



Not the...

# Spoke 'n Word

Volume 2 No. 11

Newsletter

April 2001

**March meeting** - A really interesting topic saw 18 members and a guest present for the meeting. We were treated to a really informative talk on Leather by Malcolm King. Which I will try to summarise for those who missed it after the details from the last meeting.

**A Shed too far** - alas club spares new home has not materialised someone beat us to the free shed.

**Business Funds** - are at \$1525.43. Which is just as well because we will eventually find a broker to give us a PLI quote. "With all the media attention that Merv is getting perhaps we could charge for his autograph, that would bring us in a few \$" mused Dave C.

#### Past Events Reports

#### *Cycle Instead Federation Ride and BBQ- Sat. 17th Mar*

To celebrate the Centenary of Federation and Bike Week both Merv on the 1920 Delivery Bike and Dawn on the repaired Raleigh bike met Mal & Ken Bell at the Perth Railway station. Thanks to son Peter and Myrene for transport to the station. We arrived 15 minutes early. We were disappointed to find that all the Fremantle starters had already passed this section because someone had removed the signs. Luckily the event organisers were still around and directed us along the new cycle way which adjoins the Graham Farmer Tunnel. We all enjoyed a leisurely ride to Burswood on this flat cycle path which only has two ramps to negotiate. We crossed the Swan river via the underside of the Windan bridge. Ok for normal cyclists but Ken a tall guy on a 56" PF found his head was nearly scrapping the roof, the fact that the Swan was full of large Spanish men o' war and along way down decided him to dismount and walk. A left turn after the bridge gave us a pleasant ride on the foreshore to our destination. We were well received by an enthusiastic crowd. By the time we had talked bikes the sausages had gone so Onion Sandwichs and thence back to Como via the foreshore. A good ride. Thanks to Mal, Ken & Myrene Bell for attending and representing the Club.

*Merv Thompson*

#### *Guildford Heritage Festival - Sun. 1st April*

When we were invited to the Guildford Festival back in December the organisers were delighted by the prospect of having fifteen cycles on display. One the day we had forty!

Our display of memorabilia and the cycles was in a new Gazebo in the middle of Stirling Square surrounded by rammed earth pathways laid out in clover leaf patterns. Even while we were setting up people were arriving and taking interest in our display helped by Mal Bell who acted as a modern day Pied Piper playing his old button accordion and giving impromptu lessons. Meanwhile - Dave C was seen moving his plastic bike Itera out of the sun. Worried about melting, wrinkles or total disintegration of his pliable Swedish lady? - Phil Harris finally got his wish to be able to leave a Club stand - and returned with a curved bicycle frame. It must have been legal?

During the day we made three parades in period costume around the paths. We were supposed to be lead by a Town Cryer but he could not keep up so the leading rider got the job of ringing the large brass bell to warn of our presence.

Playing a portable windup gramophone and 78's for period atmosphere created a lot of interest amongst young spectators who had never seen one before. The Club also had three old cycles, a P/F Cycles and gramophone with horn at the Guildford Hotel. The Festival has meant that the Club has received a lot of Media attention as a result of the Festival promotion. We had four colour photos in the brochure issued by the Festival Organisers and other pictures published in the *Echo*, *Sunday Times* and *West Australian*. We were pleased to be joined on our parades by Kathy Massolini with a beautiful repro P/F Peter Wells with two restored Malvern Stars and Gill Clarke on an old Lucas bike.

Thanks to the great turn out and efforts of members we were proud to win the best overall "Presentation and Display" award at the Festival. The cream on the Cake is that the organisers have already sent a donation of \$400 to the club!

Lasting impression of the day - This is our best display & social event to date. High points are of Mal in top hat, white shirt and red braces surrounded by a host of children and adults describing how to get on and off a P/F. and when a young lad was overheard discussing with his mum that he wanted to restore an old bicycle. Catch'em young. - *Merv T.*

#### List of Riders and cycles at the Festival.

Alan Naber	1906 Triumph
Phil Harris	c.1930 Malvern Star delivery
	1930 ladies bike
	1950 Lucas racer

**Next Meeting :** Monday 21st May at 7.00pm  
VCC Club House 6b Hickey Street, Ardross.  
Meetings are held on the third Monday of the month

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**WAHCC Committee:-** President Merv Thompson. 9450-2579 Vice President Alan Naber. 9332-3956  
Treasurer Peter Smith. 9405-7561 Secretary Dave Brown. 9581-9084 Historian Ken Ward 9364-3601  
Events Coordination Phil Harris 9459-7146

Peter Smith	1940 Malvern star
Don Smith	1920 Phillips
	1920 Sunbeam
David Clark	1985 Sinclair C5
	1987 Strida folding
	1935 Gordinson
	1980 Itera
	1920 Dedr
Mal Bell	P/Fs x 4
Bob Barrow	1930Waldo's Icecream bike-Malvern Star Swansea Ladies Bike Old3 Wheeler Mini two wheeler
Destry Schrock	1948 Malvern Star autocycle small Childs bike
Joe Cox	Penny Farthing
Tom Atkinson	Penny Farthing
Peter Wells	Malvern Star x2
Kathy Massolini	Penny Farthing
Gill Clark	Lucas Bike
Merv Thompson	1886 singer P/F Homemade kids P/F 1980 Dahon III folder trike conversion 1881 Perfection DD Lever trike 1920 delivery bike 1875 kids velocipede 1965 Moulton folder 1940 WW2 Swedish Army bike 3 bike to the Hotel
Dawn Thompson	1939 Norman Adult trike

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#### Show and Tell / Trash & Treasure

*Dave C* - had a 150mm model P/F less mannequin which he swears is a ladies model? A talking point anyway.

*Ken Ward* - had copies of his book "Bike bike bikes"

*Merv* - had some leather embossing tools -alphabets and star signs as well as a book the Secrets of Leather. "Your secrets not safe with us" lashed back Dave C.

*Phil Harris* - brought along a tie with cycling pictures.

*Malcom Buckland* - had details of an American side by side cycle from the '60 which he hopes to bring over from Melborne

#### Leather work

Recollections of the talk by Malcolm King who has had 30years in the trade .

**Cleaning leather** - use bath soap rinse and dry naturally dress with GE-WY available from M K. better than dubbin!

Neats Foot oil whilst used a lot tends to break down the leather - stick to creams.

Alternatively clean using Gleam by Joseph Liddy also from MK

**Types of leather** - *Bark Tan* ( method of tanning and cooking) used for Saddles = mouldable.

*Chrome Leather* - or green hide ( from the tanning) half cooked is more waterproof but not oiled not good for moulding.

*Red Hide -Latigo* an oiled leather.

For buffing your leather use sheep skin.

Malcolm emphasised using the leather regularly to keep it supple and treating it with locally made products which protect and moisturise against sun and heat.

If you can get it Kangaroo hide is the strongest leather for its weight. It is used in jockies saddles and Italian shoes.

There are no more Tanneries left in Australia so hides are exported treated and returned. Leather is an expensive commodity a strip of Bark Tan cost \$150 and Chrome leather \$250. So look after what you've got.

Malcolms talk dispelled old beliefs, was well received. He received an ovation and a gift as a token of appreciation for his presentation.

Malcom's Saddlery is at 422 Newcastle Street, West Perth 6005. Tel 9227-8039 should you want any of his saddle care products

#### Cycle Parts

Arriving soon from "the country" - (not to give away the location but could be north of Perth which narrows it down) bicycle parts For Sale to benefit Club funds. Thanks to Merv T.

#### Forthcoming Events

27th May - *WAHCC 2nd Birthday Ride, BBQ and cake*. A fun social event for all the Family. "Hope the bike stays together for Dawn this time" says Dave C.

2nd - 4th June - *Pinjarra Festival* a Country Town affair with a race against a Steam train, a transport Museum and lots of craft displays. Worth a trip south just for the Tea Rooms

#### Next Meeting

April 16th - *Slide Show and Talk* - Alan Naber's further adventures in Germany. The next episode of the Saga unfolds.

#### Formal Notice of Meeting

May 21st - *The Club's AGM* comes round again on this date. All jobs up for election and your Club Annual Subscription is due.