



Not the ...

# Spoke'n Word

Volume 15 No 1

NEWSLETTER

Jan-Feb 2014

## From the Editor

Thanks go out to those members who have written pieces for our first newsletter of 2014. Contributions are gratefully received, whether they be accounts of events, book reviews or articles about cycling culture. Feel free to email these or post the old fashioned way. You might also consider providing some photos of bikes in your collection for our growing and globally popular 'Members Bikes' webpage.

## Have a Go Day Wed 13th Nov 2013

For over ten years our club has been displaying our bicycles at *Burswood Park* and observed a steady increase of stalls featuring activities, clubs and information venues available for seniors. Our venue was changed this year due to the increase to over 160 stalls but we were compensated by allowing club members with trailers to park behind our stall. The weather was kind to us this year with clear skies, warm to hot during the afternoon. Many new bicycles were on display this year and the club was well represented by Mal and Myrene Bell, Judy and Harold Perry, Robert Hunt, Merv and Dawn Thompson, Tony Hall, Alan Naber and Peter Wells. Andrew Sturmer and Andrew Blackmore were both involved in other activities but managed to visit our stall during the day.

Merv Thompson Dec 2013

## Channel Seven Christmas Pageant 7<sup>th</sup> Dec 2013

Close to 20 of our number participated in the 2013 Pageant. Parking practicalities almost got the better of us but in the end we simply parked at the finish and walked bikes up to the Terrace. A very cold and windy spot as it transpired! As participant number 54 we had a bit of wait before we could pedal our way down crowded St Georges Tce. Still there was plenty of entertainment with the Perth Highland Pipe Band right behind us and the Circus College next to us, not to mention cameleers across the road.

Once underway the gale of wind gave way to a gale of applause - the Terrace was packed solid with excited families from Mill St right down to Langley park, just one lane left open for the show ponies to travel down.

## Tweed Run Fremantle Sunday November 3, 2013



At midday on Sunday November 3, 2013 a group of 250 vintage cycling enthusiasts gathered at *Pioneer Reserve*, Fremantle for refreshments and a ride through the City of Fremantle and the port, terminating at the North Fremantle Bowls Club for more refreshments and some live music. The weather was unseasonably warm but did not dampen the spirits of participants, many of who dressed in period costume for the ride. The bicycles ranged in age and quality, with a few very interesting vintage bikes outnumbered by more recent steel city bikes.

The Tweed Run was organised by the folks at Dismantle (<http://dismantle.org.au/>) and was part of the annual Fremantle Festival.

The event has its own *Facebook* page <https://www.facebook.com/FreoTweedRun> with photos and there is an article and some interesting photos at <http://www.perthvintagecycles.com/2013/11/fremantle-tweed-run-2013-ride.html>.

The WAHCC was represented by Rob, Phil, Marc and Stephen.

## Beverly Bus Trip Sept 2013

Sixteen brave souls set off from sundry *Bunnings* car parks for Beverley one sunny but cold Sunday in September. First stop was York where we did our level best to lose one another around the coffee shops in an impromptu game of hide and seek.

Refreshed and on the road again we were treated to radio documentaries brought along by the ever-thoughtful Alan Naber. The hour long ABC Hindsight programme 'Allez Oppy' was fascinating and included interviews with Oppy himself as well as his son and others close to his career.

Once in Beverley we made a beeline for Mark Taylor's shed in the light industrial area, home to a collection of 20 or so vintage caravans. Stepping up into any one of Mark's old 'vans is a step back in time. Many of his caravans are wonderfully preserved examples of how early motor tourists travelled in style, complete with flamboyant period fixtures and appliances.

Caravans are only half the story though. Mark has a matching period car to go with each caravan; a 50's *Hudson*, 40's *Chev ute*, '38 *Buick* straight 8 and HR *Holden* wagon are clustered round the door vying for attention.

The legendary *Barry's Toys* can be overwhelming for the first time visitor. Room after room of Barry Ferguson's sprawling sheds unfolds with untold treasures from the wheat-belt's early years. How many clearing sales has Barry been too? Probably Barry himself would be unable to answer that question. He has collections of everything from tractors to toasters. He even has a few bikes, most notable of which are two of Beverley's original delivery bikes, the baker's and the grocer's, complete with their number-plates BE•1 and BE•2.

While at Barry's we were tracked down by an amiable gent asking when we'd be getting ourselves down to the *Dead Finish Museum* as he was set up and had been waiting for us. A confusing turn of events as we had no fixed itinerary - the Beverley bush telegraph is alive and well. Local farmer (and old bike nut) John had got wind of our plans and hauled ten bikes in from the farm in a horse float. Once the last of our party was dragged kicking and screaming out of Barry's we presented ourselves at the *Dead Finish*. John's son was cutting laps on a dragster that has seen better days and members lapped up the rest of John's collection which included a five swan *Swansea* and an early gents *Rainbow* sporting a *Major Taylor* stem, (pictured).

Lunch was a bit of bleak affair with an unremitting westerly continually upsetting cups, lunch-boxes and otherwise good tempers. Beverly, like many wheat-belt towns, has a surplus of commercial real estate and one generous soul, with the assistance of the Beverley Shire has fitted out and made available an old shop as a lunchroom for travellers. Sadly it was discovered too late!

A couple of us visited the air museum which, having had its central exhibit reclaimed by family of the donor, is a bit of a shadow of its former self.

The journey home presented many of us with an opportunity for a much needed rest; heads were duly nodded and the insides of sundry pairs of eyelids carefully inspected.

On behalf of all the riders I'd once again like to thank Phil for organising the bus and Fred for his impeccable driving.

Rob Frith Nov 2013

## Rainbow Cycles

As an ignorant West Aussie, I have been under the impression that *Rainbow Cycles* were built in WA for *Sandovers* - the same firm that was involved in the *Sandover Medal* that the footballers strove to collect.

However, on reading some information on Bruce Small and his *Malvern Star* empire, I see that he also marketed several other brands, *Austral*, *Pacemaker*, *Preston Star*, and *Rainbow*.

In the 1930s and 1940s Bruce Small built racing bikes for *Harris Scarf* in South Australia. Here in WA we had the firm *Harris Scarf* and *Sandovers* and they sold *Rainbow Cycles*. I have one in my collection and met the previous owner, who was sponsored by *Sandovers* on both road and track. This machine was his road bike. Am I not to assume that *Rainbows* were not built in WA or were they in fact built in the *Malvern Star* factory here in Perth in the late pre WW2 and post war period ? I have come across several *Malvern Star* bikes that were built here in Perth their frame numbers having the letter P in them.

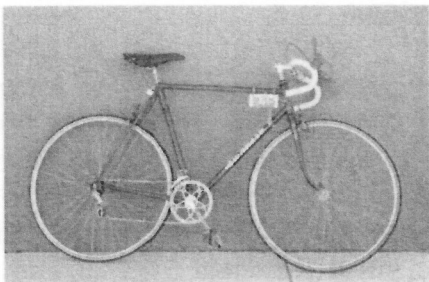
*Austral* bikes had cut out maps of Australia brazed on the head stem and front forks if you come across one, while *Rainbows* had an R brazed in a similar place.

Peter Wells Dec 2013

## Spotted

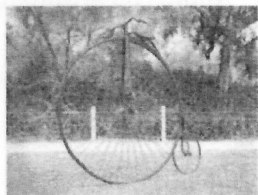
Fame dogs his every step - *Treadlie* magazine have given over the whole opening page of their *Treadlie Street* section to Phil Harris and his sparkling *Raleigh Supreme*. Phil was photographed at the start of the Tweed Run ride in Freo a couple of months ago and pursued via Facebook on the basis of his *Raleigh Supreme* and confident 'V' for victory handgesture.

## Member's Bikes



Perhaps the most visited segment of our website is that which showcases member's bikes. Recently some new bikes have been added including:

- Swansea 5 Swan 1959
- Turner c. 1905
- Pinarello Super Record 1984-86
- Rossignoli c. 1948
- The Royal Mail Penny Farthing
- M.H. Jones Tandem Trike



## Upcoming Events

- Feb 17th monthly meeting and auction
- Feb 23rd South Perth river night ride and BBQ picnic
- Mar 1&2 Avon Valley Vintage Display at Northam
- Mar 16th Giro d'Perth (outside organisers)
- Mar 17th monthly meeting
- April 21st monthly meeting
- April 25th Ride in the Valley ride and display
- May 4th Moondyne Festival display Toodyay
- May 10th Fremantle Heritage Festival
- May 19th monthly meeting
- June 29th SpeedDome display
- June 30th Jim Fitzpatrick Talk

## Wanted

Early Rim 1930's 26 x 1 3/8

Contact Mal Buckland (08) 95279427

## Auction

The February Auction will include:

- Large framed 1970's Raleigh Rapide with wrap over stays. Complete bike with knackered Suntour derailleurs. The Weinmann centre pull brakes, GB bars and stem, Raleigh cranks and seatpost are all in reasonable condition.
- Step through Swansea 2 Swan c. 1940. Complete unrestored bike with 1 Westwood rim and Perry coaster hub
- Step through Malvern Star 2 Star. One lady owner who worked at and met her hubby at the Malvern Star worksop in Perth many moons ago. Complete bike, rough condition but has mudguards drilled for skirts and swing-out expandable carrier.
- Step through Speedwell c1960's or 70's
- Several boxes of useful bits mostly 60's to 80's

## Committee

**President:** Rob Frith 0411 565 607  
robert@frith.net.au

**Vice President:** Merv Thompson 0894502579

**Secretary:** Vacant

**Historian:** Ken Ward 9364 3601

**Librarian:** Harold Perry 9364 7253

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

**Committee Member** Andrew Blackmore  
9246 5418 blackaw@tpg.com.au

**Committee Member** Tim Eastwood  
0427 223 108 healygang@netspace.net.au

**Editor:** Stephen McVey  
0467 761 292 stephen.mcvey@nd.edu.au  
PO Box 1225, Fremantle 6959

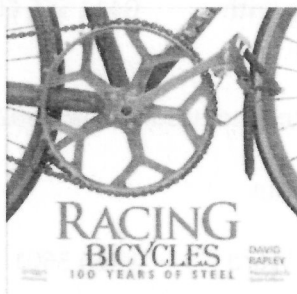
### Vale Jack Cassidy (1920-2013)

Jack Cassidy was one of the best racing cyclists in the 1930s and raced in the Eastern States as well as here in his home state of WA. He started racing in his early teens, winning a State title at the early age of sixteen in 1936. His training was to ride to Northam on to York then back to Perth by lunchtime. He would then spend the afternoon racing his skiff on the Swan River. He eventually turned professional, racing on board tracks in the Eastern States as well as WA. Here in WA he won the *Westral Wheelrace*, the Beverly/Perth and York races and other long distance races in WA.

Jack joined the RAN in 1940 and was posted to *HMAS Sydney*. He was supposed to join the ship when it berthed in Fremantle. Luckily for Jack he was injured in a motorcycle accident, so missed sailing on that final fateful voyage of that ship (the *Sydney* was sunk with all hands in the fight with the German raider *Kormoran*). Jack then served in Darwin at the time of the air raids by the Japanese.

Postwar Jack raced his beloved series of skiffs, winning six National Championships, plus fifteen State Championships. He eventually operated his own sailmaking business with the help of his three sons. He was a remarkable sportsman, businessman, and family man. He died on September 1st 2013. One of his skiff is on display at the *Fremantle Maritime Museum*.

Peter Wells Dec 2013



### Book Review

*Racing Bicycles: 100 Years of Steel*, David Rapley, Images Publishing, 2012, ISBN 978-1864704822.

*Racing Bicycles – 100 Years of Steel* is, as the name suggests, a celebration of steel framed racing bicycles. The author, David Rapley, is himself an enthusiast and it is evident in the homage to steel racing bicycles that prevails in the book. The book is a hard cover and its publication in 2012 is consistent with the current trend toward publication of coffee table books on bicycles.

The bicycles covered in the book span across the length of the twentieth century (1902 through 1996) with a nod to the emergence of aluminium, titanium and carbon in the final section of the book. The bicycles themselves are an amalgam from a small group of collectors within Australia. Of additional interest is the fact that the collector's details are also included. They bicycles range in regard to condition and country of origin but have in common the fact that they all have an extent of historical significance and to that extent contribute to the story of the racing bicycle in Australia.

The book is image rich with each bicycle portrayed in full together with close-up shots of the jewellery, artwork and the various aspects of a steel bicycle that make it special. Each bicycle also has a fact sheet detailing its condition, dimensions and individual components. This is presented together with a brief history in which the machines provenance and unique attributes are described. Some of the bicycles are in original 'as raced condition' whilst others have undergone extensive restoration including repair and repaint of the frame, reproduction of artwork and in some instances re-manufacture of the decals.

In my estimation, the production standard of the photography is a slight disappointment. Set in-situ, some of the backgrounds might be said to distract from the detail of the bicycles. This might be said to have the effect of lessening the value of the book as a reference and some will argue that there is value in photographing in a studio environment to assure greater clarity. However, the close ups are of sufficient detail to provide a good record of period components.

If the aim of the book is in part to grow appreciation for steel racing bicycles then this book undoubtedly goes some way to achieving that goal. Perhaps its greatest value lay in its contribution to the stock of knowledge of racing bicycles in the Australian context. This is also what makes the book unique from others on the market. Australia has a rich heritage of both racing cyclists and the manufacture of racing bicycles and that is brought to the fore in this book.

Lastly, the author provides an interesting commentary on the debate around preservation versus restoration. I for one concur with Rapley in favor of the former. As is oft recanted 'It is only original once'. In sum, the book provides a worthy and original contribution to the growing respect and appreciation of the steel framed racing bicycle.

Marc Fellman Jan 2014



## January 2014 Meeting Minutes

**Meeting opened:** 7.30pm Monday, 20 November, 2013

**Present:** Rob Frith, Merv Thompson, Dawn Thompson, Judy Perry, Harold Perry, Robert Hunt, Mal Buckland, Alan Hind, Phil Harris, Mal Bell, Myrene Bell, Tim Eastwood, Walter Edom, Dave Clarke, Peter Wells, Phil Harris, Alan Naber,

**Apologies from:** Stephen McVey

**Visitors:** Ian Webber, Alex Marshall

**Next Meeting:** Monday 17th, February 2014

**Announcements:** Position of Secretary remains vacant

**Treasurers Report:** Mal Bell presented the financials for the last 2 months. Income totalled \$482.79. Expenditure was \$247.67 paid to Rob Frith for the web site and postage. Balance of \$5435.44 includes \$87.00 held in petty cash.

**Matters arising:** None.

**Correspondence Inward:** Alex Marshall, City of Fremantle Festivals Co-ordinator, Ian Bassola detail 2 Swan restoration, Moondyne Festival.

**Correspondence Outward:** Merv Thompson responded to Moondyne Festival confirming our attendance and requesting \$150 for same.

**Events Co-ordinator Report:** Phil Harris reported on the Channel 7 Christmas Pageant. Mal Bell has circulated video of the event. Robert Hunt has some photos and suggested following up with Channel 7 or The West for others.

Rockingham Ride is on Australia Day Jan 26th

April 21st meeting falls on Easter Monday.

Phil will speak to Murray Hall confirming this year's SpeedDome display.

Alan Naber's offer to demonstrate wheel building and truing at the March meeting accepted.

**General Business:** Alex Marshall presented to the club on the Heritage Festival which he'd like us to attend. He offered payment in general terms in excess of \$200. Events Co-ordinator and President undertook to discuss the matter and see if we could muster enough people to mount a display.

Robert Hunt has been in communication with author Jim Fitzpatrick who is happy to speak to us on June 30th. Rob Frith will check on venue availability and liaise with Robert Hunt.

Robert Frith has heard from Murray Gomm regarding the Lotterywest grant application; they are in receipt of the application, will consider it in March and let us know the outcome in April.

**Show and Tell:** Visitor Ian Webber brought a mostly complete 1939 Malvern Star 4 Star serial P9332

Alan Naber showed his recently completed Dursley Pedersen replica, one of two made by local builder Logo Trikes. There followed some discussion of known original examples in WA and Australia.

Phil Harris showed a box of books that has been donated to the library by Peter Wells. The library is full so Phil will take them home again.

Alan Naber spoke about a bike shelter that has been built by his son Sion in Fremantle. The shelter is quite distinctive and has attracted some media coverage.

**Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:** Acceptance moved Cameron Smith, seconded Judy Perry.

**Meeting Closed: 8:40 PM**