



Not the...

# Spoke 'n Word

Volume 10 N° 3

NEWSLETTER

Nov/Dec 2008

## MINUTES OF MEETING 15<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER

2008.

*The meeting opened at 7.40pm*

*Present* –14 members.

*Apologies* – Mal & Myrene Bell

*Minutes of Previous Meeting* – Read and accepted.

Moved Ken Ward, seconded Merv Thompson.

*Treasurer's Report*

Balance B/F \$4,000.97

Income \$425.00

Expenses \$377.95

Balance C/F \$4,048.02

NOTE We were only charged \$100 for the bus hire for the trip to New Norcia and were not charged for the fuel used to pay for the repairs necessary at New Norcia. Thanks Dave.

*Correspondence In*

- Christmas Pageant. A letter we received outlining the conditions to apply at the function on the 7<sup>th</sup> December.
- An invitation was received from the Seniors Recreation Council inviting us to "Nine Steps to Health" at Redcliffe Park Community Centre on 16<sup>th</sup> September.
- Australian Cyclist magazine.

*General Business*

- A visit to Quantum Cycles to inspect a quantity of Deraileur parts is to be arranged for a Saturday morning in the near future.
- Merv Thompson donated a number of cups and saucers to the club. These should be included in the club assets.

*Events*

- Sept 21<sup>st</sup> ride from Raffles Canning Bride 10am start.
- Oct 26<sup>th</sup> Golden Spokes ride at Champion Lakes. Set up by 8am as roads will be closed in the area.
- 30<sup>th</sup> November. Christmas function at the Bells. Details later.
- 7<sup>th</sup> December. Christmas Pageant in Daylight due to daylight saving.
- NO DECEMBER MEETING.
- 8<sup>th</sup> January. Rockingham ride.
- February country ride to be arranged.
- March Club 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary meet at Whiteman Park.

*Show and Tell*

- Harold Perry showed a Dawes cycle in excellent condition picked up from the roadside.
- Phil Harris demonstrated a Sting Ray cycle looking like a motor less motorcycle which was surprisingly fun to ride.
- Merv Thompson brought a number of bicycle locks for sale at \$8 each.
- Auction the 1950's Swansea did not reach the reserve price and was withdrawn for further negotiations.
- Moulton Bicycles, five bikes of various vintages were presented by club members.
- Alan Naber gave a rundown on the history of the Moulton from its design by Alex Moulton in the early 1960's to its manufacture by various firms. Apparently Bridgestone is now making an aluminium version.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

## MINUTES OF MEETING 20<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2008.

*The meeting opened at 7.40pm*

*Present* –9 members.

*Apologies* – Ken Ward, Alan Naber, Paul Redman, Merv & Dawn Thompson.

*Treasurer's Report*

Balance B/F \$4,048.02

Income \$75.00

Expenditure \$79.20

Balance C/F \$4,043.83

Treasurers Report moved Mal Bell, seconded Judy Perry.

*General Business*

- Christmas Pageant. Peter Wells advised that despite repeated requests no details are yet available.

*Events*

- 21<sup>st</sup> September – Club ride from Raffles Hotel. Only 4 people turned up in heavy rain and finished the ride at the first coffee shop!
- 26<sup>th</sup> Oct. Champion Lakes Display to be set up by 8am.
- 29<sup>th</sup> Oct. Have a Go Day Burswood Park. Setup by 9am.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> November Burswood Ride. Meet at 9.30am at car park

**NEXT MEETINGS: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm**

**NO DECEMBER MEETING Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm**

VCC Club Rooms 6B Hickey St Ardross

**Committee - President: Alan Naber 9332 3956**

**Vice President: Peter Wells 9459 1750**

**Treasurer: Harold Perry 9364 7253**

11 Brentwood Avenue Brentwood 6153

**Secretary: Tony Hall 9446 5738**

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**Articles for Newsletter: The Editor Peter Wells**

25 Constantine Court Thornlie WA 6108 (08) 9459 1750

**Club Photographer: Alan Naber 9332 3956**

**Historian: Ken Ward 9364 3601**

**Librarian: Harold Perry 9364 7253**

**Events Co-Ordination: Phil Harris 9459 7146**

Merv Thompson 9450 2579

- 30<sup>th</sup> Nov. Christmas function at the Bells in Maida Vale as per mud map provided. Bring your own meat and drinks. 6.30pm onwards.
- 7<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Pageant. Details still awaited.
- 18<sup>th</sup> January Rockingham ride. Details later.
- 28<sup>th</sup> February. Tour de Ruste. Details later.
- 15<sup>th</sup> March Whiteman Park ride. Details later.
- 29<sup>th</sup> March Whiteman Park for 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary meet.

#### **Show & Tell**

- Peter Wells showed a display board with a variety of tyre valves from early days to the present day.
- Harold Perry showed a Colnago racer in excellent condition found by the roadside.
- Phil Harris showed a 1952 Rudge and a Fleet racing seat. There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

#### **THE FIVE DROWNED RATS**

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September was a beautiful spring day, a mite windy perhaps, Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September was a beautiful spring day also. But SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> September turned into a shocker, with gale force winds, and increasing heavy rain.

Nevertheless, five hardy (perhaps foolhardy) individuals turned up near the Canning Bridge for a ride around the bridges. Due to the threatening weather we decided to ride along the western foreshore first, thereby getting some shelter from the wind in the lee of the rising ground and buildings. We had only covered a couple of kilometres when Jupiter Pluvius decided it was time to show these cyclists who was boss, and opened the heavens, so that muggins had to stop under a big tree to don a raincoat. Part of our group had already gone on ahead, so Harold and I decided to put a spurt on to catch up. We didn't get far before the wind really begun to blow, I had selected the lowest of twelve speeds, and still couldn't make headway. Luckily a coffee kiosk was very close, so we made haste to push across the lawn to some shelter from the elements, only to find that our fellow riders had already decided to do likewise, and were enjoying morning tea, out of the elements.

Since it appeared that the bad weather had set in for the day, we decided to return to base and call it a day. Our cars were parked in at least three inches of water that virtually covered the entire parking lot, so that it was impossible to avoid getting even wetter feet. My main concern on the journey home was that no tree decided to fall into my bit of road, but we all arrived home safely.

Those taking part were:-

- Alan Naber – Yong Jn
- Phil Harris – Phillips
- Harold Perry – Carlton
- Judy Perry – Swan Cycle
- Peter Wells – Indi 500 Hybrid

#### **GOLDEN SPOKES**

The inaugural Golden Spokes Charity Ride turned out to be a very pleasant day, especially after a couple of very boisterous and wet days just prior to the event. Not only was the weather just right, but so too was the company, not only of our members, but everyone else in the area. If anyone did not enjoy the day, it was their own fault.

We had some 23 bicycles on display, from 1880 to the late 1900's, and the Bell family was kept busy tutoring their youngsters in the art of riding penny farthings. By the end of the event the young'uns were doing quite well, so Grandad and Grandma are now looking forward to being able to hand over their wonderful collection of early cycling history to capable and enthusiastic hands. Even young Melissa had a ride, so look out Nicky Armstrong, a future champion is in the making.

Although there could have been more entrants in the various events, no doubt word will spread that it was an enjoyable day for a good cause, and with the organisers now having more experience, next year should see more people taking part.

Our club got a very good reception, with plenty of interested onlookers, many of whom expressed surprise at the variety of machines on display. We had a good area for our display, and with all club members pitching in, like Arabs, we folded our tents and disappeared into the sunset (or would have without so called daylight saving). Some of us stayed for a snack (free) before heading home, with the knowledge that with the Have a Go Day only a few days later there was no need to unload trailers.

Those taking part were:-

- Phil Harris
- Harold and Judy Perry
- Alan Naber
- Peter Wells
- And the Bell Mob –
- Mal and Myrene
- Hayde
- Melissa
- Samantha
- Grant
- Peter

#### **HAVE A GO DAY 2008**

Torrential rain overnight, and heavy clouds to greet the morning, caused a bit of rethinking for those hardy perennials taking part in the annual Senior's Week display at Burswood. Usually we are more concerned with the heat!

However, the forecast was for showers clearing, but just in case the weather gurus had got it wrong, we decided to erect our shelter using the wet weather cover for the first time, which thankfully was not needed after all. With Merv and Dawn Thompson overseas looking for some Turkish Delight, the number of machines displayed was a bit smaller than usual, but still quite good with plenty of variety.

The erecting of our shelter and sign was over in record time, no doubt due to our practice run only three days before at the Golden Spokes display, but once again the old saying "Many hands make light work" proved true, with those present pitching in before getting their bikes sorted out. The presence of a bank of loud speakers nearby looked ominous, but for once the volume was turned down, and caused no problem what so ever.

Because of the threatening skies, attendance was small early in the day, but by mid morning things were back to normal, and we had a steady stream of interested visitors, with several interested in the club, and a couple of offers of old bikes or parts.

Yours truly had a spot of bother with an officious official who wanted me to remove my classic car out of the area, so I sought another apparently higher opinion, and the matter was then settled to my satisfaction. The 1935 Wolseley drew a lot of attention during the day.

This year was a big increase in the number of groups participating, around 180, but although the parking area for those taking part was a long way from the display area, most cars complied with the time limit for removing them.

Perhaps a shuttle service could be arranged in future, because quite a few drivers have difficulty walking that far on wobbly weary legs.

Those in attendance on the day were Mal and Myrene Bell (with Music), Harold and Judy Perry (who rode from Mt Pleasant), Tony Hall, Allan Naber, Peter Wells. Alan Hind did pop in to say G'day, but brought no bikes to display.

My thanks to all for getting our show setup and dismantled, and packing everything away for the trip home after a very pleasant day.

Peter Wells.

### A RAINBOW WARRIOR

I have been working on a 1956 Rainbow Road Racer that came into my possession thanks to the generosity of Fred Starcken. He had rescued it from the Mt Helena tip, complete but very dilapidated. Rainbows were made in Perth, and sold by Sandovers for many years.

The dismantling proved to be relatively painless, except for a spot of heat needed to remove the centre bracket bearings, even alloy seat post and head stem fittings no problem thanks to the previous owner using grease before fitting them.

The problem was how to remove the five speed gear cluster from the back wheel. The cluster had internal splines for removal, but they were much bigger than any of my removal tools, so a visit to my friendly local bike shop seemed to be the way to go. There was no joy there, and I was told\*that he had never seen such a big splined area before.

Now, I have at times removed ratchets and other clusters by dismantling them by the simple method of removing the outer bearing cover, which always has a left hand thread, then using Stilsons to remove the screwed on centre piece.

But this particular cluster appeared to be dismantled from the inner side, so I had to find another way to remove it. I ratted through my off cuts of scrap metal (never throw those out) and found a small piece of car tyre lever

(spring steel) and after carefully measuring the internal measurement of the splined area, which incidentally was only ¼ inch long, I cut the metal a fraction longer and proceeded to grind both ends to provide a chisel like edge of around eighty degrees, being careful not to overheat the edges. The new tool was then driven into the splined area of the cluster, then fitted into the vice, and hey presto, off came the cluster unharmed. It is a Maillard, a French make, as are a lot of parts on the bike.

If you have to remove any sprocket or cluster from a wheel for rebuilding purposes, always do so before removing the spokes, even if it is an Eadie Coaster, because it is much easier to turn the wheel rim than the small hub, and no damage is done to the hub.

After further investigation I was mystified on how to dismantle the cluster, so a visit to our cycling guru, who assured me it was no problem at all, led to my enlightenment. The guru came to light with a very simple tool to hold the large sprocket in the vice without damaging it, then with a chain whip proceeded to remove both small screwed on sprockets, thereby revealing the outer locking bearing cover, which of course has a left hand thread just like all other ratchet devices.

Now all this goes to prove that we are never too old to learn new tricks, the main requirement being to know just who to ask for the answers.

So thanks very much Milton Jones, also young Mavis for her very welcome cup of tea.

The cluster has now been dismantled, cleaned and serviced, ready for fitting back onto the bike when the time comes.

Peter Wells.

### A VELOCIPEDA REPLICA

When Fred Starcken joined our club this year he brought along two rusty solid tyred wheels for any member who wanted them. I managed to secure them as I thought that they may be the starting point for a replica velocipede. However, further research showed velocipedes had a large front wheel, and I happened to have one in my shed.

So began the search for parts to make a child's velocipede. Unfortunately, since I do not have a lathe most of the parts had to be fabricated and welded.

Some of the components used were –

Frame - Two car leaf springs of different sizes.

Top Front of Frame – Ornate cast base from a display stand.

Pillar for Front Forks – Tapered Eucla telegraph insulator bracket.

Seat Frame – Old modified bike west.

Rear Axle Housing – Graduated pipes welded to spring eyes.

Front Axle – From a damaged unicycle wheel.

Handlebar Grips – Modified wooden chisel handles.

Carrier – Modified cycle carrier.

Most of the work was done in my small shed, or outside on fine days. My grandson Jordan happened to be home when I completed the machine and I gave him the privilege of giving it a test ride.

The springs tend to be flexible and act as a shock absorber. I feel sure that many club members have similar stories to tell, so what about making a contribution to the club magazine?

**Merv Thompson**

I thought that a Velocipede had only two wheels, but stand to be corrected on this point. But Merv has shown what can be done with some bits of unrelated junk, which is probably what those inventors long ago started with anyway.

Well done Merv.

**ED.**



### SEASON'S GREETING TO ALL

This is the last newsletter for 2008, so we wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, and of course a prosperous New Year, with plenty of tailwinds.

### COMING EVENTS

November 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Burswood Ride.

Meet at the car park nearest the Causeway in Resort Drive at 9.30am. Bring a picnic lunch.

Christmas Pageant. Unfortunately, at this late stage I have had no information about this event, so I have no idea at all what is happening.

We still do not know whether our entry has been accepted, which is not the way to run an important event.

November 30<sup>th</sup> Christmas Party at Bells.

You have all received a flyer giving full details of this event.

If you have any queries ring Mal or Myrene on 9359 3335.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2008

November 17<sup>th</sup> Monday – General Meeting

November 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – Burswood Ride. Meet at 9.30am. Southern car park in Resort Drive Burswood.

November 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday – Christmas Party at Bells, 5 Mulberry Court Maida Vale, 6pm

### **NO DECEMBER MEETING**

December 7<sup>th</sup> Saturday – Christmas Pageant

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2009

January 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday – Rockingham Ride. Meet opposite Rotary Park, The Esplanade at 9.30am. Picnic lunch.

January 19<sup>th</sup> Monday – General Meeting

February 16<sup>th</sup> Monday – General Meeting

February 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – Tour de Ruste

March 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday – Classic Car Show Display

March 16<sup>th</sup> Monday – General Meeting

March 22<sup>nd</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> – Bike Week