



Not the...

Spoke 'n Word

Volume 3 No. 2

Newsletter

July 2001

The Club is pleased to welcome three new members. Peter Shugg of Bicton (Peter has an 1882 Ordinary in need of renovation) and Jon & Kerry Palmer of Kattaning. The Call of the Wild? ment that only six members signed in for the last meeting. However we learnt and saw some interesting things related to frames, jigs and transfers. We also have Part Two of the Swansea Story with this months News Letter and news that Alan has been able to get Swansea Frame and Head tube transfers produce by a W.A. firm. See Fact Sheet 2 attached for method of fixing transfers.

A really DIY bonus issue for Swansea owners.

Finances - Peter Smith is away so we will assume we have around \$1500 in the bank with another \$100 dollars to be added for a donation made by Thiess to the Club in relation to the Freeway opening and help with P.L.I.

Past Events - Freeway Extension - Thomas Street to Safety Bay 23rd June. Tom on his P/F rode to full length of the new section of freeway about 11kms. Others found a few problems with even getting onto the freeway from Folley Road now a Cul du Sac. The weather was good for cycling with a good cycle path and refreshments along the route. There was a long delay before the procession lead by about 50 Vintage & Veteran Cars with the club joining them for a few Kms Eventually the Procession headed for Settlers Hill for another short parade and exhibition. A pleasant afternoon was had by all. Has Dawn's curse moved on? We hear that Gareth suffered a blow out on a 100psi tyre.

PRESENT

Peter Wells	1950's Swansea
Dawn Thompson	1939 Norman 3wheeler
Tom Atkinson	Ordinary
Merv T.	1881 Tricycle
Phil Harris	1930's Delivery Bike
Denis Gibbs	Fold-up
Mal Buckland	Ordinary
Julie Buckland	Moulton
Gareth Buckland	Buckland Recumbent

Photo's of the event and the group have been received from the City of Rockingham and will be at the July meeting.

Future events.

10th Oct Cannington Swap Meet- Recruiting Drive.
Wednesday 31st October 10am - 4pm Seniors Expo at Woodlupine Community Centre Forrestfield. To display our Bikes for local Seniors / Community and lots of School children. A good cause that three members have already committed their support.

Show and Tell

Peter Wells had a wooden adjustable jig for supporting the handle bars off the ground whilst doing inverted maintenance. Plan on application. Peter also showed us a method of checking the frame for straightness. A drawing of this will be Fact Sheet 3. Peter also had some Riley books on their efforts in the cycling and M/C area. *Ken Ward* had a gloss calendar of Bicycles . *Merv* had a chrome display stand with cycling decals from the late 30's which he had applied.

Wanted Alive

Test pilot.

The mystery bike is now rideable but only to those with advanced skills. DC has tried this machine but is only cleared for prop. aircraft and had to be rescued ?? - is anybody else willing to try it? Names to editor

Still Wanted Desperately for Dave C's Mint bike - Canvas water Bag, Help with these will bring the club lots of exposure at the Mint. D C promises to bring the completed cycle to the Club before it disappears on a long loan to the Perth Mint .

Future Meeting Attractions

16th July Historic Racing Videos and Rides.
20th August Demonstration of old or interesting Machines.
17th September A mystery Ride.
Profile of new members Jon & Kerry Palmer
Merv meet them at their Antique Shop "The Gooses Bridle" 2kms south of Kattanning on the Bremer Bay road . Jon is an avid collector of bicycles so Kerry says - he has several sheds full of them! Drop in for a cappuccino and chat.
"Wonder what Merv found" pondered DC?

Special Notice

Phil & Lynne Harris would like to thank all members that send good wishes after the birth of their son Troy.

Next Meeting : Monday 16th July/20th Aug. at 7.00pm
VCC Club Rooms 6b Hickey Street, Ardross.
Meetings are held on the third Monday of the month

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SWANSEA CYCLES A WEST AUSTRALIAN LEGEND (Part Two)

In their first year of trading they made and sold about 70 cycles. Then came the great Wall Street crash in 1929, followed by the disastrous Depression years. Paradoxically, that period actually helped Swansea Cycles, because many people found that they could not afford to run their cars, and reverted to using bicycles once again. They found them a great means of cheap transport that was healthy as well, and to many a great sport and leisure activity. By 1939 Swansea Cycles had expanded to larger factory premises in Newman Street Fremantle, with 5000 square feet of floor space, a staff of 33, and a turnover of more than 1500 cycles a year, as well as trotting spiders and children's tricycles. There was also a branch shop at 70 Barrack Street, Perth, and another in Kalgoorlie, with agents throughout the state.

From the outset the firm saw the value to be obtained through racing their products, and actively sponsored many of the better sprint and distance riders in the state. Riders of the calibre of Dave Stevenson, Harold Durant, Jack Casserly, Syd Patterson, Merv Finn and countless others kept the Swansea name well to the fore in the results of the big races. In those days programmes gave details of the machine being ridden, as well as the rider's name. One outstanding distance rider, Horrie Marshall, was the only WA rider to defeat Hubert Opperman in a race, and also won the prestigious Warrnambool to Melbourne road race, on a Swansea, of course. When you realise that there were so many local cycle clubs throughout the state conducting road races on many weekends, the potential for sports machines was an important part of the firm's line-up of models, as well as the more mundane roadsters, which had to cope with mainly corrugated gravel roads outside the immediate metropolitan area. Swansea also sponsored the annual Swansea 50 Road Race, from Perth to Armadale, then on to the finish at Fremantle.

The firm regularly took a stand at the Perth Royal Show, displaying the full range of racers, semi-racers, roadsters, ladies cycles, and boys and girls cycles. Of course there was a full range of accessories to choose from, and all available on easy terms carried by the firm itself. Second hand cycles passed through the factory before being offered to the public.

After World War II parts were in short supply for several years, so the standard of finish was not quite up to pre war machines, but the same pride of workmanship was still evident, and there was still a strong demand for new machines.

By the 1960's the motorcar had begun to make inroads into the cycle industry throughout the Western World, so Swanses began selling electrical appliances, refrigerators, radios, as well as their cycles. As the two proprietors were getting on in years it was decided to close the business in the late 1960's. So a family firm that had given so much to Western Australian cycling, as well as supporting a staff that in its heyday amounted to some sixty-five people, finally closed its doors after more than forty years. Swansea cycles were regarded as one of the best available in Western Australia, and even today many are still to be found in owners garages, taking pride of place, still giving their by now aged riders pleasure. What more can anyone ask than that their handiwork has far exceeded all expectations of longevity and reliability?

So I say, as a long-time Swansea owner and fan, hats off to the Baldwin boys and their staff for producing such outstanding machines that many are still doing what they were made for - giving pleasure to their owners.

When I started this little project I was merely trying to find some information on the Swansea firm, and details of the transfers used on the bikes so that I could restore my own 1947 Semi-Racer that I brought new from the Perth store some time back. The response to my advert in the West Australian drew some fifteen replies, the most important of all from Mrs Nell Baldwin, the sprightly octogenarian widow of Howard, the firm's founder. Not only did she bring to light photos taken in 1939 and in the early post war period, but also details of the company, and a very important transfer. I have had much enjoyment from the various phone calls and letters, and have added another two Swansea's to my collection, both badly in need of repairs, but with interesting histories from new.

Peter Wells

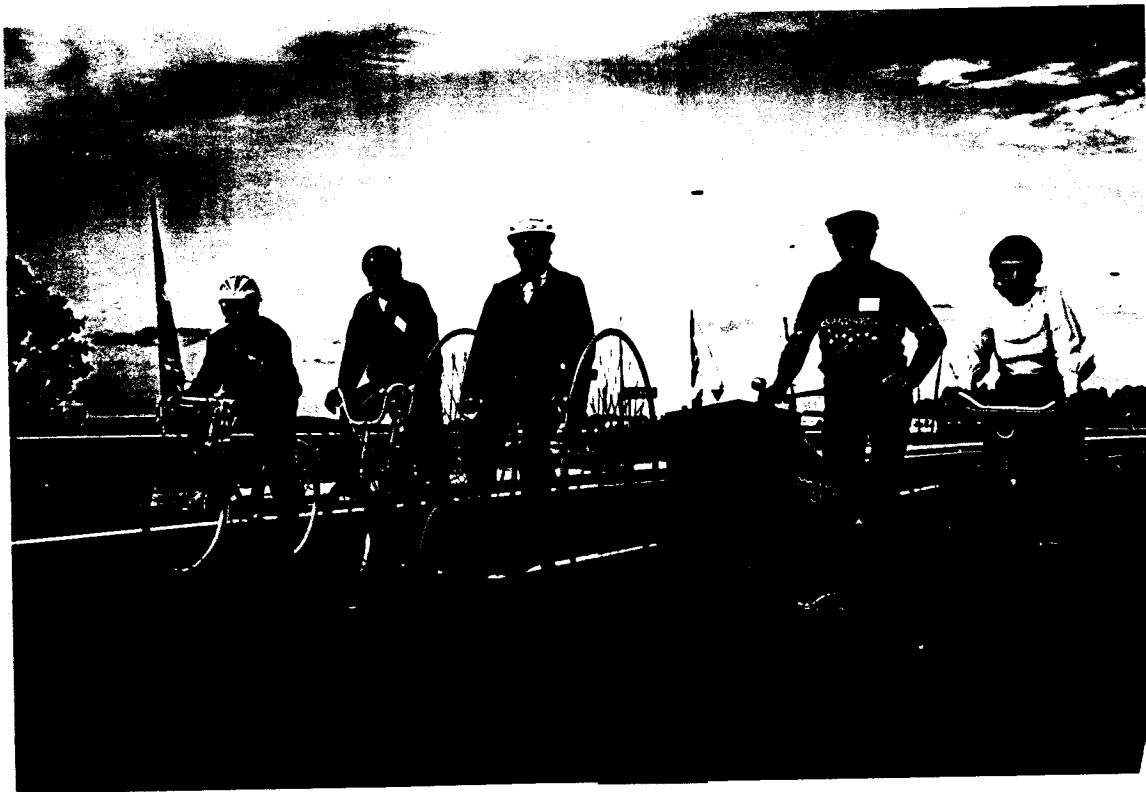
Fact Sheet N°2

Frame Transfer (Decals) Fitting Instructions with thanks to the VMCC of the UK

- 1) Prepare a mixture of 75% methylated spirits and 25% water.
- 2) Separate the duplex paper at the corner and strip off the thick backing paper.
- 3) Wipe over the back of the transfer with the mixture, place in position and press down.
- 4) After 15 minutes damp off the tissue and wipe over the transfer to remove excess gum.
- 5) The Design will be quite firm at this stage but will become harder when thoroughly dry.
- 6) Protect with Pale Japan Goldsize or Dulux clear varnish or failing that Wattle Clear Gloss.

Author P Groucott
(Painter & Sign Writer)

REF PETER WELLS.



FREEWAY
EXTENSION
23RD JUNE

SOME OF CLUB
MEMBERS LINE
UP FOR THE
PARADE ALONG
THE FREEWAY
AND PICNIC AT
SETTLERS HILL

(PHOTO SENT BY.
CITY OF ROCKINGHAM

Western Australian Historical Cycle Club

Minutes of the General Meeting held on

18th June 2001

Location Wireless Hill

The Meeting opened at 7.15 pm

Present See Attendance Book.

The Club welcomed Peter Shugg as a new member (he has a 1882 Ordinary) and Denis Gibbs now returned from the U.K.

Apologies. Eric Barrett, Alan Naber, Mal Bell, Phil Harris and P Smith.

Minutes of the last Meeting. were read and approved.

Moved. Ken Ward Seconded. Denis Gibbs

Matters Arising - Pinjarra Festival a good day. Thank You letter sent to organisers for donation of \$100
Kalamunda - in October need to pass address to Mal Bell on his return to liaise with Organisers.
Guidford - Letter of thanks passed to Merv no address available
Cannington Swap Meet 10th Oct - no details yet.
Shopping Centres - no information yet Merv will follow up shortly.

Correspondence. OUT - Thank you letters to Pinjarra and Guidford and email to Thiess circulated.
IN - Letter from Rockingham Council re Freeway opening circulated.

Treasurers Report. P Smith due back next month when will present report.

Denis confirmed that the Citroen club paid a similar amount for PLI

Ken Ward raised the question of Affiliation possibilities BTA? but not WA Cycling Fed. No action agreed.

Future Events. 23rd June - Freeway extension south to Safety Bay Road. Numbers agreed for organisers.

8th July York - no details Alan will need to contact people to see who can attend.

10th October - Cannington Swap Meet. see Merv for details possible recruitment opportunity.

31st October - Seniors EXPO Kalamunda as above.

General Business Club displays need to have a waterproof standardised readable information sheet.

Riley club format to be examined.

Club trailer Peter Shugg queried 1) position of club trailer- considered for distant events for car sharing. Not yet found suitable one! 2) Names for help with his Ordinary renovation. Merv to swap Phone numbers to arrange visit.

Show and Tell

Ken - had a calendar "The Bicycle" which will make good back pages for the Club magazine.

Peter Wells - had a Riley book with details of 1960's bicycles and M/C made. Photo of Swansea cycles and a 1953 Royal Star. Peter also brought along a novel adjustable jig for protecting bells etc when the bicycle is inverted and showed a method of checking if the frame is straight.

Merv - Had picture frame /chrome stand with assorted decals from 1936. Best method for applying and different types of decals we discussed. Merv described how he renovated a delivery bicycle for an old gentleman in Kalgoorlie.

A.O.B

The Raffle of a bicycle tool kit was postponed till more members were present.

Peter Wells passed a list of WA bicycles to Ken Ward for checking.

Merv has two bicycles for anybody that wants a Rusty racer or a foldup bike for a donation to the Club.

Denis Gibbs has some slides of the UK cycle Museum in Wales and offered to speak to these at the next meeting. This was accepted with thanks. Denis is singing at Winthrop Hall UWA on Sunday 1st July 2pm. Tickets from BOCS outlets at \$25.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.15 pm with refreshments - thanks to Dawn.

Next meeting 16th July 2001