



CTA 2021 AGM Presidents Report – Stuart Crombie

What a year! Without a doubt, Covid 19 was THE defining event of 2020. Covid effects on the CTAWA were thankfully manageable as most of our activities occur outside and are naturally socially distanced (nobody should be riding too close to the person in front).

The twice weekly short day rides continued for most of the year with only a short break in March and April at the height of the lockdown. Riders who did get out on their own at this time were impressed by the large numbers of new riders from tots on trainer wheels to would-be road junkies on the bike paths during the lockdown. Let us hope that this cycling resurgence continues long after Covid is a memory.

Covid restrictions eased in time for the Tiny Towns On Your Bike Tour to have planning completed by mid-year and then to be run superbly by Trevor and his OYB committee in October. The OYB in 2020 was a more informal and chummy affair than usual as riders from interstate and overseas were missing. Many members would be unaware of how hard the OYB committee had to work, and the substantial financial and legal responsibilities they negotiated through the months of uncertainty leading up to the Tiny Towns Tour for that event to happen. If you get a chance, bump elbows with an OYB committee member and thank them for their efforts.

Rita's Retiree's Spoke Tour at Busselton was an outstanding success. I didn't see an unhappy face on the road or around the camp during this week-long event even when the wind blew for days and Rita made sure that the easy/moderate/fast rides arranged for each day included at least one hill. Our overnight rides during the year were Kleber's Serpentine Falls camp and Liz's Kepping to Northam, both well attended and enjoyed. Small groups headed off on their own; four intrepid souls headed to the Gibb River Road (the two ladies rode it without a worry, the two blokes had to call for the sag wagon), Kallbarri and the Mundibiddi. One rider even started the inland route from Broome to Mount Augustus but wisely pulled the pin when the temperature hit an unseasonal 40 C in early spring.

Your club is running smoothly and I thank the lovely people of the CTAWA committee for making this happen. While we spent significant time making sure that the club activities were compliant with Covid 19 regulations, normal activities continued including the adoption of a revised club jersey, an updating of the format and use of digital communications in the forms of emails, the online newsletter and Facebook, running a near-normal series of social nights and lunches and planning and running day rides, achievement rides and longer tours. A special thanks to club secretary Doug for keeping our records straight and for fielding an increasing number of contacts from private individuals and cycling groups seeking touring advice or wanting to link with the CTAWA in various activities. Also, club finances are in a happy place due to the effective, some would say cruel, budget discipline wielded by the respective treasurers of the CTAWA and of the On Your Bike organising subcommittee. Sadly, we said 'Farewell' to our Vice-President and long-term CTAWA identity Arie early in the year. We welcomed David as our new Vice-President thereafter.



Club membership increased slightly over the previous year and the numbers of riders participating in short day rides are well up on previous years. More than twenty riders on a day are not unusual now. Feedback has been that many new members joined expressly because of the friendly and non-competitive culture of the CTAWA. We are seen as welcoming people at all levels of ability and as having rides catering to day trippers through to months-long epics. Importantly, we are relied on to run safe and enjoyable rides without being overly bureaucratic. This is a great endorsement of our club.

I would ask you, as we ride into the bright dawn of cycling in 2021, to consider what you would like your CTAWA to be in 1, 2, or even 5 years. Should we try to stay the same size and run similar events to what we are doing now? Or naim to double our membership or put more effort into recruiting younger members? Run a greater range of daily and longer rides or encourage more mountain biking/Audax or mass rides, expand the services to members (e.g. greater advocacy at state and federal levels, expand the range of bike paraphernalia for sale), expand OYB to be similar to the Great Victorian Bike Ride and so on. If you have ideas please feel free to approach a committee member and your co-riders to discuss them to see what might be done.

Regards, and thankyou for supporting the Cycle Touring Association of WA through this difficult year,

Stuart