



Presidents Prattle

Welcome to my first prattle as the new president of that impressive institution, The Warragul Cycling Club! This year's committee has a very "fresh" look with a couple of long serving members having a (? temporary) break from the coalface. Fortunately the club is in good shape after a very big year, which included running the World Masters road cycling races, the Country and Metropolitan Championships as well as the usual stage in the Three Day Tour of Gippsland.

The major focus of the new team will remain to provide and promote the type of road and track racing that members want and to run a successful track carnival. One new innovation will be an impressive new club web page, which has been created by Justen O'Connor, where race fixtures, points, race reports etc can be viewed. Also revealed is Shane Stiles new secret weapon (Russian coach).

Besides being very useful for the members it will, I think provide us with extra competitors/members to help fill the occasional gaps that appear in some grades from time to time.

Now that the worst (hopefully) of winter is past and more kilometres can be clocked up, lets also make sure we inconvenience other road users as little as possible. Hopefully we can avoid the restrictions other clubs have had to face in running races.

Committee meetings are now held at the Clubrooms 7:30 pm on the second Thursday of the month and all members are welcome to attend.

Safe riding

Steve Hall, President

Committee 2003-2004

The following were elected at the Annual General Meeting held on 24th July 2003:

- President Steve Hall
- Vice President Chris Jones
- Secretary Ian Walk
- Treasurer Glenda de Blauw
- Race Organiser Murray Fenwick & Bill Frew
- Facilities Chris Jones
- Junior Development Ross Henry & Steve Evans
- Membership Murray Fenwick
- Newsletter Ian de Bruyne
- Social Bill Frew
- News report & scoring Junten O'Connor
- Committee member Shane Stiles

In accordance with our Charter the Committee resolved the following:

Racing fees	\$1juniors	\$5 adult (incJ19)
Membership	\$35 family	\$25 seniors \$13 juniors

On behalf of the Club the Committee would like to thank in particular Karin Jones for her dedicated services as Club secretary for four continuous terms. Karin has been instrumental in instigating and organising many interesting events and occasions for the betterment of the Club.

Warragul Cycling Club Website

Through the initiative from Junten O'Connor and the hours Justen and Shane spent in front of their computers we now have a very professional and informative website. As with all websites it has to be kept updated with current information. Help Justen keep our site fresh and current by submitting relevant and interesting articles, photographs etc on a regular basis. Check out our website:

<http://www-personal.monash.edu.au/~joconnor/>

Briefly the items the site covers are: Club contacts and sponsors, race fixtures, season's race points table, photo, junior section and other relevant information. It also contains reprints of our weekly newspaper race reports and our monthly Club Newsletters.

Diary Dates

1. Tour of Latrobe Valley 20th August 2003
2. Road Racing – Picnic Point 23rd August 2003
3. Road Racing – Lilloco 30th August 2003
4. Road Racing – Cloverlea 6th September 2003
5. 2003 Aust Masters Track Champs 5th, 6th & 7th Sept 2003
6. No Road Racing 13th September 2003

7. Melbourne Ballarat 13th September 2003
8. State Team Time Trial 14th September 2003
9. Road Racing – Picnic Point 20th September 2003
10. Junior Development Camp Rowsley 22nd - 24th September 2003
11. Road Racing – Cloverlea 27th September 2003
12. Baw Baw Classic 4th October 2003
13. Vic Schools Championships Zone final 10th October 2003
14. Road Racing – Cloverlea 11th October 2003
15. Road Racing – Lilloco 18th October 2003
16. Herald Sun Tour 16th to 26th October 2003
17. Vic School Championship Final 18th October 2003
18. Ride with the Champs, Buninyong 26th October 2003

From the Secretary's In Tray

- Victorian Schools Championships 2003 – Gippsland Zone Final, Friday 10th October 2003, Shady Creek Rd Darnum, Time Trial and MTB events. Cost \$9. State Final, Saturday 18th October 2003, Eastern Park, Geelong, no cost to qualifiers. Contact Kerrie Baumgartner on 0393284391 or on e-mail: kerrie.baumgartner@viccycle.com.au
- CSV Junior Development Camp, Rowsley – for cyclist under 16years, any level or ability, road & track. \$225pp inc 2nights accommodation, 6 meals, coaching, camp manual and heaps of fun. Enquiries to Amy McCann 0393284391 or e-mail: amy.mccann@viccycle.com.au
- Caribou Publications Ride With the Champions, Buninyong – for all ages, distances 10km, 30km and 40km. Entry fees \$25 adults \$5 for juniors 13 to 16 yrs, free for juniors 12yrs and under, Family \$40 for two adults and two or more children. Enquires 0352242466. Website: www.caribou.net.au
- Cycling Australia "Full Cycle" Business Plan – initiatives developed CA to work in partnership with Govt and the Corporate sector to help boost grass roots participation in cycling. It will leverage regional and club networks that currently exist to create three new membership classes and associated participation under the banner of "Full Cycle. Contact Secretary Ian 0411637744 for details.

Road Racing Calendar

The road-racing calendar to mid January 2004 has been drafted and e-mailed. Check it out on our very new website <http://www-personal.monash.edu.au/~joconnor/>. Queries to Murray, 56232398

Wanted: your e-mail address

There are many members who have not confirmed their e-mail address by e-mailing warragulcyclingclub@hotmail.com Please attend to this as soon as possible. This will make it easier and less costly for the Committee to communicate with the membership. Thanks.

Club Racing - Season Points

Placings for the first five placings up to the 16th of August 2003 are:

A Grade

Keeble Scott	25
Sandner Thomas	19
Fenwick Murray	15
Rowse Paul	15
Thomson Geoff	10

B Grade

Henry Ross	17
Brown Colin	11
Beales Chris	8
Malacarne Mathew	8
Lee Tim	5

C Grade

Henry James	22
Rob Monk	20
Pridmore Michael	20
Hanley Monique	13
de Bruyne Ian	12

D Grade

Fisher Kym	23
Pridmore Glenda	15



Atkinson Rod	13
Pridmore Brendan	8

Justen O'Connor on 56221681 or the website for further details.

2003 Baw Baw Classic.

This year sees the third annual Baw Baw Classic, as a Category 2 National Road Series event as well as being a Victorian Championship event. The influx of interstate riders should swell the numbers to well over the 100, with a large participation of riders from the Warragul Cycling Club, who have been training keenly to just try and finish this ultimate event.

This year the Baw Baw Shire Council has donated a perpetual trophy to the winning A Grade ride. There will also be trophies for each grade winner and medals to all riders who finish the event.

There will also be, hesitantly I must admit, a time cut off period at certain points along the way. I say hesitantly because the event has always been a challenge to finish. It's too early to say who will be entering, but with the race one week before the 'Bool' and two weeks before the Sun Tour, I'd say we might get some named riders.

The race route will be the same as last year with A Grade men doing a short trip around Jindivick before heading back on the main race route at Neerim South. The only sprint will be in Noojee and Vespers Hill will be the only KOM.

The Baw Baw Classic will also go under some major change next year – 2004. The event will be moved to the last weekend in April. This I hope will be in warmer weather. Also it will be at the start of the season when everyone is fit and keen for a challenge.

I must at this stage thank the Warragul Cycling Club for their help on this event, to those who will help driving lead and spares vehicles, without this help the event wouldn't be where it is today.

Chris Beales.

NB: The Baw Baw Time Trial has been cancelled, however the Baw Baw Classic is as scheduled for Saturday 4th October 2003.

Racing Achievements

Over the weekend of the 16th and 17th July 2003 James Henry, Brenton and Jarryd Jones represented the Club at the Victorian Time Trial and Road Championships in Wangaratta.

Jarryd finished 4th in the M11 4km Time Trial finished 8th in the road race. Brenton placed 4th in the 8km M13 time trial. James placed in 8th position in the M15 time trial with less than one minute separating 1st to 10th.

Jarryd was first again to head off in his 10km Road Race with fourteen keen 9 and 10year olds. Unfortunately Jarryd missed the break in which five riders got away and battled for the placings. Jarryd finished a credible 6th, a fantastic effort considering he has not raced since the track season.

James was next to head out on a tough 29km circuit with twenty-four very seasoned competitors. James also missed the break on a tough hill and although tried very hard to chase them down finished in 10th position. Great effort James!

Brenton was last to head off on his M13 15km circuit with seventeen fellow competitors and unlike his two fellow club mates was able to break away with four other top-level riders. They were able to hold off their rivals and battle out for the final placings, which saw Brenton out sprint all but one to finish 2nd and bring home the silver medal. Also a fantastic effort considering he was relying on his soccer fitness to get him there.

We were very proud of these three boys who represented our Club with pride. It would be great to see a few more of our juniors out there having a go and enjoying the weekend.

Joel Pearson was selected by the VIS to represent the Australian U23 team in the prestigious eight day Lakes Tour in China. Dave Sanders (VIS coach) advises that the Tour it is a high altitude international tour.

Karin Jones

Monique's and Harry's TDF Diary - Epilogue

'Hmmp! Tres Courage!' was the common expression the French folk would say to me after I had painfully explained in French that yes, I was following the Tour de France route by bicycle; yes, that was my tent in my backpack; yes, its a long way and its bloody hot; yes, I don't have a lot of luggage to carry considering I am fully-loaded; yes, some people in Australia speak French but I am not one of them; and yes, I am doing this trip entirely on my own. The look on their faces - a mixture of surprise, part disbelief, pride (for someone to undertake a French-based pilgrimage) and admiration, was something I never tired from. I did, however, tire immensely from the standard follow-up joke from the French asking whether or not it was difficult cycling across the ocean to get to France. Ha Ha.

Spurred on from being extremely bored at work one day, I decided that in its centenary year, the Tour de France would be a prime opportunity to cash in on the many hot, single guys that are sure to follow the TdF route in their hundreds. I was somewhat surprised to find that for the first ten days of my journey, which took me from Paris to Bourg D'Oisans via Chateau Thierry, St Dizier, Troyes, Nevers, Lyon, Annecy, Albertville, Col du Telegraphe and Col du Galibier (at 2,645m alt), I saw, or was passed by NO-ONE on their fully-loaded touring bicycles undertaking a similar journey. It didn't matter though, the 600,000 folk on Alpe d'Huez kind of made up for the isolation in the early part of the trip.

I was fortunate enough to watch le Tour pass me by everyday from Stage 8 until Stage 17, which took me through the Pyrenees and up some terrifically tough climbs before finishing the journey some 2,660km later in Bordeaux. I slept in vacant farmhouses, in backyards, beside the road halfway up mountains, municipal campgrounds and the occasional hotel, but declined an offer to sleep in the 'devil-mobile'. I lived off demi-baguettes and cheese, sometimes with a tomato. I learnt that no matter which of the 350 cheeses France produces you may buy, they all smell really bad if you leave them in your pack all day in 35oC heat. I overheated my insulin on more than a few occasions and sometimes found myself weaving all over the road from low blood sugar. I met Michael Rogers and told him that I planned to paint 'Roger this Col' on the next mountain pass I came across. I am still not sure why I told him that. And I had the pleasure of being decked by a French driver who decided that not understanding his barrage of abuse was simply not good enough. I learnt it is difficult to defend yourself while wearing cycling shoes and with a 27kg bike with baggage lying on top of you.

But, every single morning when I carefully packed everything back onto the bike and would set off for the day, I was always blessed with an enormous feeling of freedom. I never knew where I would finish my day, where I would be sleeping, who I would meet, and what the road surface would be like. 'Tres Courage', but an awesome adventure.

Monique Hanley <http://moniquehanley.com>

For Sale

2002 Toyota RAV 4 Advantage 4WD wagon, low mileage, manual, air condition, full electrics, dual airbags, alloy wheels, bulbar, tow bar, Thule roof bars, rear seats fold or removable, fits full size bike in the back, long registration and RWC. \$26,500. E-mail bhbowyer@yahoo.com.au for photos, or ph 0356681464 for further enquires.