



Not The Spoken Word

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

Ted Ryko and Turner Cycles

Ted Ryko (born Eddie Reichebach) first came to public attention when he broke the longstanding Darwin to Adelaide cycling record in 1914. Already a widely travelled cyclist he was inspired by Francis Birtle's rides to have a crack at the record set by Albert McDonald in 1898. In May 1914 Edward Reichenbach, 'Ryko', together with his mate John Fahey left the Adelaide Post Office.

Fahey was a casualty, retiring from the ride near the SA/NT border with a sprained ankle, leaving the 21 year old Ryko to complete the ride solo.

Ted's 28 day 7 minute ride bested McDonald's effort by 15 hours.

Ryko was an accomplished photographer and took about 200 photos of his journey using the newly available Kodak camera. He eventually set up a photography business in Darwin and travelled all over the Northern Territory, by bicycle, documenting many aspects of Territory life.

Following his retirement he was diagnosed with Parkinson's and died aged 76 in the town of his birth, Nhill, in Victoria.

I was contacted a few weeks ago by Ted's granddaughter, Michele Adler. It seems that I owned the only known Turner bicycle in Australia. Michele was here in WA on holiday and wanted to see my Turner because Ted had ridden one on his epic journey in 1914. He was also sponsored by Turner bicycles. His trip it is detailed

in Jim Fitzpatrick's "Wheeling Matilda". There are also a number of accounts on the web.

After several meetings we had established that my Turner was probably made in Australia and not by one of the 17 Turner manufacturers in the UK. Michele had discovered that there was a Turner manufacturing

bikes in Australia. I had contacted the English Cycling museum and their Turner expert did not recognise it at all. It was also of the same vintage and appeared very similar to Ted's bike.

Ted used Dunlop thorn-proof tyres and had very few punctures on the trip.

Michele and her partner are going to make a film about Ted and, although they already have a Turner copy, wanted a second bike because the trip was partly done by two riders; Ryko and Fahey.

A deal was struck and Michele took the bike to the airport where it was to be boxed up ready to accompany them home.

Ted's photos are at present in the NT museum and the museum are passing them on so that a bigger and better feature of Ted's ride can be displayed.

Not only will there be a film but the bikes and all of Ted's photos will be displayed in a museum in the east.

When the film is made I hope to have a copy so that we can show it at a club meeting.

Malcolm Buckland



Club Calendar

Meeting & Speaker - Monday Aug 15th 7.30pm

Club member Adrian Emilsen, proprietor of Melody Wheels, will speak about significant developments in bike hubs and wheels focussing on the past 3 decades. Ardross Clubroom

Ride - Coolgardie to Ora Banda Aug 17th - 21st

Contact Glenn Huffer 0438 983 826

Meeting - Monday Sep 19th 7.30pm

Ardross Clubroom

Sunday October 9th - Display

Kalamunda Districts Historical Society

The club has accepted an invitation to attend the Vintage Open Day to celebrate the history of the shire at the museum site. Club members have been asked to wear period costume. Details Merv Thompson 94502579

Sunday October 9th - Beverley Heroic

Endurance riding on vintage bikes in the inner whetbelt celebrating the Beverley to Perth Race heritage, 50 and 100 mile

options - theheroic.com.au

Meeting - Monday Oct 17th 7.30pm

Ardross Clubroom

Dear Members

Just this week I was poking through my late mothers "bits and pieces" and I was very excited to have found a cycling medal awarded to my late father. My father farmed at Morbinning which is east of Beverley. The properties were almost in the centre of the triangle York, Beverley and Quairading. I grew up there and have many wonderful memories.

The medal is a circle with a ring of dark blue on the outer edge and a raised figure of a man on a bicycle. On the outer blue circle is "Beverley-Perth Race". On the reverse side it is engraved. "7hrs, 3 mins, 24 secs" F. Blechynden 1941.

He was 16 years of age. Prior to commencing the race, he had ridden his bike 20 miles on the most inhospitable of roads (my memories of the corrugations are most vivid) to get to the starting line. Goodness knows if the route was in the same condition as the 20 miles from the farm to Beverley. Perhaps you may have a record of where the route passed. I do wonder how many of the riders actually finished the race. The medal was awarded to my father as he was the youngest rider in the race.

Sadly my father passed away in 1977 at the age of 52. He was in a racing car on the speedway circuit at Mt Barker and had a heart attack. I watch most bike races on telly and in particular Tour de France. My father often spoke of Peter Pantin and I had the pleasure of meeting Mr Charlie Walsh who I believe has been involved with Australia's Olympic Cycling Team.

Congratulations on the wonderful work you all do to keep history alive. When I read of your trip to Beverley it bought a smile to my face. The aeroplane from the Museum was built

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by Mr Selby Ford who owned the local power station. The plane is now with the son of one of our former neighbours and I believe it is intended to have the plane fly again.

Thank you for the opportunity to be able to drop you a line and hopefully you may be able to give me some insight into where the Beverley to Perth route passed and also whether or not riders are still being searched for!!

Kate Blechynden via email

A Lucky Find

Not long after returning from the south west Tweed Ride club event at Albany, I received an unexpected phone call from a friend whose father owned a penny farthing some fifteen or twenty years ago. I knew about the bike but it was not for sale and I had lost contact with the owner when he moved overseas.

The phone was still hot when I drove to meet his son to inspect the penny farthing. Unfortunately it had been involved in an accident. The moustache handlebars were bent and one of the wooden handgrips was missing. A bent crank indicated a heavy fall. Repairs had been made to the steel seat frame but the leather saddle was torn beyond repair. The hollow rim front wheel was slightly distorted but repairable and damaged pedals needed replacing.

Following an amicable discussion of cost of original and rebuilt penny farthing prices a price was agreed on and I became the proud new owner.

Two days later I couldn't keep the secret from my sons any longer.

"Peter" I said, "I've got some good news!"

Before I could continue Peter replied "I know, you've just bought another penny farthing"

"Where did you get that information from?"

"There was a photo of it on Facebook" came the answer.

"How do you know it's mine?"

"Because it's your numberplate in the picture, and your home-made penny farthing bike carrier"

It appears that during my return journey in peak period traffic some driver had photographed the bike and put it on Facebook.

Recent research has revealed its origins. It is a Pilot made by Hickling and Co. In Maiden Head, England circa 1890.

More on its restoration later.

Merv Thompson

For Sale

• Swansea 2 swan ladies cycle 1945 complete with good Lemet Wiset saddle, backpedal brake, mudguards and rear rack. Tyres even pump up. \$195

• Northam 1940s gents cycle complete with SA 3 speed hubgear (1956) and a cam brake. (One rim needs replacing) \$150

The following SA hubgears were collected by a former member and are in VGC. (A brake plus 3 speed would make the Swansea a nice usable ladies cycle..)

• K4 3 speed hub 1934 with lever \$75

• KS4 3 speed close ratio 1938 complete with wing nuts and changer \$100

• AC3 alloy hub 1951 complete with changer & 4 wing nuts etc. \$125

Contact Mal Buckland - 95279427 or bucklandm@westnet.com.au