



Not The Spoken Word

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

Harold Perry A Brief Cycling History

Club member Harold Perry died last year after a short illness. Harold was born between the wars in Subiaco near Darglish Station. As a child he rode around Subiaco and to the river and beach, often on bikes that were far too big for him and consequently lasted for many years as he grew into them.

His older brother Charlie and brother in law Stan Cook were talented cyclists. Harold followed in their footsteps and joined the Subiaco Floreat Cycle Club. He particularly enjoyed criterium racing. He raced as a junior and continued until he was posted to Wyalcatchem by the bank he worked for.

On his return to Perth after stints around the wheatbelt he and Judy bought a house in Mt Pleasant and set it up for their young family. Harold was the original cycling commuter from the southern suburbs. He crossed the river at Canning Bridge and rode along tracks, down Melville Beach Parade past The Pagoda and Royal Perth Golf Club to the Old Mill and then across the Narrows and into the city where he worked.

He rode and swam every day and on weekends would often spend many hours riding off in the wide blue yonder - along the beaches, up in the hills to his twin brother's house in Kalamunda and out through the backroads of Jandakot and Baldivis to Jarrahdale and beyond. He often rode 28" wheels on gravel roads and tracks where mountain bikes are used today.

When his kids were young he started picking up frames and parts from the tip and made up bikes for the whole family. Kerbside pickups, especially in the infancy of the bulk rubbish days, were a gold mine and many of his 120 bikes were acquired this way.

Harold prided himself on his simple maintenance programme. He had a theory that if he shared the load between lots of bikes then they would never

wear out. He didn't want to see any cycling history lost to landfill. However, rather than restore one or two to pristine condition he preferred to coat the 120 bikes liberally with oil and locate them wherever possible around the yard.

Harold and Judy both enjoyed being members of the Historical Cycle Club, which they joined shortly after its inception in 2000. Harold recently served as club treasurer for 7 years. He particularly enjoyed the displays held in country towns.

Harold also rode for many years with the Over 55's Cycling Club and passed his passion for riding to his two sons Greg and Adrian.

Harold was a lifelong prankster. From flattening pennies on the train tracks near his childhood home to the mischievous note hidden behind his otherwise very proper tie at club meetings he looked for the bright side of every situation.

*With thanks to Adrian Perry
pic below; Harold introducing one his grandchildren
to the joys of the road*



Harold Perry Collection - Club Day

At the time of his passing Harold Perry had around 120 bikes and frames, as well as a collection of parts. Most of the collection dates from the 1970's And 80's although some of it goes back to the 40's. Harold's family are keeping a handful of bikes and are kindly offering club members the first look at the rest.

There will be a club day at 11 Brentwood Avenue, Brentwood on **Sunday February 24th, 10am to 2pm** where members will have the opportunity to see and buy from Harold's Collection.

Photos from top left; unknown lugged frame, Mercier mixte, Centurion, Peugeot with art deco lugs and MAFAC brakes



Swansea Cycles - Fremantle Legend

Following the success of the MH Jones Day held last July the club committee decided to aim for a marque celebration day each year.

This year's event will focus on Swansea Cycle and Motor Co. and will take place in Fremantle as part of the Australian Heritage Festival in late May.

A group of club members are working on the display which will incorporate Swansea bikes as well as a handful of other bikes to show off the club's diversity. Members wishing to have their bikes included in the display should contact Richard Patenall or Ian Barker, who are curating the selection.

We are also planning to replicate a corner of an old bike shop. If you have vintage shop tools or furniture, or would like to volunteer to be a vintage shopkeeper please get in touch with Frank West.

If you'd like to be a part of the working party, or even just listen in on the conversation ask Rob Frith to add you to the email list.

Champion of Champions
SWANSEA CYCLES

SWANSEA is the only W.A. Cycle to win an Australian Championship! The State Championship Series, under World racing regulations, have only been conducted four times in the history of W.A. Cycling, and on each occasion SWANSEAS have produced the all-round track champion. The winners are as follows: W. OKELEY, 1948; N. BURDUS, 1949; P. BUSWELL, 1950; W. OKELEY, 1951 — all on SWANSEA Cycles.

Over the years SWANSEAS have achieved phenomenal and almost unbeatable records in competitive cycle racing, proving that SWANSEA Cycles are the perfect machines for all classes of cycling. You, too, can own a SWANSEA Cycle.

W. OKELEY
(1948 and 1950
Champion of
Champions)

D. OLIVER
(4000 Metres Pursuit
Champion)

T. GRANT
(10-Mile Champion)

YOU, TOO, CAN OWN A SWANSEA
SWANSEA

PERTH — FREMANTLE — BUNBURY — KALGOORLIE
☆ AGENTS EVERYWHERE

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Stuck in the Shed with Adrian Emilsen

What are you currently working on?

I recently picked up an unusual Speedwell Rover 26 (from the verge!). My plan is to fix it up so that its rideable again. I also have a MotionCraft 1982 road bike that is an ongoing project. I picked it up from fellow club member Daniel Hockridge and rode it at the Beverley Heroic a few years go. However I'm looking to replace the groupset with something a little bit more functional. The braking and shifting on the original Shimano 600 AX groupset was very 'innovative' but not very reliable.

How many rideable bikes do you have?

Currently I have 7 'rideable' bikes in the shed. I have two road bikes (a modern Trek and vintage Motioncraft), a Fuji touring bike, a vintage Gary Fisher mountain bike, a Dolan track bike, a Brompton folding bike, and a Lightfoot bike polo bike.

If push comes to shove what's your favourite bike?

That's a tough one. Strangely I don't have a favourite bike at the moment. I regret selling my first ever road bike which was a Trek 1200 from 1994. I bought it second hand as a Uni student. By most peoples definition it was nothing special, but it was a very well made and one of the last USA made Trek alloy frames. For me it was the bike that really got me into cycling in the broadest sense. It got me into going on long rides, joining a club, racing, and learning how to fix bikes. For these reasons I'm a bit nostalgic towards it. I've had 4 carbon road bikes since and none of them have lasted more than four years.

What was your first bike?

My first bike was a red Gemini BMX which my parents bought me from Enfield Cycles in the early 80s. Think BMX Bandits.

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

I lust over handmade custom bikes. Ideally I'd be looking for a custom road bike from an Australian frame maker like Darren Baum, Darrell 'Llewellyn' McCulloch, or Ewen Gellie. It would be made to measure with a 'non-race' geometry and all the things that I like on a road bike: rim brakes, mechanical shifting, external cabling, generous tyre clearance.



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

I don't make much noise when I work. There is repetitive "cha-chunk" of the spoke machine and the constant plucking of spokes as I'm building wheels. I listen to a lot of vinyl records at work. They are like a Tamagotchi

pet in that they constantly pull away from your work when you change records or flip them over. I have pretty eclectic record collection but at the moment I'm going through an instrumental hip-hop phase. I like working to beats.

Social Cycling Club - Perth 1932

Successful Initial Run.

Cyclists of both, sexes and of all ages, to the number of 400, enjoyed an outing yesterday, despite the showery weather, when the recently formed Metropolitan Social Cycling Club held its first picnic run.

The club, which has been formed with the object of fostering a revival in cycling, apart from cycle racing, chose a Short route for its first run, because of the numbers of inexperienced riders taking part, and the strenuous nature of the exercise to those unused to it. One young woman who rode yesterday learned to ride a cycle only on Saturday afternoon, and another had not ridden for six years. Several others bestrode a bicycle for the first time for long periods, but all finished the course of about eight miles to the picnicking ground, half a mile beyond the Canning Bridge.

The club moved off from its meeting place in Murray-street at 11 a.m. and made for the Causeway. Here a sharp shower of rain eliminated a few of the less hardy but over 300 continued the journey, several enthusiastic young women who had come doubly prepared with skirts and shorts, discarding their skirts at this stage and

continuing in racing rig, looking smart in gaily coloured sweaters and black shorts. Only light showers troubled the riders after this downpour and, with the warmth of the exercise and an invigorating breeze that quickly dried damp clothes between the showers, the riding in the rain was not unpleasant. The procession of cyclists covered a mile of road.

The ride was devoid of mishaps, save for a few mechanical defects which appeared in one or two machines and which were soon rectified by the break-down van which accompanied the riders. A route was taken through South Perth, Como, and on to Canning Bridge, where lunch was taken at the picnic ground. Afterwards entertainment was derived from treasure hunts, in which the picnickers followed clues in the scrub to buried trophies, and in cycle races for both sexes, and games.

At a committee meeting held on the ground to arrange the next run it was decided that the next run would be held on Sunday, September 11, and that the destination should be Mount Pleasant.

The West Australian Monday August 29th 1932

Club Calendar

Mon 18 Feb 2019 19:30

WAHCC Monthly Meeting with Auction

6 Hickey St, Ardross

Sun 24 Feb 2019 11:00

Harold Perry Collection - Club Day

11 Brentwood Ave, Brentwood

Mon 18 Mar 2019 19:30

WAHCC Monthly Meeting

6 Hickey St, Ardross

Sun 24 Mar 2019 10:00

Photo Day

298 Hamersley Road Subiaco

Sun 7 Apr 2019

Display - Kalamunda & Districts

Historical Soc. 50th Anniversary Open Day

Kalamunda

Mon 15 Apr 2019 19:30

WAHCC Monthly Meeting

6 Hickey St, Ardross

May 2019

Ride/Display - Vancouver St Festival

Vancouver Street, Vancouver St, Albany

Mon 20 May 2019 19:30

WAHCC Monthly Meeting

6 Hickey St, Ardross

Sat Sun 18 & 19th May 2019

Display

Swansea Cycles - Fremantle Legend

Fremantle Town Hall

Enough events? The right mix? Let your committee know - info.wahcc@gmail.com

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Applecross, WA, 6153 email info.wahcc@gmail.com Chairperson: Robert Frith
Vice Chair: William Riseborough Treasurer: Frank West
Secretary: Robert Hunt Committee Member: Malcolm Buckland

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.

Club News

New member

Please welcome **Robert Loughman** to the fray. Those present at the November meeting met Robert as a visitor.

In Robert's own words:

I first learnt to ride an old shop delivery or butcher's bike which somehow managed to survive under our house when I was growing up. Its big square framework out the front seemed to take forever to turn corners. Sydney roads were no places for kids, so my cycling had to wait until my teens, when cycle touring with school mates meant freedom. After graduating from a hand-me-along, my first bike was a beautiful fully lugged chrome-moly frame built on a rough (but true) jig in a tiny workshop in Botany in Sydney. Painting and building that bike was great project, under the guidance of my older brother, lacing a set of wheels and oiling up the Brooks butt leather saddle.

After moving the Perth for work, cycling for many years was the mundane practicality of commuting, with the occasional highlight of dragging a trailer load of kids around Rottneest with my wife as stoker, dodging dugites from time to time. We've been riding a double unisex tandem all our married life. That bike was like a great aunt, it spent most of the time in the back room and only came out for special occasions. It was built in the 70's and is the nearest thing I have to an old bike. And it still works like a charm, although these days we've upgraded to a touring tandem and its very hard to step backwards!

Road cycling is my mainstay these days but I do enjoy a little cross country mountain biking from time to time. I have got back into cycle touring in the last few years - I'm not sure what happened to the lifetime in between.

My brother lent me David Herlihy's book, "The Lost Cyclist", a great read about early long distance cyclist Frank Lenz. Recently I enjoyed the republished story of Arthur Richardson, an equally amazing story. So here I am, exploring another aspect of cycling through the WAHCC.

