



Volume 15 No 2

Not the ...

# Spoke'n Word

NEWSLETTER

Mar - Apr 2014

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

We have been without a secretary for some months now. The role has been filled on a voluntary meeting by meeting basis recently but I'm afraid that we're not in receipt of minutes for the February, March or April meetings.

The good news is that Kym Murray was elected unopposed as Secretary at the recent April meeting.

Speaking of elections our AGM is coming up in June. I remind you that if you wish to stand for a position or vote at that meeting you must be a financial member of the club. A renewal form is included with this issue.

Thanks, Rob Frith.

## COMING EVENTS

### Inaugural Albany Tweed Ride Saturday May 3rd 12 midday

The Great Southern chapter of the WAHCC is assisting the City of Albany with a vintage festival that includes a static display and a Tweed styled event.

Meet at The Albany Museum prior to 12 midday for a gentle ride of approximately 2kms. Anybody on a bicycle is welcome but all are encouraged to wear vintage clothing in keeping with the minimum-exertion, maximum-elegance ethos of Tweed Rides the world over.

Riders are encouraged to stay on at the Vancouver Street Festival to enjoy the fabulous array of food, wine, local artisan market stalls. Or a game of bocce! The Ride is open to everyone however minors must be accompanied by an parent or guardian.

Cyclists generally dress in traditional British cycling attire, particularly tweed. If you don't have a vintage steed and a wardrobe full of tweeds, worry not - we're a relaxed bunch and whilst we admire and appreciate a bit of effort, our motto is: "it's more about attitude than the attire"! Suits, frocks, waist jackets, berets and boaters, scarves, braces and bow ties are all encouraged. Pleats are back! (again)

Any bicycle is acceptable on the Tweed Ride, but your classic vintage bicycle is especially welcome. Bike racking will be available at the Festival. Further information - Murray Gomm 0431 846 412 or City of Albany 94819208.

### NEXT MEETINGS:

Monday 19th May 7:30pm

Monday 16th June 7:30pm (AGM)

### Committee

President: Robert Frith 93832910  
robert@frith.net.au

Vice President: Merv Thompson 9450 2579

Treasurer: Malcolm Bell

Secretary: Kym Murray

### Toodyay - Moondyne Festival Sunday May 4th 10am

The Moondyne Festival celebrates the life of Moondyne Joe, Western Australia's legendary bushranger.

WAHCC have once again been invited to mount a static display and ride in the parade at this event. Rain or shine, this event is great fun with thousands of people, many of them in period costume, filling the streets.

Club exhibits are to be set up by 10.00am outside the May Somerville Gallery at 107 Stirling St. Parking of vehicles is available behind the gallery. Merv Thompson 9450 2579, Phil Harris 94597146.

### Fremantle - Arthur Grady Day Saturday 10th May 11am

In 1924 Fremantle bicycle maker Arthur Grady became the first person to ride a motorcycle around Australia.

The City of Fremantle have expanded the event celebrating his achievement and it is now a part of the statewide heritage week. This year over 200 vintage motorcycles will be joined by displays from the Veteran Car Club of WA, Bus Preservation Society, Vintage Commercial Vehicle Association, Vintage Pram Society, Machine Preservation Society and Hand Tool Preservation Society.

WAHCC members will mount a display at Kings Square in Fremantle. Kings Square is adjacent to the Town Hall. We have been given the prestigious (and reasonably shady) giant chess board position between the Town Hall and the Church on Adelaide St.

Free parking for displaying members will be provided at Queensgate, vouchers will be issued at the Adelaide St drop off point. Members bringing bikes a trailers will have parking provided on William St adjacent to the Fremantle Markets.

If you are bringing a trailer please contact Rob Frith on 93832910 as we must let CoF know trailer numbers in advance.

Set up any time between 6 and 9am. The event officially finishes at 2pm.

### Articles for Newsletter:

The Editor, Stephen McVey [stephen.mcv@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.mcv@gmail.com)

Librarian: Harold Perry 9364 7253

Events Organiser: Phil Harris 9459 7146

Committee Members: Andrew Blackmore, Tim Eastwood

**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.

## Speaker at May 19th General Meeting

Many members will be familiar with our May speaker. Val Humphrey from Revolutions, Whiteman Park's Transport Heritage Centre, is coming to the club to talk about specialist cleaning and repairs being undertaken on the Centre's Michaux Velocipede

## Midland - SpeedDome Display Sunday June 29th 7am

Club Members displaying bikes please be aware that the SpeedDome would prefer that we take bikes to the venue on Saturday afternoon prior to 5pm. Members wishing to take bikes on Sunday morning must arrive by 7:30am at the latest. In either case use the eastern entrance. Members, if you are not wearing club shirts, make sure that you are wearing your WAHCC name badge or you will be charged for entering. Bring your own lunch and chairs.

The racing is spectacular - don't miss this event. Further info Phil Harris 94597146

## Club Rooms - Speaker Jim Fitzpatrick Monday June 30th 7pm

Jim Fitzpatrick's books on cycling history are already well known to many club members. His books "The Bicycle in the Bush" and "The Bicycle in Wartime" are landmark publications about a neglected aspect of everyday life in the late 19th and early 20th century. "Major Taylor in Australia" is an eye opening and gripping account of events near the end of Taylor's stellar career.

His latest title, "Wheeling Matilda" was released in October 2013. Jim will be speaking at the WAHCC clubrooms on June 30th. He is happy to sign books on the night however he can only bring a limited number with him. His books are available from the Star Hill Studio website; <http://www.thebicycleinwartime.com/books>

Two of his books are available as ebooks from Amazon.

Entry by gold coin donation.

## GUILDFORD VINTAGE FESTIVAL - Mal Bell

Fine weather resulted in a large number of the public attending a well organised and interesting Guildford Vintage Festival. Members brought along a good display of bikes. Merv was kept busy providing rides for kids in his billy carts, with their parent taking many photos. There was lots of interest in the large display of bikes and club members were kept on their toes answering questions fired at them. Grant Bell provided demonstration Penny Farthing rides as large crowds were intrigued as to how a rider of these awkward machines mounted and dismounted.

There were displays of vintage cars, machinery as well as many produce and other stalls. Dancing displays and other entertainment were provided. The Guildford Fair certainly rates high on the list of events the club attends and a good day was had by all.

It was great to have new members Ron and Elaine van Halen come along. Other members in attendance were Merv and Dawn Thompson, Phil Harris, David Clark, Tony Hall, Harold and Judy Perry, David and Anne Northan, Jim and Helen Selkirk and Myrene, Mal and Grant Bell.

## GREAT SOUTHERN GEARS UP

The Great Southern Division are few in number but have been busy working on a number of initiatives to grow the club in the bush. We have six members, four in Albany, one in Denmark and one in Katanning.

Meetings are held every two months at members homes, in recent times, monthly meetings have been required leading up to our signature event, the Inaugural Albany Tweed Ride ... more about that later.

A facebook page has been established; [facebook.com/WAHistoricalCycleClubGreatSouthern?ref=hl](https://www.facebook.com/WAHistoricalCycleClubGreatSouthern?ref=hl)  
We have started a monthly Retro Ride on cycles older than 25 years. The Retro Ride has started to attract non-members for the ride which we are pleased about. We have been meeting at a café in Albany and gently pedalling 10km. The fine for riding the same bicycle on consecutive rides is shouting coffee for all riders. The fine won't break the bank at this stage because rider numbers are small and Bay Merchants Café supports cyclists by providing a 50% discount.

Three displays have been conducted and we have discovered there is no shortage of opportunities to display old cycles, but with such a small number of members, there have been some opportunities we have had to let go. Our last display, Velo Vineyard, was held during Bikeweek at orange tractor wine (owned by club member Murray Gomm and wife Pam). Orange tractor wine is also the place of employment for another club member Collyn Gawned. Around 100 people attended this event. The lure of free coffee no doubt played a part! - Attendees were entitled to the freebie once they'd provided feedback on the Draft City of Albany Bike Plan. With 20 bikes on display the event was also a soft launch of a bike repair stand which has twelve tools and a pump for cyclists to use. This was designed and built by club member Glenn Huffer.

Orange tractor wine is an accredited cycle friendly business offering the following services to cyclists:

- bike racks;
- free iced water refill;
- high carbohydrate meals;
- free showers;
- a handful of free seasonal produce. At the moment that's an apple straight off the tree ;
- lycra friendly, i.e. lycra is acceptable dress;
- rest areas and toilets;
- tastings of Fat Tyre Wine. Yes, it's a wine bottle with a mountain bike tyre on the label. There is a broke spoke sauvignon blanc, gear masher merlot, panic skid pinot and bespoke (sparkling sauvignon blanc). A percentage of the sales of these wines go to the Albany Mountain Bike Club for trail building and events;
- bike repair stand;
- vintage bicycle display;
- free vintage trike use for kids;
- cycling maps and information and;
- coffee of course!

There are currently 10 vintage bikes on display at orange tractor. A number of these are on loan from the Albany Historical Society and other collectors. Future plans are to feature a bike of the month. There is also a Bicycle Curio Cupboard crammed with all sorts of cycling ephemera. Special thanks to Perth club member David Clark who has loaned a number of particularly interesting items for a 12 month period. If any club members have any interesting bikes and components they would like to

display at orange tractor wine, please contact Murray on the numbers below.

In partnership with the Perth committee a grant for ~\$10,000 has been submitted to Lotterywest. If successful, this will fund a number of items for the Great Southern including banners, quick assembly marquee, bicycle repair tools, bicycle display stands, racks to transport bikes. Also, the Perth end of the club is in the hunt to secure a data projector, banners and marquee. The grant will also fund consolidation and updating of the club's identity and collateral.

The Inaugural Albany Tweed Ride is part of the Vintage Vancouver Festival that will be held in Albany on Saturday May 3rd. We are looking forward to strapping on some tweed for a leisurely pedal through the historic precinct of Albany. We have been able to muster five local penny farthings for this event (only four riders at this stage) and hats off again to David Clark who will be making the trip down and bringing down a couple of barbecue stopping cycles to give our display a shot in the arm.

Alan Hinds and Alan Naber have both visited Albany recently (actually Alan Hinds has been a repeat offender having visited twice in recent times) and it was great that a couple of Great Southern members got to meet them and while away some time discussing old bikes. We look forward to other members visiting Albany and the Great Southern.

**Murray Gomm**

**9842 5175**

**0431 846 412**

## Greetings from outback WA - Alan Naber

I am on a leisurely trip around our beautiful state with bike and backpack, so maybe you would like to hear a bit about it.

Being a WA senior holds a few privileges youngsters don't get. One is the annual free ticket for long distance bus and train within WA. Given the will and no outlay I could get to Esperance, Kalbarri or Meekathara and back. It's only valid a year so it's 'use it or lose it' and it's been a 'gunna' for me a few years now. So this year I determined to go on a lone sojourn somewhere; bike, backpack and me!

The plan was take the bike, panniers and backpack on the train to Kalgoorlie, then bus to Esperance, then Albany and back to Perth via wherever I fancied at the time. I started my research with the TransWA website and found I could get the 'Prospector' at 7.10 am each day from east Perth. I went to the booking office with my free voucher and life started to get complicated! Prospector train luggage is limited to one stored bag and one hand bag, which changed my plans somewhat. My normal bike was too big and my bagged 'Birdie' fold up was about 100 mm too long, plus I had 2 panniers and a backpack. A rethink had me removing saddle and carrier reducing the length of the bike somewhat (but not by 100mm). A larger backpack allowed one pannier to go inside with the other fitting in the bike bag. So rather apprehensively I got my ticket for 12 March 2014.

I got up pretty early on the day to cycle in as the train left East Perth Terminal at 7.10am. The luggage handler did not measure the bike and seemed unconcerned about my panniers, so I was on, yippee! The train looked a bit like a fat and short European high speed train with its pointed nose and bright yellow livery.

Inside it was more like an aircraft cabin with seats all facing forward but sadly none of the 4 seats and a table I prefer on trains. There was plenty of leg room thank goodness and a reasonably priced snack bar also licensed, after my stress about the luggage maybe a stiff drink at 7.15 am would be just the job!

Not being an 'Avon Descenter' I had never traversed the Avon Valley so was looking forward to that part of the trip. I was not disappointed, soon after Midland the train was running along a slope on the right and a slight dip on the left (or north side), the river or river bed appearing through the trees and bushes. Being summer the river was not flowing and in the exposed bed, in between the pools, small and large rocks poked up. In the early morning sun the leaves glistened as if polished by an unseen hand. Between the rail track and river is a well maintained track for rail maintenance. It looks a good track for cycling too, through some beautiful scenery. Approaching Toodyay it became more hilly and some bush properties appear, then on to Northam where the flat wheat belt really starts.

I had asked for a window seat but being between two windows vision was restricted so I moved to an aisle seat with a better outlook. The vastness of the wheatbelt was a wonder as we passed paddock after brown paddock and the occasional skyscraping wheatbin. The grain trains are so long they seem to take minutes to pass. Lots of small trees follow the rail line and every now and again in the centre of a paddock and often on a hill stands a giant of a tree which must have been left by the land clearers. Maybe their conscience got to them occasionally and makes me think there were probably many majestic trees before settlement.

At Meredin we met our double going the other way, the crew swapping over from one train to the other. I discussed the luggage situation with one of the conductors who said if most passengers arrived with some luggage (which could happen) the train didn't have the capacity to take it. Perhaps it was designed by a committee that never travelled by train!



Next stop was Southern Cross where I disembarked. Not your usual tourist destination but arriving in Australia from Zambia 31 years ago I spent my first year here running the Western Power depot, building and maintaining the numerous powerlines feeding the many mines and

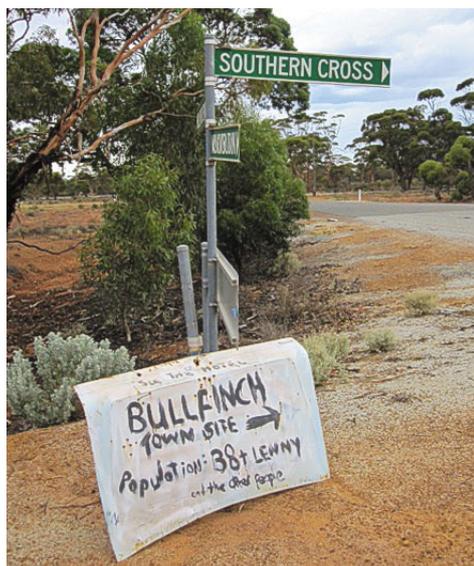
farms in the area. This was a sentimental journey to see what had changed, how I felt about this place that had been such a dramatic cultural shock when arriving back in '82. I got off the train on the tiny platform, right next to the wheat bin. Not much else around as the town is 3 km away. I did not expect to be met by anyone, so was surprised by the large greeting party, they had not forgotten me and were keen to get familiar again. First my face then my ears and eyes but it did not take long for them to get, so to speak, up my nose, just too friendly. I had forgotten the crazy bush flies! I must have got used to them before. I waved my hands around, got great satisfaction slapping my face, ouch, must be hurting them. The flies thought it was great fun, buzzing in and around and up my nose again!

I had booked myself in for the real bush experience, the Club hotel, built in 1888 and just the place to meet the locals. The big veranda and wooden staircase are full of character and the room pretty - that is pretty awful! The bed springs wanted to tickle me, no windows, opening the door to the veranda meant no security from mosquitos, flies or people and the portable air conditioner thought it was a rock breaker. The bar was practically empty and the barmaids were backpackers from Ireland. Times change, and not just in the cities! After a night without sleep I moved to an on-site caravan and got a good night's sleep!

I tried cycling the great Eastern Highway, to visit Yellowdine, it's quite narrow highway here and when passed by the first road train I realised my chances of getting very far and surviving were limited. The slipstream either drew me in or pushed me off the road, so I stuck to town and the quiet roads. The second day I capitulated and hired a car to visit the mining hamlets of Marvel Loch and Bullfinch, both seeming to have shut down since the 1980s. I visited the shire for some tourist info and saw a name I recalled on the councillor list, does he still work for Western Power I asked, yes and here's his phone number. I rang my workmate of 31 years ago and went to the officer to say hello. I found the electrical equipment and security had been updated but the rather ramshackle iron and asbestos office was unchanged. My friend was now in charge, all the other workers from my time having moved on.

My drive was notable because it reminded me of the strange weather one encountered in the bush. I was heading south at around 80 kph and away to my right was an enormous dust cloud, a few km and it was still there, it was travelling as fast as me! Then the road curved to the right and suddenly I was in the middle of it, not just dust but heavy rain, wind and the visibility going from zero to enough to drive slowly. A few minutes later I was through it and the sky was clear again, A very dirty car the only evidence of my experience. I was thankful I had not taken the bike!

The town itself seemed quite civilised with trees, grass, and even kerbs. I had memories of feeling very isolated, I was glad to move on, even though I was missing a possible golf game on oiled sand!



Back on the train and I was in Kalgoorlie. My recollections were of a sleepy 'wild west' town that prided itself on it's lack of traffic lights and primitive facilities. Instead I found a busy city. Well! it must be a city, there's now a McDonalds, traffic lights and, would you believe a Dome coffee

house, so a city slicker can feel at home. I went to the only youth hostel, on Hay St and just up the road from the houses of ill repute.

to be continued ...



*A dust storm enroute to Yellowdine (above), and some bush humour (below left)*

## RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS SOUGHT BY THE UNIVERSITY of WA

Researchers from the University of Western Australia are seeking people over the age of 40 to become members of the West Australian Participant Pool (WAPP). WAPP members will be invited to participate in a wide variety of studies being conducted by the Psychology Department of UWA. We investigate not only the psychological changes which occur in healthy ageing, but also those that come with common diseases of ageing such as obstructive sleep apnoea, dementia, or stroke.

Research is conducted by clinical students from the School of Psychology at the University of Western Australia (UWA), working with Prof. Romola S. Bucks and Assoc/Prof. Michael Weinborn. We are currently studying a process called prospective memory, or 'remembering to remember'. Often, during the day, we make plans that we have to remember to carry out later on. For example, you need to remember to pick up a litre of milk on the way home. First, you would need to store this in your memory. Then, on the way home, you would need to notice when you go past the shops and remember that you had to pick up the milk. Our prospective memory research may lead to earlier diagnosis of dementia and may be useful in predicting the ability to live independently into older age.

Participation would involve filling out some questionnaires at home and then participating in a single session at UWA in which tasks measuring remembering to remember are completed. We can arrange parking, and will cover reasonable travel costs. Your assistance with this research will enable us to greatly extend knowledge of how prospective memory works.

Previous participants have reported finding the experience very interesting and enjoyable. We would like to highlight that all participant details are kept completely confidential.

Participation remains voluntary at all times and can take place at the university, by phone, by mail, over the internet, or by a combination of methods.

So to keep your mind active and contribute to important research on aging please contact Talitha Lowndes on 08 6488 7342 or email [wapp-psy@uwa.edu.au](mailto:wapp-psy@uwa.edu.au)