



# Not The Spoken Word

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

## '84 Westral Penny Farthing Race

I noted with interest the article on Penny Farthing restoration in the last issue of NTSW; it reminded me of my own penny farthing which sadly I no longer have; it was sold to the Boston Veteran Cycle Club in Lincolnshire UK many years ago.

I bought it in 1968 for five pounds from an old man who had owned it for years in the village of Great Oakley and it was in a bad state. He said it had belonged to Tommy Clough who was a penny farthing champion of Northamptonshire 1890's. The machine was a 48 inch and was made in Beeston Nottingham.

There was also a 54 inch machine of Tommy's which used to hang in a showroom of a car dealer in Kettering.

I reconditioned it as I was an apprentice fitter and turner I had access to the right tools.

It took up a whole bedroom, and after pestering from my mother I sold it on to the Boston club for seventy pounds in 1971. It's probably the worst thing I've ever parted with and I have regretted the sale ever since.

In 1984 a penny farthing race was run in conjunction with the Westral Race at Midland Oval. Steele Bishop won the Westral, his last race before retirement. A bunch of penny farthings were brought over from the York Museum for the event though some riders like Rick Churchill had their own machines. I selected a 48 inch model and won the Penny Farthing event. I was an experienced rider of these machines and had no problem in beating the other professional riders to take the trophy, which, unlike my penny, I still have.

*Alan Johnson*

*picture;  
Alan with his borrowed penny and trophy at  
Midland, more photos on the club website.*

## A Plaintive Cry

Club membership fees are due on May 1st every year. Surprised? No doubt! We've become habituated to the idea that they're due at the Annual General Meeting in June. In fact the club's constitution provides for the payment to occur well in advance of the meeting to ensure we have sufficient members for a quorum at the meeting. The club fee remains a pittance at a mere \$25.00.

Committee positions, including that of treasurer are voluntary. The treasurer's work is made significantly easier by members;

- remitting their fees in a timely manner;
- ensuring that they note their name with the payment.

A renewal form has been included with this newsletter. You have been told!



# Club Calendar

## Meeting - May 15th 7:30pm

Ardross Clubroom.

## AGM & Auction - June 19th 7:30pm

Check the club website for detail on the lots being offered - bikes and parts, some as old as 1900. Ardross Clubroom.

## Meeting - July 15th 7:30pm

Ardross Clubroom.

## Meeting - August 15th 7:30pm

Ardross Clubroom.

## Meeting - September 15th 7:30pm

Ardross Clubroom.

## Meeting - October 15th 7:30pm

Ardross Clubroom.

## Sun 24 Sep 2017 10:00am (unconfirmed)

Ride - Whiteman Park

Revolutions Transport Museum, Whiteman.

## Wed 11 Oct 2017 06:30am (unconfirmed)

Display - Ride2Work Day

Elizabeth Quay, Perth

## For Sale

### Dutch 'Everdure'

very upright bike. beautiful quiet ride, fully restored fitted with 8 speed Sturmey Archer hub gears, Sachs front drum brake, 700c alloy wheels and new tyres. restorations cost over \$500. large frame, suit long legs! \$200

email Alan Naber for photos; oldcyclist@iinet.net.au

phone 0415 873 862

### Carbide Lamps

Merv Thompson has a number of carbide headlamps for sale at various prices depending on condition.

phone 0894502579

Western Australian Historical Cycle Club Inc.

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President: Robert Frith

Vice President: Merv Thompson

Treasurer: Malcolm Bell

Secretary: Robert Hunt

Committee Members: Malcolm Buckland

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.

## Western Australian bicycle numberplates

A few club members have a numberplate or two hanging around. If they're still hanging off a bike they could help establish the bike's age.

The earliest WA plates go back to the turn of last century. These Cue Road Board plates were designed to wrap around the bike headtube.



Most plates are more conventional, smaller than car plates but otherwise similar in appearance. Rumour has it they first appeared around 1911. The following partial list of number plate issue dates was compiled by Merv Thompson.

- 1939 white on red
- 1940 black on yellow
- 1949 black on yellow
- 1951 white on blue
- 1954 black on yellow
- 1955 silver on green
- 1956 black on silver
- 1957 white on blue
- 1960 black on yellow
- 1961 silver on green
- 1962 black on silver
- 1963 white on blue

