Kerry Torpy*

# Club Calendar

## Vincent Bike Market - March 17th 8am

590 Beaufort St Mount Lawley

## Meeting - March 19th 7:30pm

Ardross Clubroom.

## Ride - March 25th 10am

### Point Walter

Meet at the carpark on Melville Beach Pde opp. Cunningham St.

## Meeting - April 16th 7:30pm

### Club Auction Night

Ardross Clubroom. See website or facebook page for details of lots.

## Meeting - May 14th 7:30p

Ardross Clubroom.

## Ride - June 10th Penny Farthing Riverloop

To Be Confirmed

## AGM - June 18th 7:30p

### Guest Speaker - Penny Farthing Dan

Ardross Clubroom.



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## In The Shed With... Frank West

### What are you currently working on?

My fun build is 1950 Flash. No restoration, have all the bits, just bolt everything on. I hope to ride it in this year's Beverley. My serious restoration and main project is a 5 Swan Swansea. Have settled on WA available period components and colour scheme. Just need to find a name for between the top tube swans.

### How many rideable bikes do you have?

Nine

### What was your first bike?

1969 dark metallic blue Malvern Star Dragster with 3 speed Sports Shifter. Options included front rack with integrated twin globe headlight that I could store a whole packet of white packet sweets in, and handlebar streamers. I was Steve McQueen with that shifter. At 11yo, this bike taught me how to **disassemble** a Sturmey Archer hub. Sadly, it went to the bike shop and was euthanised. I was crestfallen.

### Pick a bike, any bike... in your dreams what are you riding?

The most ridiculously light and expensive mountain bike on a fast flowing single track. And a coffee shop or pub waiting at the end. What a day!

### If push comes to shove what is your favourite bike?

Sorry..... I really, really can't. I have three bikes that I would have to replace tomorrow for very different reasons.

### Whistle while you work? Give us a tip on the sounds that fill your workspace.

I have an under wooden floor cellar/work space... it's magic when my two boys are together talking, laughing, practising guitar and my wife's walking above my head, whistling badly. And I do like having my music playing.

