

**Western Australian Historical Cycle Club Inc.**  
**Presidential Report for the year**  
**1999-2000**

My inspiration to form a club for old or interesting bicycles came from the first gathering of three Penny Farthings racing through York main street - all for a bottle of Champagne, the occasional sightings of a Penny Farthing cyclist wending his way in the suburbs or seeing an unusual bike.

In March 1999 when a new section of the Mitchell Freeway was opened for a short period for cyclists a group of us who were there decided to hold a meeting with a view to forming a club.

Our first meeting was held on the afternoon of March 6th in a beautiful old Federation House on Wireless Hill, Ardross. Fourteen people attended and each person talked briefly on their involvement with bicycles and collecting. Surprisingly the group's age ranged from young to not so very young having a variety of occupations ideal for forming a new club eg Lawyer, Bike Manufacturer, Bike Historian and Author, Collectors and Restorers.

In the following months all the new club's office bearers positions were filled except for Secretary.

Throughout the year the Club has been actively engaged in attending Exhibitions, Festivals and Club outings. The latter being the most popular.

Members have attended Country functions in York, Gin-Gin, Pinjarra and Dwellingup. Displays have been mounted at the Veteran Car Club's Headquarters, Cannington Greyhound Stadium, Gloucester Park Trotting grounds and the City of South Perth Fiesta 2000 venues. Club members have also celebrated "Bike Week" by cycling to Perth and joining over 2000 other cyclists for breakfast in the Forrest Chase.

Some of the more enthusiastic club members have participated in the Annual World Championship Penny Farthing events at Evandale Tasmania. Nicki Armstrong a strong contender in these events has won the Ladies Penny Farthing race - not once but twice in succession and also World titles in Europe. Not to be outdone Joe Cox won the Over ??? Super Veterans Class Race this year in Tasmania.

The most successful club events throughout the year have been the weekend bike rides and picnic days along the Swan River cycleways around Perth and Applecross. The most popular event with members and visitors was the first Birthday ride to Preston Point and return to the clubrooms for refreshment and barbecue. The event was concluded with a monster cake decorated with a Penny Farthing and a single candle to celebrate the Club's Foundation.

Club membership has increased steadily from 14 to 22. One of the new members are the Friends of the Bicycle Club Museum, Canberra. The B.U.G's Club in Fremantle and Melville are closely associated with the Club and have volunteered on several occasions to give a talk and demonstrated assembling "Stridas," "Encombent" and "Moulton" bicycles.

At one Club meeting John Gloyn gave an interesting talk on early cycle lamps. His collection shown at the meeting was inspiring. Numerous other bicycles and bicycle memorabilia presented at our monthly meetings by members have created much interest and discussion throughout the year as has a video of the early history of cycling.

Due to heavy work commitments and other club activities **Geoff Moor** had to give up the Editorship / production of our News Letter. We thank him for getting us started. In consequence for several months the duties of President, Chairman, Secretary and Editor of the Newsletter were combined. Thank you Dawn for your support during this very busy period.

My appreciation also goes to all the other club members for assisting me in preparing and reporting on club events for the News Letter - Their willing support says much for the esprit of the Club.

**Dave Brown** who joined the Club in November was persuaded to take on the role of Editor of the News Letter and while he was at it he might as well take the minutes of the meeting and by the way that makes you the Acting Secretary as well!

**Ken Ward** our club Historian contributed several very informative articles to the News Letter as well as a talk and illustrations on the development of the Safety bicycle .

**Alan Naber** and **Phil Harris** have enthusiastically organised and promoted club activities since the Club was first formed.

**Peter Smith** our Treasurer has compiled records of the Club finances and Membership details on numerous spread sheets.

Our active Club Photographer **David Clark** has recorded most of our Club events for posterity. This artistic and factual record of our Club's first year of events can now be viewed on our newly made notice boards.

With the assistance of **Nicky Armstrong** and **Geoff Moor** we have a written Constitution and recently our Club has become Incorporated .

Our official name is :- **THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL CYCLE CLUB.**

Without doubt the Jewel of this year's club events must be the recent opening of the Graham Farmer Freeway, The Windan Bridge and the Graham Farmer Tunnel. Our club team of Ten Penny Farthings and one lever action tricycle lead the cavalcade. As a result of early negotiations with the Main Roads Dept. our Club gained the privilege of leading the Parade of Vehicles starting with Penny Farthings , veteran and vintage motor cycles and cars followed by post vintage vehicles through the event. Club members all bedecked in period costumes gave spectators an opportunity to witness the largest number of Penny Farthings ever seen in Western Australia.

**In conclusion** - Although I have temporarily postponed many of my normal activities to establish the Club I have been encouraged and inspired by the enthusiasm and support of club members which has made it worthwhile. I hope to continue in maintaining an active and social cycle club in the future.

Merv Thompson