



Not The Spoken Word

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

Swansea Cycles Fremantle Legend

An enthusiastic team of club members has for several months been working on our contribution to the Australian Heritage Festival, a month of events across the country organised by the National Trust.

The marque focussed format was inspired by the success of last year's MH Jones Day put together by Frank West.

It's a great opportunity for the club to break out of our usual display format and delve a bit deeper into the history of a bicycle brand, the people and events that made it tick.

A "Can You Help" article in the West Australian resulted in a number of calls from people associated with Swansea, including Harold Durant (right), now 96, who managed the Fremantle shop for many years, and Noel and Chris Baldwin, sons of one of the founders of Swansea, Howard Baldwin. Independent of the West article members have been in touch with sponsored riders and even a Swansea frame painter, Arthur Raston.

These people, most in their 80's and 90's, are primary sources whose recollections are the most valued by historians. Apart from memories many of them have kept photographs and other documentation relating to their time with Swansea, which they have generously allowed the club to make copies of.

In addition to the exhibition the club will host a morning tea reunion of Swansea alumni on Friday May 17th.

We all think of Swansea as a bike maker but the extent to which the company moved into refrigeration is astonishing. A Royal Show display from the mid fifties illustrates this point well (photo below courtesy Chris Baldwin). Find more photos on the club flickr page <https://www.flickr.com/photos/wahcc/albums/72157698742201401>

We are now in the final couple of weeks of preparation for the show. Due to a timetable clash with the Collectors' Fair the original venue, Fremantle Town Hall, has been dropped in favour of a shopfront at Woolstores shopping centre. The shop is light and bright with big windows on two sides. It's located right on the corner of Queen and Cantonment Streets, not far from Fremantle Train Station.



There is still much to do and there will be a need for club volunteers over the period of the exhibition - 17th to 19th of May. We will also need as many bike stands as we can lay our hands on. If you can volunteer time or bike stands (or both!) don't be a stranger, please either call 0411 555 607 or email info.wahcc@gmail.com

Robert Frith.



Kalamunda Display

On Sunday April 7th the club was invited to display historical bikes at the Kalamunda & Districts Historical Society 50th Anniversary celebrations at the Kalamunda History Village.

Members at the show enjoyed a fine, sunny autumn day and as well as the 20-odd bicycles on show, spanning over a century, other transport displays included Clydesdale horses, vintage cars and the society's permanent displays of buses and various forms of machinery.

Hearteningly, the club's display attracted a lot of interest from the public. A number of old riders & racers made the journey from the flats to see our display including a former state representative and another, a former employee of Swansea, who we are now assisting with the rebuild of his original Swansea bicycle.

For future reference, the village includes many old buildings located around the original train station. Old school buildings keep company with the post office dating back to 1921 and even the older the McCullagh Cottage from 1898. The club earned \$200 for putting on the display, so many thanks to the members for giving their time.

Frank West



20 Years Young

The first meeting of the WAHCC was in March 1999. Those attending the March 2019 meeting were treated to an audience with 5 of the founding members as well as as much of a delightfully sturdy chocolate cake as they could manage.

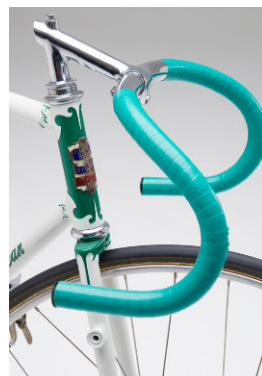
Below; L-R founding members Myrene and Mal Bell, Alan Naber, Merv and Dawn Thompson



Bike Photo Day

The club held it's first bike photo day in late March. This event was a fundraiser and with 6 members attending bringing with them 11 bikes to be photographed. The club collected over \$500.

You can expect to see all of these bikes show up on the members' bikes page of the club website in due course, in the meantime here's a smattering of what passed before the lens.



Stuck in the Shed with Murray Gomm

What are you currently working on?

I found a 1956 two star Malvern Star Roadster in the shearing shed a few years ago. It has good original paintwork, was missing a seat and the shifter and cable for the three speed Sturmey Archer hub. On closer inspection I realised it had a back pedal brake in the rear hub. A rattle around in the late Peter Well's shed some time ago revealed a shifter and cable sympathetic to the era. But alas the three speed hub had problems. Fellow club member Glenn Huffer took the hub apart and discovered there was a part missing. The part in question luckily was found in the WAHCC spares collection and the gears change in the hub now.

Technically, I'm still working on this bike as I'm still fine tuning the Sturmey Archer.

How many rideable bikes do you have?

There is a lot of potential rolling stock in the shed, but at the moment I've got 5 bikes I can ride.

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

1930's nickel plated Elliot racer. It's on the to be restored one day pile.

What was your first bike?

As a teenager growing up in the 1970's it was an orange dragster.

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

A bike that was made in Albany. Not sure if there is such a thing, but old newspapers reveal that Bullock Cycles were made in Albany just after the turn of the 30th Century. Rob Frith has met the son of the man behind Bullock Cycles, so there is an interesting conversation to be had. Also, Merv Thompson has a Southern Cross Albany head badge in his collection. So, I'm taking up all opportunities hunt through sheds in Albany in the search of a Bullock or a Southern Cross.

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

Not a lot apart from occasional bouts of cursing and swearing!



For Sale

Suntour MCS 5 speed gear lever & cable new old stock \$5

Sachs Super 7 , 7 speed hub gear complete with all fittings and changer 36 hole in VGC condition (1 lady owner) \$100

Sachs Commander Huret clear plastic spoke protector \$5

Shimano VIA YED 2 speed hub for derailleur complete with changer and fittings .

New never fitted but missing the push rod (an easy item to make out of a piece of rod) \$10

Sturmey Archer gear changers c. 1905 to 1920 \$10 each

Bowdenloc gear change lever \$5 c. 1915

Book The Sturmey Archer Story by Tony Hadland hard cover VGC \$75

Mal Buckland 95279427

Steel chain wheels with and without cranks, some double:

Williams, Nervae, Stronglight, Chater Lea, Some NOS and some 1 inch pitch.

Various new 1950s derailleurs :

Benelux, Simplex, Huret

Early Centre pull brakes complete with cable and lever some NOS.

Alan Naber 0415 873 862 or oldcyclist@inet.net.au

Wanted

Two club members are on the hunt for turn of the century bikes to ride in the Beverley Heroic this October.

Contact either Lachlan Steele or Robert Frith if you selling either a complete or incomplete bike dating from 1890 to 1910.

Lachlan Steele 0429682961

Robert Frith 0411555607

White Bluemels Lightweight or Popular mudguards

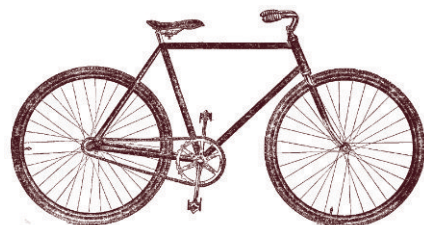
Huret Svelto rear derailleur

Ian Barker 0419092431 or ianb58@live.com

40H coaster brake hub. Must be good mechanically but appearance-wise, in some ways the rougher the better.

It's for some Westwood wheels I hope to build for my 1925 West.

Frank West 0404060289 or fpwest@optusnet.com.au



Club Calendar

Sunday May 5th

Display - Moondyne Festival Toodyay
10am Stirling Terrace Toodyay. Club contact Merv Thompson 94502579

May 4 and 5

Display - Trachmach
May 4&5 1804 Chester Pass Road, Albany
Club contact Murray Gomm 0431846412

Mon 20 May 2019 19:30

WAHCC Monthly Meeting with Auction
6 Hickey St, Ardross
Please check the club website for auction details

Sat Sun 18 & 19th May

Display
Swansea Cycles - Fremantle Legend
Woolstores, cnr Cantonment and Queen St, Fremantle.
Club contact Robert Frith 0411555607

Mon 20th June 19:30

Annual General Meeting
6 Hickey St, Ardross

Mon 15th July 19:30

Monthly Meeting
6 Hickey St, Ardross

Mon 19th August 19:30

Monthly Meeting
6 Hickey St, Ardross

Mon 16th Sept. 19:30

Monthly Meeting
6 Hickey St, Ardross

Mon 16th Oct. 21st 19:30

Monthly Meeting
6 Hickey St, Ardross

Nov 9th Display - Bonjour Perth
Subiaco

Nov 13th Display - Have A Go Day
Burswood

Western Australian Historical Cycle Club Inc. PO Box 224, 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.

Grant Cycle Agency


Harold Durant, the manager of Swansea's Fremantle shop for many years, recalls that proprietor Howard Baldwin got his start in the bicycle trade at Grant's on Market St. The Grant Cycle Agency weren't listed on the club's register of bike shops but their existence was soon confirmed with newspaper articles and ads from Trove.

A specific address is never given for the Fremantle shop, however advertisements usually listed it simply as Market St, and occasionally as South Terrace, which accords with Harold's memory of it being at the point that Market St joins South Terrace, in the vicinity of modern day Gino's.

The article at right from the Sunday Times and the advertisement below from The Western Mail date from November and December 1907 respectively, have Grants at two different addresses on Hay St. Did they move or did they have two city shops?

The Grant Cycle Agency

The Grant Cycle Agency, of No. 419 Hay-street, Perth, is the agents in W.A., for such popular machines as the Massey-Harris, the Red Bird, the Imperial, the Royal, and the Blue Flier. * The Co., which also builds B.S.A. parts, has just closed a very successful year. The system of sending tyres and sundries, at Perth prices, post free to any town in W.A., has brought a considerable accession in business, simply because prices are based on bed-rock quotes, and quality of the first standard is guaranteed. Many of the leading races of the year, throughout Australia, have been won on machines represented by the Grant Cycle Agency, including the great bike sprint from Warrnambool to Melbourne, the premier road race of the Commonwealth. The agency makes a speciality of cycle and motor sundries and repairs.



CUT LINES.

Dunlop Covers . . .	£1 2 6
" Tubes . . .	0 7 6
" Bushman Covers	1 10 0
" " Tubes	0 9 6
Renolds' Block Chain .	0 10 0
Brooks Saddles from.	0 10 6
Gas Lamps from . .	0 7 6

DON'T FORGET. POST FREE.

We Send All TYRES and SUNDRIES Post Free. You need send us No Money, We collect through the P.O. Our PRICES are the LOWEST in the STATE.

SOLE AGENTS FOR

Massey Harris ...	£22 10 0	Imperial ...	£17 10 0
Blue Flyer ...	22 10 0	Grant Royal ...	12 10 0
Red Bird... ..	22 10 0	" " Mod. B	10 0 0

B.S.A. MACHINES BUILT TO ORDER.

The Grant Cycle & Motor Agency,
637 Hay Street (Massey Harris Depot).