



Not the ...

# Spoke'n Word

Volume 13 No 2

NEWSLETTER

Sept – Oct 2011

## MINUTES OF MEETING 15<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2011

**Meeting opened 7.40pm.**

**Present** - 12 members and 1 visitor present.

**Minutes of Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> August 2011** - Read and accepted. Moved Phil Harris, seconded Topy Geer.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Balance B/F	\$3,832.21
Income	\$ 237.00
Expenses	\$ 144.80
Balance	<u>\$3,944.41</u>

Treasurer's Report accepted. Moved Ken Ward, seconded Judy Perry.

### **Correspondence In**

- Houghton's Vineyard celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2011 and invites the Club to put on a display. This will be discussed at the next Committee meeting but we have a number of activities at this time of the year and our attendance seems unlikely.
- The Bicycle Transportation Alliance sent a flyer outlining its aims and objects.

### **Future Events**

- 24<sup>th</sup> July - Toure de Ruste. We had an interesting visit to Ray Tillbrook in Beckenham and admired his vast collection of models. We then went to Topy Geer in Henley Brook where we saw a collection to end all collections. There should be no complaints from wives about our modest collections in future! It was a good fine day and everyone enjoyed themselves.
- 21<sup>st</sup> August – Point Walter Ride. Meet at the Clubhouse for a 10.00am departure.
- 26<sup>th</sup> September - Mystery Bus Tour. Meet at Bunnings Cannington for a 9.00am departure.
- 9<sup>th</sup> October – Revolutions and Whiteman Park ride. Details to follow.
- 27<sup>th</sup> November – Christmas Function with Mal and Myrene Bell.

### **General Business**

- Our visitor, Robert Hunt of the Bicycle Transportation Alliance showed a 1934 Gordon cycle which was used by the original owner for a daily commute of 60kms per day in Sydney followed by a weekend trip of some 250kms! The bike is unusual in that it has very high gearing of 64.18 and a 3 speed hub gear. To cope with Sydney terrain it also had three sets of brakes, front, rear and hub!

Robert then discussed the aims of the Bicycle transportation Alliance and gave the example of crossing an intersection from a cycle path compared to being on the road.

### **Show and Tell**

- Phil Harris showed a West Coast Chopper made to look like a motorcycle. It is very robust and heavy and has 52 spokes in the front wheel.
- Merv Thompson showed a dynamo radio sold by Boans, a 1920 music box with a large disc and a cake dish with music box.

Meeting closed 8.20pm.

## MINUTES OF MEETING 21<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER 2011

**Meeting commenced at 7.35pm.**

**Present** - 17 members.

**Minutes from the 15<sup>th</sup> August meeting** - Read and accepted. Moved Merv Thompson, seconded Phil Harris.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Balance B/F	\$3,944.41
Income	\$ 245.00
Expenses	\$ 781.13
Balance	<u>\$3,408.28</u>

*(Expenses include refundable deposit on hire of bus)*

Treasurer's Report accepted. Moved Phil Harris, seconded Mal Bell.

**NEXT MEETINGS: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October 7:30pm**  
**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 7:30pm**

**Committee – President:** Peter Wells 9459 1750

**Vice President:** Merv Thompson  
9450 2579

**Treasurer:** Harold Perry 9364 7253  
11 Brentwood Ave, Brentwood 6153

**Secretary:** Tony Hall 9446 5738  
27 Brentwood Ave, Woodlands 6018

### **Articles for Newsletter:**

The Editor, Peter Wells 9459 1750  
25 Constantine Way, Thornlie 6108

**Historian:** Ken Ward 9364 3601

**Librarian:** Harold Perry 9364 7253

**Event's Organiser:** Phil Harris 9459 7146

**Committee Members:** David Clark, Walter Edom,  
Alan Hind

**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.

### **Correspondence In**

- Mr P J Hennings wrote to us on 24<sup>th</sup> January offering to donate an Ivy Bicycle which is 55 years old. Unfortunately the letter was put on the notice board at the Club premises and overlooked until pointed out. The President has now replied, explaining the delay and accepting his offer if it is still available.
- Seniors Recreation Council sent details of the arrangements for Have A Go Day on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November. Location will be changed from previous years and will be explained at a site meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> October at 2.00pm in the Swan Sound Shell. The President will attend.
- The Newsletter of The Penny Farthing Club of South Australia for August was received.
- 12<sup>th</sup> October is Ride to Work Day and breakfast will be provided in the forecourt of the Perth Concert Hall from 6.30am to 8.00am.

### **Correspondence Out**

- The President wrote to Mr Stewart Bonser whose application to join the Club had been delayed. He welcomed him to the Club and enclosed current and earlier Newsletters.
- The President wrote to the Guildford Fair Committee asking why we had not been paid for our attendance at the Fair in February. They have now promised to pay us the \$200.00.

### **Other Business**

- It appears that volunteers over the age of 80 may not be covered by Public Liability Insurance. The President will check into this.

### **Future Events**

- Point Walter Ride. It was a good day to ride around the foreshore. 12 members attended and had lunch at the Clubhouse before the weather broke.
- 26<sup>th</sup> September - Mystery Bus Tour.
- 9<sup>th</sup> October – Revolutions and Whiteman Park ride, 10.00am.
- 17<sup>th</sup> October – General Meeting.
- 9<sup>th</sup> November – Have a Go Day, Burswood Park
- 21<sup>st</sup> November – General Meeting.
- 27<sup>th</sup> November – Christmas Function with Mal and Myrene!

### **Show and Tell**

- Robert Hunt showed a Street Surfer bike with unusual torsion suspension and a bogie with 4 small wheels on the front which can cross kerbs etc. They sell for about \$750.00
- Phil Harris brought a similar machine which he picked up on the internet.
- Peter Wells brought some charts for determining spoke sizes for various wheels and hubs
- Mal Bell told of a Penny Farthing for sale on EBay for \$2,500.00.

**Meeting closed.**

## **POINT WALTER RIDE SUNDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST**

Despite the weather report predicting rain, twelve members met at the Clubroom in Ardross for a casual ride to Point Walter. Clear skies, warm weather and a casual breeze made the ride along the Swan River foreshore a pleasant journey, finishing up at the Point Walter Tearooms for a coffee and tea break. The cycle way is excellent and without any steep hills to climb is ideal for penny farthings and early fixed wheel bicycles – next year perhaps? On return to the Clubrooms we set up a few chairs along the balcony for luncheon and listened to Harold's portable gramophone.

Those who attended were: Dawn and Merv Thompson, Harold and Judy Perry, Phil Harris, Tony Hall, Robert Hunt, Dennis Gibbs, Dave and Anne Northan and Alan Hind and friend.

*Merv Thompson*

### **MERV'S MYSTERY TOUR**

The Mystery began well before our 9.00am start time, with everyone already there and getting settled in the bus. And no matter how Judy tried to get Merv to tell us where we were going, she remained a frustrated female, but it gave us all something to talk about.

So, with our full crew aboard, and our trust in the Lord – we could not trust Merv as he often gets lost – we settled down for a trip to – Somewhere. It was pleasant travelling, the seats comfy, although the high backs restricted sights of the opposite side of the road. It soon became clear that we were going to Albany, or maybe somewhere in between, and as the miles ticked over there was a certain amount of shiacking about “are we there yet” and “when do we have a pit stop?” But we sailed through Bannister without even having time to realise it was there, and eventually arrived at Williams, where we did stop for a cuppa and to stretch the legs. Have you ever tried to get a flock of sheep back into a paddock? Well, getting a herd of bus passengers aboard is just as difficult, so we eventually proceeded to our destination, a mixed farm a few miles out of town, and one of the earliest in the district.

It is almost impossible to imagine the number of sheds and buildings that stood before us as we alighted and I had difficulty insisting that we have our lunch before even thinking about viewing any exhibits, since it would take several hours to see it all. The dining room was a big room filled with tables and chairs, some memorabilia, and an amazing building using the trunks and branches of gum trees in its construction.

Now for a look at the memorabilia, which covered the period from Queen Victoria up to the 1960s, and consisted of buildings with rooms set up as shops of all kinds from those early days, as well as the furnishings used at the time. The detail of all these exhibits brought to life the way our ancestors lived. One of the star attractions is a stone house that had been an inn in the very early 1830s in the Fremantle district, and had been carefully dismantled and rebuilt on the farm, complete with the cellar. Truly stunning! Then there was all the other sheds full of early farm machinery, tractors, trucks, motorcycles, cars, you name it, it was there. Enamel signs, old petrol bowsers, even a veteran pushbike were on display. It is hard to believe that all that building and collecting has been done by one man, with very little outside help. So, thanks Merv for a great day out, and also Fred, our driver, we had a wonderful day. Thanks also to Jesse and Rae Martin for the privilege of seeing your treasures.

#### **NEW MEMBER**

Welcome to Robert Hunt who joined up at the September meeting. He brought along his unusual surfing bike to match Phil's similar machine.

#### **COSLETISING**

Back in the early post war years it was very hard to get chrome plate, in fact in 1951 Morris Minors were being delivered minus bumper over riders until chromed ones arrived some months later. A lot of cycle parts came with a black finish for the same reason. This finish was called Cosletising, and gave a degree of rust resistance.

The process consisted of 1oz of iron filings, 2oz of phosphoric acid, and 1 gallon (4.55 litres) of water. After the parts had been bead blasted or chemically cleaned, they were placed in the mixture and boiled. It proved to be a fairly effective rust preventative, but it paid to keep a light coating of oil on the parts.

#### **HISTORIAL NOTES**

On my recent trip to Melbourne I was able to renew my friendship of Rod Charles, cycling enthusiast restorer, and historian of Geelong. Rod is almost ready to publish his 600 page history of cycling in Geelong and mentioned that he had very little on cycling in WA. So he was very thrilled when I produced those invaluable scrapbooks of Shirley Hillman covering the period 1933 to 1937, including many priceless photographs of that period. I might add, that just prior to Rod's visit I had had the final

newspaper cuttings of Shirley's memoirs copied and bound into a third volume of racing in that period.

Did you know that in 1934 there was a forerunner of the modern recumbent here in Perth? It was called a Velocar, but whether it was made in Perth or the UK I know not. The wheels were probably 24 inch ones, the seat was quite low and the riders position was very similar to the modern machines.

Tandems were very popular in that period, not so much as normal transport perhaps, but for record breaking purposes, from inter city here in WA to rides between Perth and Sydney, and other capital cities. Considering the state of many of the roads outside most big cities at that period, the riders must have taken a terrible beating from sand, gravel, potholes, not to mention the heat, flies, and miles of loneliness in those days, when very few travelled big distances, and there was not a service station or shop every few miles down the track.

What did strike me about racing and record breaking in that period was the fierce rivalry among the various cycle builders. Obviously if a firm could claim a record by a rider using one of their machines, they could look forward to more sales over the counter for their more mundane models. There were big advertisements in the local newspapers after any win, and proprietors lost no opportunity in getting their photo alongside any winners. Big crowds were to be seen whenever these record attempts finished in Forrest Place in Perth, with thousands present when Oppy finished his record ride from Kalgoorlie to Perth in 1937. Today even the Tour de France barely merits a mention here in Perth – its not football you see, is it?

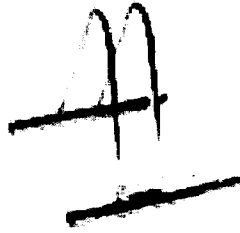
#### **BIKES IN MELBOURNE**

There is a lot of rather heated concern in Melbourne at present about cycles and cars using the same roads, with an ever increasing number of people using cycles to beat the congestion on most of the roads in the builtup areas. I noticed that many riders were very fast at getting away from traffic lights, but they do not have dedicated spots for cycles like in Perth.

Most of the major country roads have a wide paved shoulder for cyclists, with notices urging caution at any intersection, obviously incoming motor vehicles having priority. The cycle paths around the inner and similar areas are well done, and very popular with all ages using them. I only saw a couple of early bikes on those paths, a Bickerton and a lady riding a three wheeler with a tradesman's box at the front.

## BIKE STANDS AND DISPLAY SHEETS

We have three or four displays annually, and most of the bikes are setup nicely with either stands that are part of the bike, or ones designed especially for display purposes. The latter variety are often quite ingenious, but they allow onlookers to view the machines from all angles.



Unfortunately there are a few members who do not seem to worry about a stand, and rely on a handy tree, or one of the poles on our shelter, or perhaps the framework of the Club Sign. Surely it must be possible to buy or even make up some simple stands to make our displays more attractive. So, how about it you handy few, when will you get around to making a stand to get some stands?

I have offered to make up display sheets giving brief details of your bikes using the Club logo, but once again some of you do not bother. The average visitor to our displays takes much more interest in those machines having nicely framed notices standing by them.

Come on fellas and females, get with it.

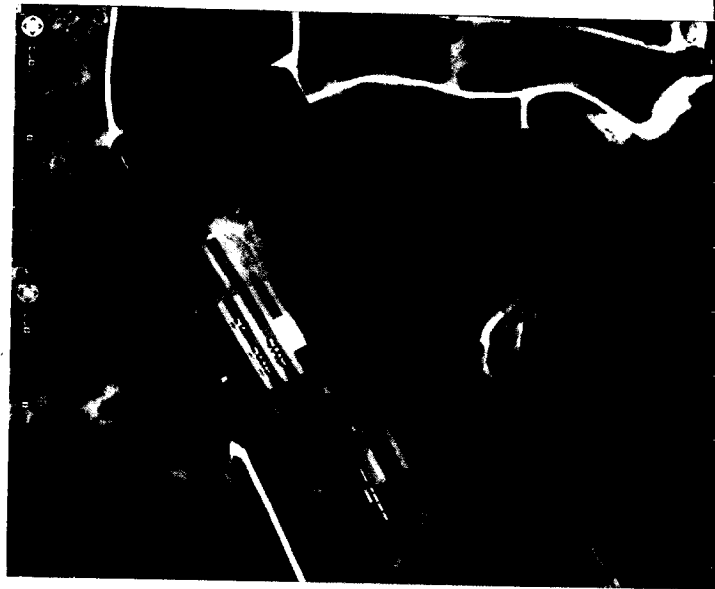
*'A bicycle can't stand alone. It is two tired'*

## BROOKS SADDLE REPAIRS

Brooks Saddle Repairs trading as Busyman, Mick Peel, 84 Neill Street, Carlton, Victoria 3053 can repair Brooks leather saddles, including replacing or treating the leather. Could be worth a phone call for a quote. 614 213 53864

## COMING EVENTS

- Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October – Whiteman Park Ride, Display. Enter via Lord Street then follow road towards train station. Turn right (north) onto Limestone Track, 1<sup>st</sup> left, 1<sup>st</sup> left, then drive past Revolutions Building, enter grassed area through gap in perimeter fence. Be set up by 10.00am. Vehicles can be parked outside the fenced area. BYO lunch, drinks, chairs. THERE WILL NOT BE A BBQ.



Whiteman Park

- Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November – Have A Go Day Burswood. This popular event is on once again, but this year our display will be at a NEW LOCATION. When you enter the area we will be at the northern end of the display, near where the speed cars and racing motorcycles have been for years. You need to have your bikes unloaded and your car/trailer out of the area by 8.00am. We can then set up our display. It should be possible to have a shuttle service so that we can take our cars to the parking area and so avoid a long walk. I will contact likely starters after going to the orientation day before the event.
- Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November – Christmas Party. Come along to the final event for the year at the Bell Estate, 5 Mulberry Court, Maida Vale. Start time 6.00pm till late. BYO meat, drinks, bathers. Kids welcome. This is always a great event, don't miss it. Phone 9359 3335.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2011

- Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October – Whiteman Park Ride, Display.
- Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October – General Meeting.
- Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November – Have a Go Day.
- Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November – General Meeting.
- Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November – Christmas Party.

**NO DECEMBER MEETING**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2012

- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January – General Meeting.
- Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January – Ride – Rockingham?
- Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February – Bicycle Restoration Day.