



Not The Spoken Word

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

Our Trans-Continental Ride Show 'Cycling the Nullarbor - A History of Challenge'

In addition to all our other activities the club has hosted a number of successful exhibitions over the past few years.

These shows have involved a good deal of research and members have shone the light of our inquiry into some dusty corners of WA cycling and uncovered some amazing historical gems along the way.

Our last effort was the the Beverley to Perth show at the old Peninsula Hotel (now Dôme) in Maylands.

Without that exhibition it's unlikely we would ever have met 'Scotchie' Wright's grandson Rob Wright. Rob still has his grandad's Rover that was ridden in the first Beverley race, and subsequently used in the third crossing of the Nullarbor by bike.

Rob is also in possession of hand drawn maps given to his grandfather by Arthur Richardson, the first person to ride across the Nullarbor and, in 1899, the first to circumnavigate the country by bicycle.

This is just one example of the sort of material that turns up when we put our club in the public eye.

Our next exhibition is scheduled for this October to coincide with Bike Month. It will be our fifth such show and we're fortunate to be hosted by the Museum of Perth, the venue that our first show 'Our Hidden Cycling History' was staged at.

MoP as it's affectionately abbreviated has moved since then and is now located in the old Atlas Building at 8-10 The Esplanade, Perth (corner of Sherwood Court).

It is a significantly larger and better located space than any we've exhibited in in the past.

The other exciting news is that MoP would like to keep the exhibition up and active for four months - until January 2024!

Planning the exhibition

The exhibition committee is comprised of 10 members and a couple of observers at present. If you'd like to make a contribution let us know.

Seven members met in person mid-June to rough out the exhibition topics and timeline.

Aside from securing the venue we have also submitted a grant proposal to assist with funding for the exhibition.

In common with our earlier shows much of the interpretive display material will focus on the people who rode and their stories.

The exhibition committee is keen to make the exhibition as accessible to the general public as possible. The obvious challenges of early trans-continental crossings and record rides will be complimented by the stories of riders just enjoying the journey.

The exhibition opening night will be on October 5th, a Thursday

night. We plan to have a number of floor talks over the months that the show is on, the first of these will follow a 'Ride it Rusty' event on Sunday October 15th.

Publicity

Aside from the planning the show itself a four month tenure presents a demand for a mountain of publicity to keep interest up and the punters coming in. Following Bike Month we are hoping to host a speaker event each month, and possibly a closing event.

Regardless of whether you're on the organising committee or not it would be great to hear from club members with suggestions and contact details for any outlet that might give us some airtime or column inches... email us with the contact details of your favourite 'What's On' page, radio show, blog, page or podcast!

info.wahcc@gmail.com

Research

Our research efforts are already paying off. Aub Melrose was the navigator and mechanic for the 1937 crossing by Hubert Opperman. Melrose's

grandson Tony Humphry introduced himself to the club at a display some years ago. Club members Kym and Rob F recently visited Tony to scan Aub's photographic negatives in the hope that Aub, a keen amateur photographer, might have taken photos on the crossing. The effort was rewarded with three uncut rolls of film containing over 30 images from the record breaking ride uncovered. The fact that they are uncut suggests that these photos have never been printed.

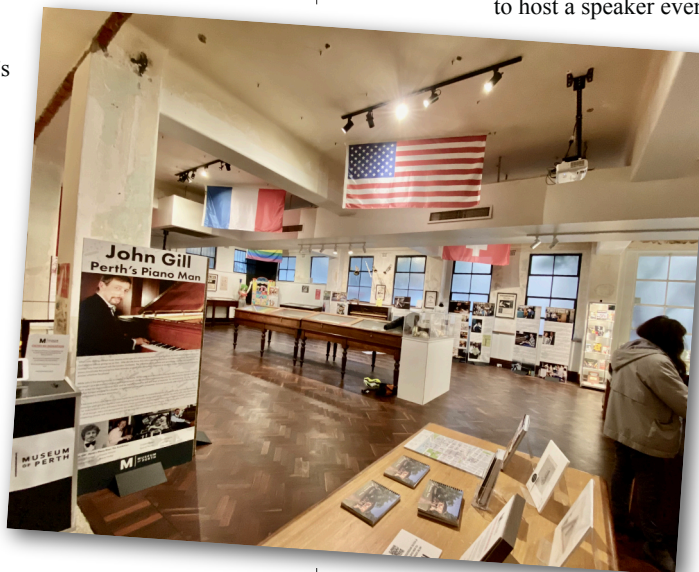
Tony also has a small trove of material relating to another of our Trans Continental crossing stories - that of the 'Lucas Girls', Vera Harding and Anna Keenan. It turns out that Aub was part of the support crew for that ride as well!

'Oppy' tunities for Members

Aside from research and writing we will need assistance with the installation of the exhibition in early October as well as help at the event nights. Given MoP's generosity with the space it would be great for the club to offer to assist with invigilation too. One person once a week for the sixteen weeks that the show is scheduled to run is just 16 people - please consider volunteering as a club representative over the period.

Robert Frith, Chairperson

photo: Museum of Perth exhibition gallery



Stuck In The Shed With Rob Frith

What are you currently working on?

I have a couple of stalled projects - a 1896 Triumph Model 14 racer and a rather glamorous 1947 fillet brazed lugless Malvern Star 5 Star.

How many rideable bikes do you have?

I have 14 bikes registered on Bikelinc. They're my 'pump-the-tyres-up-and-go' bikes. I have a couple of other bikes that are doing very poor impersonations of ride-ability. I have had strong words with them, but to no avail.

If push comes to shove what is your favourite bike?

Tough question, they all have a special place in my heart. The one that means the most is probably the hardest to ride though! It's a three speed Moulton F that prefers to be in second gear to first. The Moulton was given to me by a friend a few weeks before he died from a brain tumour last year.

What was your first bike?

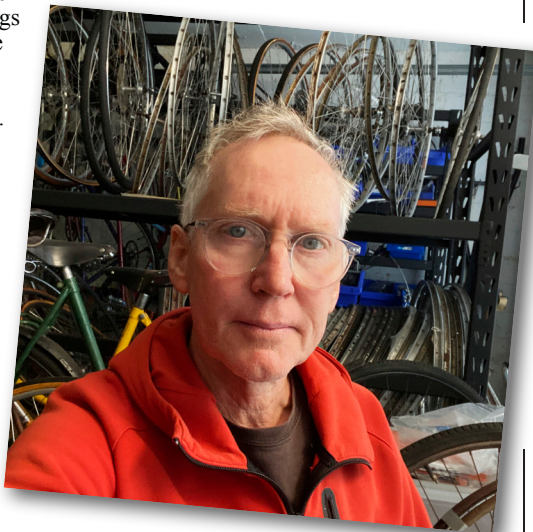
For my 7th birthday I got a 3 speed Malvern Star Dragstar. We were at the farm during school holidays and it took all of 50 metres of riding before the bike suffered multiple doublegee induced punctures. I rode it to and from school in Katanning and then Moora. It was traded for a single speed Malvern Star when I was 12.

Pick a bike any bike.. in your dreams what are you riding?

All of my Swanses are track bikes - I'd love to find a 8 or 10 speed Swansea in unmolested condition - something like the one Jim Oliver rode while representing WA in Tasmania in 1954.

Whistle while you work? Give us a tip on the sounds that fill your workspace.

More often than not it will be spoken word - an audiobook or a podcast like The Infinite Monkey Cage (humour and science are good bedfellows), or my favourite history programme The Last Archive. My taste in music is broad - I'll happily listen to anything from Gene Autry to Frank Zappa. Things move slowly in the garage so there's plenty of time to savour full albums.



What Makes Us Tick?

Over the next few issues of the newsletter club committee is going to draw back the curtain and give members a behind the scenes peek at what it takes to keep the cogs in the WAHCC machine turning smoothly.

Many of the roles are low pressure unelected positions so if you see something you think you'd like to help with just let us know - info.wahcc@gmail.com

Events Coordinator

Responsibility for this role open to any club member - no need to be a committee member!

- Updating Zoom meeting list as necessary
- Posting events to the website and facebook pages
- Respond to display enquiries
- Application forms for Have A Go Day and Xmas Pageant
- Proactive arrangement of rides and displays
- Christmas lunch



July Auction

The AGM auction is now live, check it out online here;

biddingowl.com/Auction/index.cfm?auctionID=21151

All items will be at the AGM and bidding will conclude at 8:30 on the meeting night. Time will be made for bidders to act prior to the auction end. At printing the following items are listed;

- Raleigh Superbe step-through in great condition 26" wheels
- Yellow non-name 10 speed
- Swansea/Northam step-through
- Swansea 2 Swan frame and fork
- Malvern Star 2 Star
- Wheelset 26 x 1 3/8 with tyres
- 2 x burnt offerings

Vintage Track Night

Friday August 4th sees us back out at the Speedome in Midvale to exercise the bikes that we can't ride on the road.

The inaugural vintage track night last year was great fun and well attended.

Aside from admiring and riding bikes from members' collections that rarely see the light of day or have their pedals turned, it's great opportunity to try out track riding on a world class indoor velodrome. It's also a great little social outing, so please consider joining the riders as a spectator (with pizza rights!)

This year riders must have a minimum "LifeStyle" membership/insurance through AusCycle.*

Not an AusCycle member? You have the option to sign up on the night for 3 months complimentary cover. You will require your smartphone to process the online QR code.

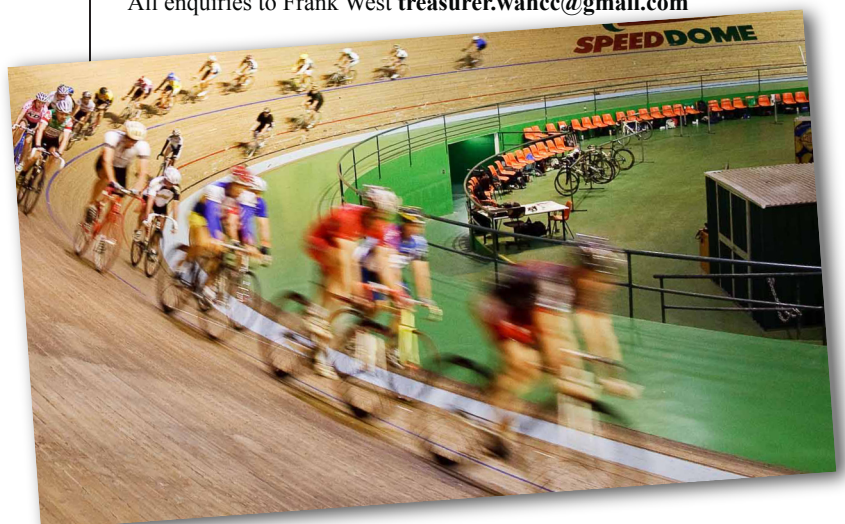
\$25 for ride and pizza, \$5 for spectator and pizza.

Don't have a track bike... or don't trust your old tyres? Your \$25 covers the use of a hire bike supplied by Track Cycling WA.

You can book your spot on the club's webshop -

www.historical.cc/shop

All enquiries to Frank West treasurer.wahcc@gmail.com



Club Calendar

16th July 2023 13:00

Tour de Ruste

Member only event, please refer to your invitation for event locations.

Mon 17th July 2023 19:30

Annual General Meeting & Auction

In-person at 41 Britannia Road, Leederville

Online Zoom Meeting ID: 896 2070 3705

Sun 23rd July 2023 10:00

Point Walter Ride

Meet at the Point Walter Café for a spin around to Heathcote and back

4th August 2023 17:00

Vintage Track Night

Midvale Speeddome - see p.2

Mon 15th Aug 2023 19:30

General Meeting

In-person at 41 Britannia Road, Leederville

Online Zoom Meeting ID: 896 2070 3705

Sun 17th Sept 2023 09:30

Display - Curtin Car Show

6 Elderfield Road Waterford

Set up by 9:30am, show finishes at 2pm

Mon 18th Sep 2023 19:30

General Meeting

In-person at 41 Britannia Road, Leederville

Online Zoom Meeting ID: 896 2070 3705

Thu 5th Oct 2023 18:00

Exhibition Opening

Museum of Perth 8 The Esplanade, Perth

Sun 15th Oct 2023 12:00

Exhibition Floor Talk

Museum of Perth 8 The Esplanade, Perth

Mon 16th Oct 2023 19:30

General Meeting

In-person at 41 Britannia Road, Leederville

Online Zoom Meeting ID: 896 2070 3705

Nov 2 - 5

Display - Gloucester Park Stamp Show

contact George Morris

Wed 8th Nov 2023 9:00 (TBC)

Have A Go Day



History in the Making

Stage 5 of the 2023 Tour de France saw a big shake up of the general classification rankings with winner of the 2022 Giro D'Italia, Perth rider Jai Hindley coming out on top. Hindley, who had been slowly making his way into the top 10, moved from 8th into the yellow jersey with a decisive 47 second gap on his closest rival Jonas Vingegaard.

"Initially my idea was to just get a buffer to the other GC guys. On the Soudet I started thinking about a stage win, at the bottom of the climb I also saw my parents which was really special and emotional. When I attacked, everything went so fast, I knew I had a good chance, but I only started really believing on the home straight. It still feels surreal to have that jersey on my shoulders." – Jai Hindley

At the time of writing Jai is in 3rd place, behind Vingegaard and Tadej Pogacar.



The Big Bike Film Night

The Big Bike Film Night is an annual movie night organised by New Zealander Brett Cotter. This year's event showcases 9 inspiring short films centred around cycling - from the picture postcard cycling life of a 74 year old in Tuscany to the story of two Brisbane schools getting kids into riding.

Along the way enjoy detours to Iceland, Scotland, NZ and a place called Hell.

WAHCC members will be displaying bikes at both Perth nights to help promote the club, let us know if you'd like to participate (numbers will be limited!).

BUNBURY Dolphin Discovery Centre **Mon Sep 18** 7.00pm

BUSSELTON Orana Cinemas **Tue Sep 19** 6:15pm

ALBANY Orana Cinemas Albany **Thu Oct 5** 6:30pm

FREMANTLE Luna on SX **Mon Oct 30** 6:30pm

PERTH State Library Theatre **Tue Oct 31** 7:00pm

Western Australian Historical Cycle Club Inc. PO Box 234, Leederville, WA, 6903 email info.wahcc@gmail.com Chairperson: Robert Frith Vice Chair: Robert Hunt

Treasurer: Frank West, Secretary: Bill Raczkowski, Committee Member: William Riseborough

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.