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CYCLE TOURING ASSOCIATION

OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (INC)

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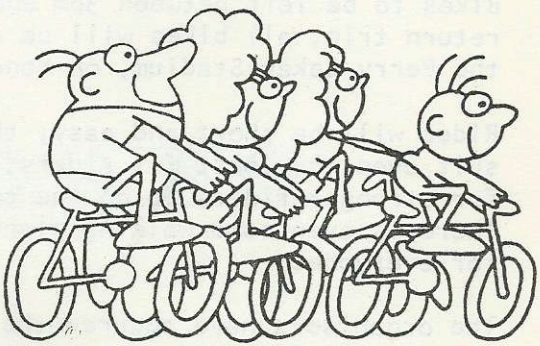


CORRESPONDENCE

31 Bruton Street
BALCATTA 6021

"THE CYCLISTS' ASSOCIATION FOSTERING
CYCLE TOURING AND PROTECTING THE
INTERESTS OF CYCLISTS"

Newsletter No 28
March/April 1979

HARVEY BIKE-A-BOUT

Remember the Busselton Bike-a-bout in September last year? According to those who went along, it was a fantastic success. For early March, the "Life. Be in it" team has organised another Bike-a-bout, this time in the Harvey area. This event is expected to draw large crowds, and in view of the CTA's rising membership, we sincerely hope that it will be more than well represented.

The official meeting point for the Bike-a-bout is the Harvey oval by 11.00am on the morning of Saturday March 10. It is assumed that participants can find their own way to Harvey by this time. The organisers have arranged bike transport for those who cannot carry their own cycles; pick-up points will be - Perry Lakes Stadium, Belmont Forum Shopping Centre and North Lake High School. Bikes to be left between 3pm and 6pm Friday. After the return trip, all bikes will be available for pick-up at the Perry Lakes Stadium, on Monday March 12 BY 7.00pm.

Rides will be short and easy; they have been planned to suit even the least fit riders, with the possibility for stronger riders to do the course more than once. There is even some walking planned, so there's something for everyone.

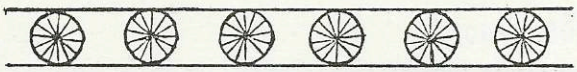
The organisers have secured the use of the Harvey oval as a camping ground and entertainment (dancing, films) will be provided on the Saturday evening. The cost of the weekend (including bike transport, camping fees and entertainment) is $5.00 for adults and $3.00 for children under 16. Participants must provide their own food, first aid, and camping requirements. Cheap barbecue packs will be available.

Newsletters posted to members include an entry form. If you picked up a newsletter from a shop, entry forms will be available directly from "Life. Be in it" (Perry Lakes Stadium) or in the February 17 and 24 editions of

the 'West Australian'.

Entries close last mail, Friday March 2.

So, CTA members, let's all meet in Harvey for a weekend of fun and fitness. Life. Let's all be in it!



FIRST AID ON RIDES

by Nicole Harrison

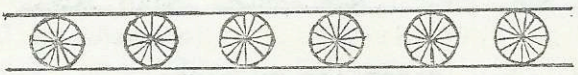
The importance of a good first aid kit has been emphasized time and time again, as it is most crucial to the continued success of bicycle tours. A tour can be completely destroyed by even a slight accident to one cyclist, if there is not the material to patch grazes, cuts, burns, etc.

It is easy to carry basic first aid material, even with one's tool kit. I carry a pouch latched under my saddle, which contains my tool kit (puncture repair kit, allen keys, spanner, screw drivers, spare nuts and bolts), some coins for emergencies, a rag, and a reasonably 'complete' first aid set-up. This includes: a packet of assorted-sized band-aids, a small roll of gauze bandage, a tube of antiseptic ointment, a pair of very small scissors, a few cotton balls and a clean "Chux" cloth. For long tours which involve luggage, I also pack an elastic bandage, some bandaging tape and some "deep heat" ointment.

The CTA does carry a comprehensive first aid kit on tours when a vehicle escort is provided. However, it is obvious that a large box cannot be easily carried by a single cyclist. It is therefore essential that each

member be equipped to cope with basic medical emergencies for himself, or to help other riders.

In early March, CTA members will take part in the "Life. Be in it" excursion, "Bike-a-bout". The committee appeals to all members to be equipped for first aid, to help themselves or others if the need should arise.



A MEMORABLE TRIP TO THE CYCLE FAMILY DAWES

by Jim Harwood

Having been a rider and lover of the Dawes Cycles for some years and as their representative here, it was my firm intention to pay them a visit when the day came for me to retire from my cycle shop.

I was fortunate in this coming about late last year when I found a suitable successor to take over in Jim Mathews. Having safely installed Jim and taken leave from my family, my wife and I proceeded forth to the "Old Country" with a visit to Dawes being high on our list of priorities.

Whilst visiting Oxford, arrangements were made with Rob Campbell, Managing Director of Dawes for our visit and he very kindly met us at the railway station in Birmingham. He experienced no trouble in recognising a tall, tanned Aussie and wife and we were quickly whisked away to our hotel some few minutes out of the city.

During a very nice dinner, we arranged to visit the works the following morning and our host most kindly called for us next day and our long awaited visit commenced.

Dawes have been hand-making bicycles since 1926 and the factory bears testimony to a very long bicycle association. The building housing the factory is old as one would expect; no tinsel, fibreglass or plastic here, but a team of dedicated craftsmen, many of whom have been with the firm for thirty years or more, all happily working together.

The workshop manager was detailed to "show us over" through all the various departments and we were fascinated to start with the frame builders, carefully noting their welding techniques, the clean precise mitring of the tubes which are hand polished to ensure quality brazing.

After the frame is built, it is carefully checked for angles and trueness to ensure perfect alignment and is then hand-buffed to ensure a perfect surface for painting.

We watched the frames receiving their rust-proofing primer and top coats and finally the clear lacquer varnish finish and ultimately the lug work, hand decorated with gold lining by two girls.

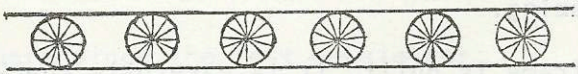
Each cycle we noted was built by one man and this is carefully recorded to preserve quality control and in this way it was obvious that there was a feeling of satisfaction amongst all the craftsmen and no chance of boredom occurring.

We met the wheel builders, the packers, bar tapers and the final tuner, who happened to be a loyal and devoted CTC cyclist - boy, does he know his stuff! I can assure you all, that every cycle that leaves his hands, handles, performs and is finished to perfection.

After our tour, we lunched with the Managing Director and Richard Dawes - a young Director and third generation of the company and we discovered to our

pleasure that Richard knows Perth and Geraldton, in particular, very well as during a working holiday in Australia some years previously he had worked at various jobs in both cities.

Our genial host finally safely delivered us back to the main station at Birmingham where we parted, feeling happy that we had discovered the heart of Dawes and had confirmed our ourselves that the great bicycles are truly hand made and really do live up to their tradition of being of the finest quality and are made by enthusiasts for enthusiasts.



ODDS AND ENDS

There is a new Bike Hire system in Kings Park. Organiser, Geoff Edwards has a growing fleet of family bikes, 10-speeds, tandems and children's bikes. Hiring costs are reasonable, and bikes are in A-1 condition. A good opportunity to join in our Kings Park rides, even if you don't own a cycle.

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In case you didn't find it, the hidden message in the game included in the last newsletter was "Cycling is fun". There was unfortunately a misprint in the word list ('paniers' should have read 'panier') and two occurrences of the words 'rim' and 'cap'; the diagonal 'rim' (from line 2) and the vertical 'cap' (from line 4) were the correct ones.

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This month, a number of members have received membership cards without the protective wallets normally issued with them. We are at present out of wallets, but the secretary will be happy to supply them to members who request them when they become available.

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At the last CTA camping weekend (Bunbury, 27 - 29 Jan.) there were 7 women and 9 men. Long-time members can easily recall tours with dismal ratios of 10 men to 1 woman, or to none at all. Seven women; a good sign surely that the CTA outings are really suited to everyone!

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No one would have believed it!! Last year we were amazed to find 17 riders 'crazy' enough to join a ride at 3.30am; this year we were 39!! The sight of such a throng of cyclists spread out along Karrinyup Road in the middle of the night was awesome indeed, and some motorists must still be wondering just what was in the punch at that party. Both the ride and the swim which followed, went off without problems, and thanks again to Dale and Margaret Neill who served breakfast to this hungry mob at 6:30am at the conclusion of the ride.

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Concerned by the snail's pace of bicycle planning in WA and offended by the second-class status accorded to cyclists on our roads, a few bike enthusiasts have formed the Cyclists' Action Group to lobby for improved cycling conditions. Enquiries to Annette Horsler or Bruce Robinson (384 7409).

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The Energy Advisory Council of the SEC recently called for submissions from the public on "Energy Use in Transport". This provided cyclists a golden opportunity to say that cycling is a practical means of transport which doesn't need any imported oil, and that encouraging cycling will help save our dwindling supplies of petrol. The CTA, the Conservation Council of WA and the Cyclists' Action Group have all handed in submissions presenting this point of view. Copies of these submissions are available from Dale Neill (447 8168) or Bruce Robinson (384 7409).

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New members since the last newsletter:

C and A Andrews
The Barnacle Family
J Beatson
D Beckett
M Botros
The Brewster Family
A Clark
G Clark
The Dutton Family
The Gyford Family
B Harding
L Jee
M Johnson
The King Family
K Lang
L Moon
J Nabbs
The Neill Family
R Paddick
H Parry
C Pierce
S Pitchford
E Preiato
H Owens
B Robinson
E Sankey
E Segal
I Smith
D Strestik
R Swane-poel
J Tatian
D Tierney
J Turley
The Vernon Family
R Whitehead
J Williams

Welcome to all these new members and to any who may have joined since this newsletter was prepared. The CTA membership now stands at approximately 125, a very healthy figure indeed for the first quarter of the year.

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COMING EVENTS

Saturday 10 - Sunday 11 March — EASY RIDES

HARVEY BIKE-A-BOUT
See accompanying article.
CTA Contact - Nicole Harrison.

Sunday 18 March — 50km MOD. RIDE

50km ACHIEVEMENT RIDE
Meet at the Bibra Lake bar-b-cue area at 9am. Bring picnic lunch if you wish.
Certificates and badges will be issued to all entrants who complete the course in the 2½ hour time limit.
Entry Fee - $2.00.
Organiser - Matt King.

Sunday 25 March — 20km EASY RIDE

CYCLE AND CANOE RIDE
Meet at the Grove Shopping Centre at 2pm. Ride around the Peppermint Grove area, finishing up with a canoe ride at the Swan Canoe Club (Johnson Parade) as guests of club members.
Leader - Matt King.

Thursday 29 March

FLOREAT PARK AMATEUR CYCLING CLUB QUIZ NIGHT
Herdsman Hotel, 7.30pm. $2.00 per ticket.
Contact - Mrs Doreen Dovey (384 7987).

Sunday 1 April — 75km HARD RIDE

LION PARK RIDE
Meet at 8.30am at 31 Bruton Street, Balcatta.

Bring a picnic lunch.
Leader - Nicole Harrison.

Sunday 8 April — 20km EASY RIDE

ZOO - SOUTH PERTH
Meet at 10am at the karri log in Kings Park. Ride around South Perth and finish with a bar-b-cue lunch at the zoo. (Zoo admission will be charged).
Leader - Mike Brant.

Monday 16 April — 15km EASY RIDE

EASTER BUNNY TREASURE HUNT
Meet at 1pm at the Adventure Playground in Kings Park.
Leader - Matt King.

Saturday 21 - Sunday 22 April — 250km HARD RIDE

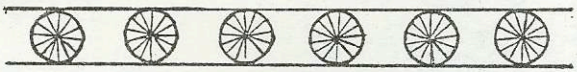
LANCELIN OVERNIGHT
By invitation from the Stirling Amateur Cycle Club. Meet at 31 Bruton Street, Balcatta at 8.30am. Bring food and sleeping bag. Overnight fee $2.00. Luggage transport can be arranged (ring a few days ahead).
Contact - Nicole Harrison (349 3589).

Friday 27 April

ANNUAL CYCLIST REUNION DINNER DANCE
Herdsman Hotel, 7pm. $10.50 per person.
Contact - Mrs Doreen Dovey (384 7987).

Sunday 29 April — 15km EASY RIDE

DALKEITH/CLAREMONT HISTORICAL TOUR
Meet at 136 Victoria Avenue, Dalkeith at 10.00am. Tour will include a visit to the Claremont "Depot" Museum (small fee will be charged).
Leader - Walter King.

Sunday 5 May — 40km HARD RIDE

LESMURDIE FALLS
Meet at Hartfield Park (Forrestfield) at 2.00pm.
Leader - Barry Harding.