



# Not The Spoken Word

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

## Laurie Cox

As a teenager Laurie Cox used to hang around Jack Foy's Speedlite shop with his friends, Mal Barker and Brian Rule among them;

*"Old Jack said to us one day "Why don't you take it up? Become a competitive cyclist?" So we did"*

Laurie's first race at age 14 was a City of Perth Amateur Cycling Club five mile event that started and finished at the timber mill on Beechboro Road. Brian and Laurie paid their 50 cent entry fees and the handicapper, Reg Dovey, put them on the limit mark. Brian won and Laurie came second. It was the first and last time Laurie rode off limit.

Laurie went on to be the junior state champion two years running.

He rode the Northam to Perth four times, chalking up a win and a fastest time as a junior in 1957. Laurie's 1956 Northam outing was memorable for a different reason; *"There was about 25, 30 mile of gravel. I came down a couple of times, took a bit of skin off. Then I hit a brick in the middle of the road, rolled a tyre. I spent the rest of the race in the back of a ute."*

In 1956 Laurie went to Melbourne as a junior member of the WA State Team to compete in the Australian Titles road races with Mal Barker and Johnny Dingle. The title coincided with trials for the Olympics. The bike Laurie took with him was a Speedlite road bike that commemorated the event with Olympic decals.

Turning 19 Laurie finished his apprenticeship as a wood machinist and embarked on a 20 year career in the industry. Around this time he gave up competitive cycling, however he kept his Speedlite and continued riding it, updating the saddle and crankset in the 1970's. He has kindly donated this one owner machine to the club and it is one of the stars of the Sep / Oct auction (see back page). *Rob Frith*



## Wilf Abbey - 1915-1973

## Alec Abbey - 1917-1965

## BEVERLEY CYCLE CLUB, W.A.

Wilf and Alec, the sons of Charlie and Gerty Abbey of Beverley, formerly Busselton, both had a love of cycling.

Wilf excelled at sport; be it running, cycling, horse riding, swimming, rifle shooting, gymnastics, etc. Alec too was a natural sportsman. As members of the Beverley Fire Brigade, Wilf and Alec regularly participated in Fire Brigade events. Together they raced in cycle races with the Beverley Cycle Club.

On Sunday 14th April, 1932 Wilf was the winner of *"the fast run, eight-mile cycle race, over the Dale Road"*<sup>1</sup>. The surprise being Wilf's defeat of the champion.

Wilf and his brother Alec first rode in cycle races in Beverley as juniors. They enjoyed the thrill of racing and competing against others.

In 1933, with J. Cassin as Captain, Wilf and Alec were part of the three man B grade team, competing in the inter-town race between the Pingelly and Beverley teams. The race was over 24 laps. Starting at 2.30 pm on Sunday 20th May, the Beverley team wore a red ribbon from shoulder to hip.<sup>2</sup>

On another occasion Wilf and friends were known to have cycled from Beverley to Perth, spend the weekend on Rottnest Island swimming, then ride home again.

Perhaps it was a long weekend. As Wilf was 18 it would probably have been 1934 in a year the 'Beverley' had been cancelled. It is believed they did this cycle trip more than once.

Wilf won many trophies for running; at school, as a junior against senior men, and in Bunbury as an adult.<sup>3</sup>

Due to the difficult years of the depression Wilf sold most of his sporting trophies. However, he kept his carbide bicycle lamp; a symbol of great times ... and a useful item!

Wilf became a Journeyman Printer. After WW2 he farmed at Frankland. Alec served overseas returning to become a successful Accountant, in Perth and Melbourne. The men, proudly, never forgot their cycling days.

*Dianne Bee [Abbey]*

*Photo left; Wilf Abbey on his racing bike*



1. Beverley Times, April, 1932. Pg.4

2. Ibid. May 1933, Pg.1

3. Oral history, family

# Dardanup Heritage Park

If you happen to be in the Dardanup area with some spare time I can recommend visiting this park. It has 3,500 square metres of covered exhibition space, a replica timber town, an operating timber mill and a farm yard with tractors etc. Exhibits cover model cars to heavy transport, old trucks, muscle cars; vehicles and equipment of all ages and sizes. There are household domestic goods, a nursery section (complete with kid's tricycles), early medical and physiotherapy (with stationary exercise bicycles). One of the most interesting working exhibits is a Linotype printing press still doing print runs; it is one of only two still operating in Australia, I understand. Whatever your interest in W.A.'s past you'll probably find it here with, sadly, the exception of two wheelers. There are no motorcycles and only three or four bicycles.

Of the bikes, one is a Flash and another is an Italian lady's machine. The former is in the 'Garden Shed' within the replica timber town (Exhibit 18). Unfortunately, it is behind a barrier, and as Clare and I only noticed late in the day I couldn't ask to get closer. However, I've advised Frank of its existence and will try to get more information when we're there again. If one of you does call in ask for Jill, she's the owner, and see what you can find out on behalf of the Flash Register. One criticism I do have about the park is the lack of information about the items on display, and their provenance.

The other bicycle of interest, to me at least, is a lady's bike sitting in Shed 5. A plate on the handle bar stem shows it to be a Cicli G. de Luisa. Udine. The rod brakes and general fittings are similar to my 1959 Ideor, although the top tube is similar to one shown in a 1939 Ideor catalogue, the Ladies Semi-Comfort luxury model. The wheels, however have a beautiful set of wooden rims fitted with the same semi-balloon (650B 26"x1.5") tyres. The de Luisa's were a family of successful bakers, for five generations, in Udine, a town in the north-east of Italy. Gino (the 'G' above) was a member of the third generation; a baker who organised bicycle races and had his own team. He decided, in 1935, to open a bicycle and motor-cycle repair shop in the main street. He apparently worked well with the militia at the local Julio Barracks, and in 1941 opened a factory two streets away in the via Pracchiuso. Gino's grandson Fausto took over the shop in 1988 and it was still operating in 2008. (Read more at 'De Luisa, una vita per le biciclette'.) One could suspect that Ideor were building their machines, or at least that they were using the same component suppliers. That some Italian 'domestic' machines of this vintage arrived in W.A. is hardly surprising given the number of Italian migrants post World War II, but beyond the fact that mine came from Dave Clark's collection I know nothing more of its history.

The third machine is a rather crude attempt at building a front wheel (or really a two-wheel) drive bicycle. You will find this in the farm machinery shed across a paddock. I couldn't find any identifying marks on the frame apart from an L (?) on the head tube, but our more knowledgeable members may well be able to identify it. (editor's note - it's a Lucas!)

Will Riseborough



# K&D Chrome

Many of you may have used Kerry at K&D Chrome Platers for past restorations. Kerry was basically retired and enjoying the fruit of his toils. Unfortunately, he was caught up in the last spate of bushfires and lost the family home and contents. Kerry is now back at work, trying to re-build for retirement Mk2. If you're looking to get some chroming done, please consider using Kerry.

K&D Chrome  
Unit 7/34 Davison St  
Maddington  
Ph. 94934390

# Plastonics

Another business that I use is Plastonics. They were the painter of the tricycle restoration that Anne Rossiter presented at the club meeting some time ago. Andrew Peet runs the company and primarily paints motorcycles. He has worlds of experience to take on any project. He is expert with all paint types, wet transfer decals, gloss coats etc. Andrew recently lost the lease on his premises of many years due to re-development. He has found alternative premises, and is continuing business at...

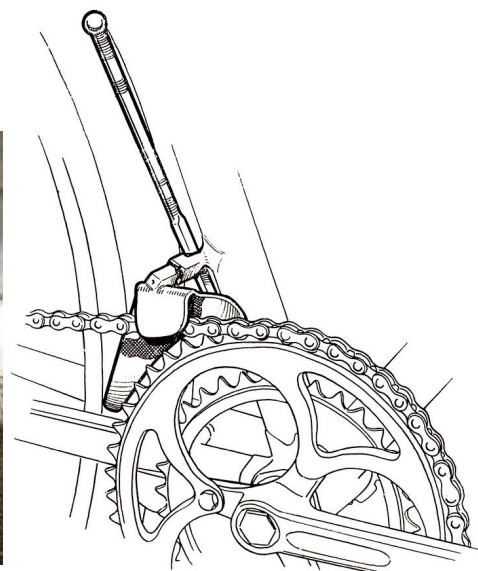
Plastonics  
Unit 3B 104 Brigg Street  
Welshpool, WA 6106  
08 92771737

# Oaksport

Peter Campbell shuttered Oaksport for a bit over a year but is now back in business. A number of club members have used him in the past for steel frame repairs and found him prompt and easy to deal with. Most importantly Peter's work is impeccable. Bear in mind he's in Geelong!

Contact him by email or phone;  
petercampbell531@gmail.com  
0431 152 703

Gary Bush



# Tour de Ruste

We saw a great turnout for this year's Tour de Ruste. As ever the club's great thanks go to the brave hosts who open their shed doors and welcome us all in.

Proceedings started at Midvale where the **Bicycles For Humanity** volunteers showed off their shiny (and secure!) new HQ.

B4H send only 26" wheeled bikes to Africa and they had an impressive line up of 700c and 27" machines to tempt that WAHCC faithful. And tempted they were; a few bicycles were sold. Enterprising members were invited to fossick in the parts bins and a few historic parts of no consequence to the transportation needs of African villagers were liberated, among them a steel Cinelli stem.

Jamie Brindle, the ever cheerful, ever helpful operations manager of B4H, gave us a brief overview of their achievements, the most impressive of which is that they shipped their 20<sup>th</sup> container of bikes recently. Each container contains over 400 bikes along with equipment and spares to keep them running for years.

Money raised from donations and the sale of bikes and parts during our visit will support B4H's continuing work. B4H's work makes an immense difference to the people they are able to help, both in Africa and here at home in Australia. I encourage anyone with a bit of spare time to volunteer their skills.

**Chris Mouritz** is probably the only one among us who can hold a candle to B4H. I have it on reliable authority that Chris is the custodian for at least 285 bikes, not quite enough for a container for Africa but getting close. Eagle eyed visitors spotted a couple of Wests, an Arrow stayer, a delivery bike, a few Flash's and Swanseas and some interesting older Malvern Stars.

Last port of call was **Bob Sommerville's** portside lounge in Freo.

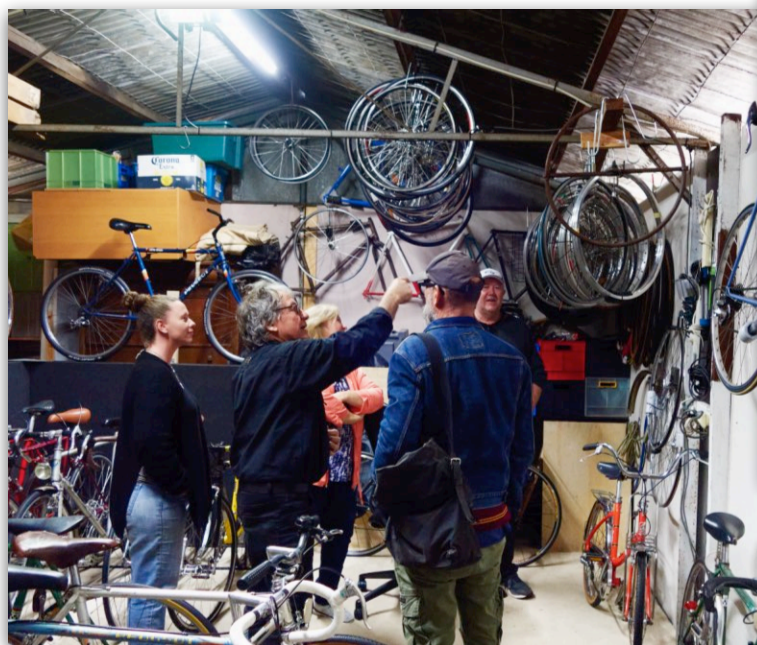


Entry to the lounge is a minor rite of passage - to access the inner sanctum visitors must pass through the faultless anterooms of workshop one and workshop two. The inner sanctum is actually Bob's

garage. It's not like my garage though, and probably not like yours. For a start the floor is carpeted. And the lights are low. The sounds of the Seine as it laps on the left bank harmonise with a distant accordion. Anyway, there's an awful lot of France in there - Peugeots rule the roost, however a stray Shogun makes its play, as does an Olmo.

The weather gods shone on us and we all went home with tales to tell.

*Robert Frith*



# Club Calendar

**Sat/Sun 18/19<sup>th</sup> Sep 10:00-17:00**

## History of the Beverley to Perth Road Race

Dome Café Community Hall and lawns.  
219-221 Railway Pde, Maylands

## Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Sep 19:30 Meeting

6 Hickey St 19:30

Online Zoom Meeting ID: 895 2717 7937

(Check your email for the clickable link and meeting password closer to the date).

## Wed 10<sup>th</sup> Nov 9:00 Have A Go Day

The Seniors Recreation Council of WA hosts this wonderful event every year at Burswood - look out for details in in future newsletters and on the club website.

## Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Nov 19:30 Meeting

6 Hickey St 19:30

Online Zoom Meeting ID: 895 2717 7937

(Check your email for the clickable link and meeting password closer to the date).

## Sun 21<sup>th</sup> Nov 10:00 Ride

### Whiteman Park - Ride it Rusty

Meet near Revolutions Transport Museum

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## October Auction

The September / October club auction is live online now. The auction will conclude at the October meeting at 9:15pm. Members will have an opportunity to place bids in person at the October meeting.

<https://www.biddingowl.com/WAHCC>



Western Australian Historical Cycle Club Inc. PO Box 224, Applecross, WA, 6153 email [info.wahcc@gmail.com](mailto:info.wahcc@gmail.com) Chairperson: Robert Frith Vice Chair: William Riseborough Treasurer: Frank West Secretary: Robert Hunt, Committee Member: Viv Cull  
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.

## Clubroom Search

The venue subcommittee of Barry, Bill, Bob and Rob have recommended that the club accept Floreat Athena Football Club's offer to meet at their clubroom in Britannia Road, Leederville.

The venue was chosen for its ease of access, easy parking, room size, excellent acoustics and permanent ceiling mounted projector. There is potential for library storage too.

FAFC's clubrooms form part of the Lake Monger Velodrome complex that was built for the 1962 Empire Games. The concrete track surface has been pulled up but the banking remains.

The icing on the cake is that Floreat Athena and the City of Vincent are very keen to have us and have offered weeknight use to us at no charge.

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## Club Library

Bill Raczkowski continues to make great progress knocking the club library into shape. All the books and periodicals have been removed from the clubrooms and are safe at his home. Bill has catalogued everything and in the short period that the library has been in his care has accepted a number of donations of additional material.

The library catalogue is now on the club website (under the 'Resources' menu tab). Have a browse, if there's anything you'd like to borrow just get in touch with Bill. At the bottom of the catalogue is a wishlist of books that the club would like to add, if you can help with a donation please do.

Hopefully our next venue will have sufficient storage to accommodate the library.

[historicalcycleclub.com.au/club-library](http://historicalcycleclub.com.au/club-library)

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## Online Shop

The club now has an online shop. At present there are three products - Flash T-Shirts, Steele Bishop books and club memberships.

[historicalcycleclub.com.au/shop](http://historicalcycleclub.com.au/shop)

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## Wanted To Buy

**For the restoration of Milton Jone's own bike:**

Cinelli 17D steel road drop bars with clear unblemished (as much as possible) logos.

Cinelli stem badge

Campagnolo 1049, Record Strada version 1,2 or 3. 1958-1961, BCD 151 double chain ring and cranks.

Campagnolo bottom bracket to suit, English threads.

Campagnolo 1039 Gran Sport /Record (same time period) Head set.

Campagnolo 1012/4 Gran Sport rear derailleur.

Campagnolo 1014 Gran Sport shifters (clamp on).

Campagnolo 3800 Gran Sport or 1045 Record Seat post 26.4mm diameter

Brooks B17 1960 saddle, must be in reasonable condition, but not necessarily rideable.

UKAI 27x1 rims and Shimano 5353 high flange hubs 1960

**Contact George Morris**

**Email - [g.j.morris2@bigpond.com](mailto:g.j.morris2@bigpond.com)**

**Phone - 0429 087 231**