



Unchained

Queensland's Big Wheel News #11
29 November 2013

There was a carnival atmosphere at the Einbunpin Lagoon in Sandgate on the afternoon of Saturday 23rd of November. A wonderful display of bikes courtesy of Lyle Paull set the scene and intrigued the many and curious onlookers.

A town crier, resplendent in robes of his office, paced the rotunda awaiting the delivery of the greetings from the Lord Mayor of Brisbane to the people of Sandgate.

The happy crowd continued to grow. Penny farthings, rovers, coventries – all types of bikes began to pour into the field. Cheers and greetings rang out. The riders who had come from Brisbane grinned, waved. They inspired everyone. It was exciting. The letter was delivered and the town crier shared the heartfelt greeting. (Full reports start page 3.)

Here it is – a big part of the stack 2013!! (More photos from page 3)



Photo by Vernia Bullivant

Club details

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Please note that the December 2013 meeting has been cancelled

Next QPFAHCC general meeting: Sunday 02 February 2014.

The venue is Dean Tummer's home at 1074 Karrabin-Rosewood Road, Rosewood.
8am for a leisurely (flat) ride, meeting and a barbecue lunch following.

Newsletter

This newsletter is published by the Qld Penny Farthing and Historical Cycle Club Inc. on an *ad hoc* basis. All issues of the newsletter are available online at the club's [website](#) and at www.janineprince.com/unchained.

Please send submissions to janine.e.r.prince@gmail.com

Next edition due mid December 2013. Editorship of this newsletter for 2014 is available. If you are interested, please contact Janine for more information.

News

- 🕒 The figures are in for this year's annual Penny Stack! 40 WOOHOO!
- 🕒 National Museum of Australia's "[Cycling in Australia](#)" is from their 'people in the environment' program. It is a great set of online pictures and stories.
- 🕒 James MacDonald, our dear friend fro Toowoomba, [featured in a recent issue of Australian Geographic](#)! In issue 116, there was a short article and some glossy photos about James and his pivotal role in retaining Australian bicycle history. Here's the full link: <http://www.australiangeographic.com.au/journal/bicycle-collector.htm>



James on his Moulton with China running alongside (© Australian Geographic 2013)

Pennies by the sea 23rd November 2013

The annual tradition of big and small wheels joining together for fun and display of our unique bicycles.

“Cycling History began in Queensland with the arrival of a shipment of tricycles in Brisbane from England in the 1870’s.

The first race reported to have taken place in Queensland, was between a cyclist on a tricycle and a Cobb & Co Coach, from Brisbane to Sandgate. Unfortunately the results were never recorded, because the Reporter forgot to file the result with the Editor of the newspaper of the time - The Moreton Bay Courier. The frame of the machine used in this race sat atop Reed’s Locksmith shop in Adelaide Street, Brisbane for many years.

The (former) Queensland Vintage Cycle Club, organised a re-enactment of this first cycle race, for the Centenary of Cycling in Queensland on 13th June 1993. A replica tricycle, built and ridden by Brett Richardson, raced an original Cobb & Co and a team of five horses driven by Stephen Ralph of the Teamsters Hall of Fame at the Glasshouse Mountains. The course for this race was from the Sandgate Post Office, to the Southbank Parklands in Brisbane. The tricycle completed the course in approximately 1 hour 34 minutes, and the coach arrived at the finish just 5 minutes behind the tricycle - But the coach had a problem along the way - it was booked by a Police Officer in Ann Street Fortitude Valley for being on an intersection when the traffic lights turned red! Had this not happened- who knows - the coach may have beaten the tricycle to the finish line.

Leap forward to 2013, and a couple of members of the current Queensland Penny Farthing and Historical Cycle Club propose to ride from Brisbane Town Hall to Sandgate Town Hall on Penny Farthings, on Saturday 23rd November.”

Shane Rush – promotional poster



The Ride

Twelve intrepid travellers converged on Brisbane's City Hall on Ordinary Bicycles hearts full of hope and minds full of desire. Their mission was to pass on a message of

goodwill from the Lord Mayor of Brisbane to Sandgate. The challenges would be many and varied including the proliferation of horseless carriages, crossing the ominous Mountains of Nundah, poorly maintained carriage ways and a cracking northerly headwind all awaited the travellers. The journey was to follow a course of a race between a Tricycle & Cobb & Co Coach in the late 1800's.

The Lord Mayors message was passed onto the brave Sir Richardson with a doff of his cap he accepted the message. With a cry of determination he leapt upon his mount to lead the adventure before them. The first challenges were in negotiating the carriage ways of Brisbane City. The horseless carriages seemed to have taken over, their speed and weight making them potentially formidable adversaries. The travellers found them to be mostly friendly and gentile and there was much interest in the travellers' unusual transportation devices.



Once the streets of the city were negotiated it was onwards to Sandgate road and the Mountains of Nundah and headwinds. It was noticed that Sir Hamish vanquished the Mountains of Nundah with relative ease having partaken in recent adventures throughout the old country. The headwinds were never tiring and relentlessly working to halt the travellers the travellers hunkered down and with a look of steely determination continued their travels.





The horseless carriage following along as support was made use of by a number of riders as they fell to mechanical issues. There were 6 travellers who completed the journey and were met at Sandgate to great ceremony. Upon arrival the Town Crier read the message of goodwill to all gathered to resounding cheers of jubilation.

Aaron Wray



Town Crier Mike McHutchison reads the letter aloud



Lyle, Robert, Ross, and Noel having a bit of a giggle as they try to keep their balance



Cr Victoria Newtown presents Vernia with "Best Presented Supporter"



Cr Victoria Newtown presents Kev Wain with "Best Presented Bike and Rider" to the delight of the assembled crowd



Karen - wonderful as wonderwoman!



Grace - if only we could all match our wheels to our frocks!

But that was not the end of the fun!

On Saturday the 23rd day of November the women and gentlemen of the Queensland Penny Farthing and Historical Cycle Club had a gala dinner, this was the culmination of the 2013 Pennies by the Sea. Witnesses reported seeing such finery that they had to avert their eyes lest they be blinded by the bling. Ladies were resplendent in their finery and gentlemen cut a dashing figure entering into the Sandgate Post Office.

The Sandgate Post Office is a stunning building with sandstone and period features that opened in 1887 at a cost of £2,025, this was near the end of the Penny Farthing era.

The current owners have sensitively restored the building for the purpose of creating 4017 Bar and Grill.

Upon arrival guests made their way to the private dining room where they were served a scrumptious 3 course feast. Freshly baked breads and spreads to start, choice of herb crusted salmon or stuffed chicken for mains and a delightful option of baked cheesecake or granny's pecan and apple crumble. Attendees reported the meal to be supercalifragilisticexpialidocious before breaking into song (the last part may have been imagined after partaking in a refreshing beverage or two).

Speeches were made by the President and Secretary of the Club thanking all participants and supporters who made the 2013 Pennies by the Sea a success. It was also noted the efforts made by 4017 Bar and Grill in making the dinner a success. Upon the close of the evening minds were wandering towards make the 2014 Pennies by the Sea bigger and better.

Aaron Wray



Hamish Lamb in a fine tie

Club thanks:

- 🕒 Brett Richardson for organising the event and building the trophies
- 🕒 Yates Powdercoating for their donation of powder coating the Best Presented Bike and Rider and Best Presented Supporter trophies,
<http://www.yatespowdercoating.com.au/>
- 🕒 Mike the Town Crier for his fantastic effort he was fantastic and really added to our event,
- 🕒 Lord Mayor Graeme Quirk and the Brisbane City Council for the letter and letting us put Betty in Brisbane City Hall as promotion
- 🕒 Cr Victoria Newton for her support and receiving the riders at Sandgate
- 🕒 4017 Bar and Grill for their dinner venue and support in promoting the event www.4017bar.com.au/
- 🕒 Max and family for providing a support wagon and signage for the Brisbane to Sandgate ride
- 🕒 Lyle for setting up the marquee and display
- 🕒 Keith for helping to set up the stack safely
- 🕒 Everyone who came and brought a bike to the day and everyone who came along to support.
- 🕒 Vernia for supplying so many of the photographs used in this newsletter





Greg Sally Noel and Robert



Daryl through the bridge

Sunday breakfast

How incredibly lucky we were to have great weather Saturday afternoon, and Sunday morning. A few of us stayed in Sandgate Saturday night and witnessed the downpours throughout the evening.

At 7am Sunday a small group of Penny farthing and tricycle enthusiasts met at the rotunda at Sandgate, for a casual ride along the foreshore. The ride was led by a few penny farthing riders, followed closely behind by two replica tricycles, one a Crypto recently completed by Brett Richardson and ridden by Vernia.



Second tricycle was another Brett Richardson replica, owned and ridden by Lyle. Tailing the procession were Sue & Banjo riding in style in the rickshaw.



The ride split into 3 groups, the rickshaw turned back first to pick up supplies for breakfast, several pennies and tricycles turned back a little further on, while a couple of Pennies continued over the Hornibrook Bridge. We met up again at the Shorncliffe pier for a BBQ breakfast, with the Master Chef Lyle on the tongs.

Thanks to Brett for organising the ride, and thanks to all who attended the morning ride, and breakfast after. Word of warning about the gutter near the corner of Flinders parade & Cliff St, it is not designed for Penny farthings or Rickshaws to roll through, the curve of the gutter catches the wheels.

Shane Rush



Admiring Brett's new trike

Here is a replica of the letter sent by the Lord Mayor to the people of Sandgate



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24 November 2013

Dear People of Sandgate

Honouring the great tradition of Lord Mayors sending salutations to accompany notable travellers from town to town, I am excited to offer a greeting to those gathered in Sandgate today, and bid you welcome these fair riders from Brisbane City Hall.

Brisbane City proudly supports the creativity and ingenuity of the people of Brisbane through its arts, culture and heritage. We acknowledge that it is these activities that give expression to who we are and from where we have come.

Through arts, history and community grants, festivals funding, cultural programs and activations, we support our people to make our city such a great place to live. I commend all of you for your creative energy and enthusiasm in this enactment of the riding from City Hall to Sandgate Town Hall, and wish you all the very best for your celebrations today.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Graham Quirk', written over a large, stylized blue flourish.

Graham Quirk
LORD MAYOR

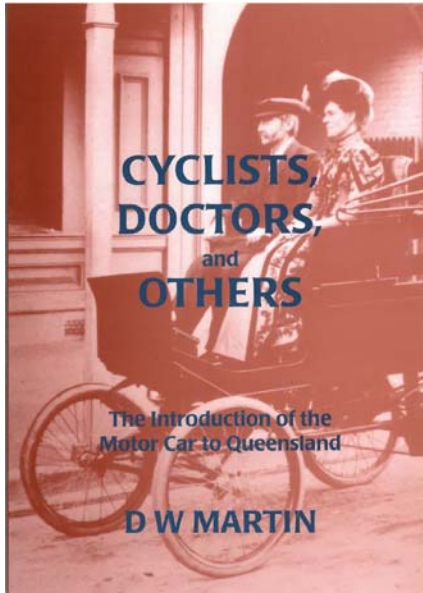
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Book review

I was recommended this book by our 2013 Ekka contact, Santana.

At a recent Historical Society meeting, the presenter was Fr Martin, who is the archivist for Brisbane's Catholic Archdiocese. Denis W Martin has written several books

including this one on the introduction of the Motor car, covering the period 1895 to 1910. The book is 108 pages, with the information researched from newspaper articles from the time, and a private collector's personal library.



The main focus of the book is the introduction of the Motor car, however the first part of the book has references to cycling in Queensland through this period. My favourite quote from the book is when a Mr Marchant in 1899 applied for permission to operate a motor car on city streets, the Commissioner replied "The motor car in Brisbane is now within measurable distance, but as the law stood at present, such vehicles would be open to indictment as nuisance".

The book is published by the Church Archivists' Press, and costs \$10.

Shane Rush

Oamaru Victorian Heritage Celebrations 2013

by Vernia Bullivant

My partner, Noel Ross, and I heard about the Oamaru Heritage Celebrations from one of the New Zealand competitors at Evandale earlier this year and he convinced us that we should go over "for a look". As an ex-Christchurch girl it never takes much to convince me to make yet another visit across the ditch and this was no exception. We invited a couple of our 'Chch' friends to join us for the few days in Oamaru and we had the absolute best time.

Time prevents me from making a full report right now, but here are a few photos and if anyone is interested I will expand with more details for next month's edition.

First job when we arrived in Oamaru was to head off to the "Victorian Wardrobe" where they hire out period costumes to all and sundry. We had sent our measurements ahead but it still took us a couple of hours to get kitted out as we needed regular outfits for "stepping out", another outfit for the Empire Ball, and yet another for the more casual Pollywogs and Shellbacks dance (on board the good ship "Oamaru" which was crossing the equator and heading for the new settlement of New Zealand).



This photo (above) shows Noel Ross, Vernia Bullivant, Dorothy and George Soulos dressed to head to the Scottish Hall where we were to cheer the arrival of the Penny Farthings and Vintage Cycles after their epic journey on the Alps to Ocean Trail from Mt Cook to Oamaru - this had taken place in the previous few days. The mayor was there to greet the contingent and to officially open the Heritage Celebrations.



The cyclists arrive in the Heritage precinct.



The mayor and his wife joined the Penny riders who completed the epic trip.



The cyclists complete the circuit of the precinct and head back to the Scottish Hall. I included this picture as it gives a good view of Tyne Street in the background. One of the events in the Penny Farthing competition was the Tyne Street Grunter to see who could reach the farthest point before having to get off their bike! Unfortunately I missed this event but I understand that the winner almost made it to the first plateau.



Noel met up with David Wilson (photo above) who rode his Penny the whole length of New Zealand, unassisted, in 2012. WOW! That's amazing. He covered 2,000 kilometres. David gave an interesting first-hand account of this year's Mount Cook to Oamaru Penny expedition at the Oamaru Public Library and also introduced a few of the ladies who also participated on their vintage cycles.



2014 Events Calendar

Please note that the December 2013 meeting has been cancelled

January Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th Allora Heritage Weekend

Allora Showgrounds, New England Highway, Allora Qld

<http://www.alloraheritageweekend.org.au/>

Featuring vintage and veteran cars and motorbikes with a swap meet both days.

February Sunday 2nd

Next QPFAHCC general meeting: Sunday 02 February 2014.

Venue is Dean Tummer's house at 1074 Karrabin-Rosewood Road, Rosewood 4340

8am for a leisurely (flat) ride, with meeting and barbecue lunch following. Please see the club website for map to location and ride information if required.

February 21 - 23 Evandale championships.

Penny races for the fast and brave, fun times for all the family.

April dates TBC (probably over Easter)

Broken Hill to Bourke - The shearers ride

Organiser: Lyle Paull (telephone 0434 363 313)

There has been interest in this ride since the last newsletter and there are already 8 or 9 starters, I think 10 riders will be enough at this stage, maybe if we do the ride again the following year we may have some more local knowledge. Anyone is welcome to put their names down as there will be some that may pull out closer to the time. The route will retrace those of the shearers and swaggies that travelled along the Darling river roads/tracks in the 1890/1920s.



There will be at least one back up vehicle to carry camping gear and there are sheep stations along the way that cater for modern travellers (some are the same stations that the original cyclists stayed at). Towns are: Broken Hill-Menindi-Willcania-Tilpa-Louth-Bourke. The roads are 80% unsealed.

I am riding a circa 1905 large frame wheel of unknown make, bicycles that are to be ridden should be from the period single speed or a later bike that has been set up to look the part (no mountain bikes).

The terrain will be flat.

Kaye and I have recently completed a test ride of the bikes. Kaye is riding a 1910 Swastika and I am riding a 1905 unknown. We will be adding rear carriers for the trip for day supplies.

31st of May and the 1st of June

Valery Runge - Russia

The first contemporary Russian race on penny-farthings and bicycles of various classes. The schedule of the contest is the following:

1. Child race.
2. Highway race in the city for sportsmen and veterans.
3. Folding bicycle race
4. Custom and cruiser race
5. TANDEM race
6. Handbike race for invalids. And at each our event we need to collect money for hospices, to arrange an invalid race so that they could feel members of the society. I consider this our responsibility, the responsibility of strong people.

Main course! Exhibition of retro bicycles and penny-farthing races. Dessert. Parade of all participants!

7 & 8 June "History Alive: A Journey Through Time"

Fort Lytton National Park

The event covers almost 2000 years of history from Ancient Rome, through to the Vietnam War Era. In 2013 over 30 re-enactment and living history groups, and 10 community groups were involved. The event includes re-enactments, camp displays and historical talks. In 2014, we would love to expand the event and we would love to have your members on board.

June-July School holidays The Maryborough Mary Poppins festival

Friday 8 to Sunday 17 August The Brisbane Ekka

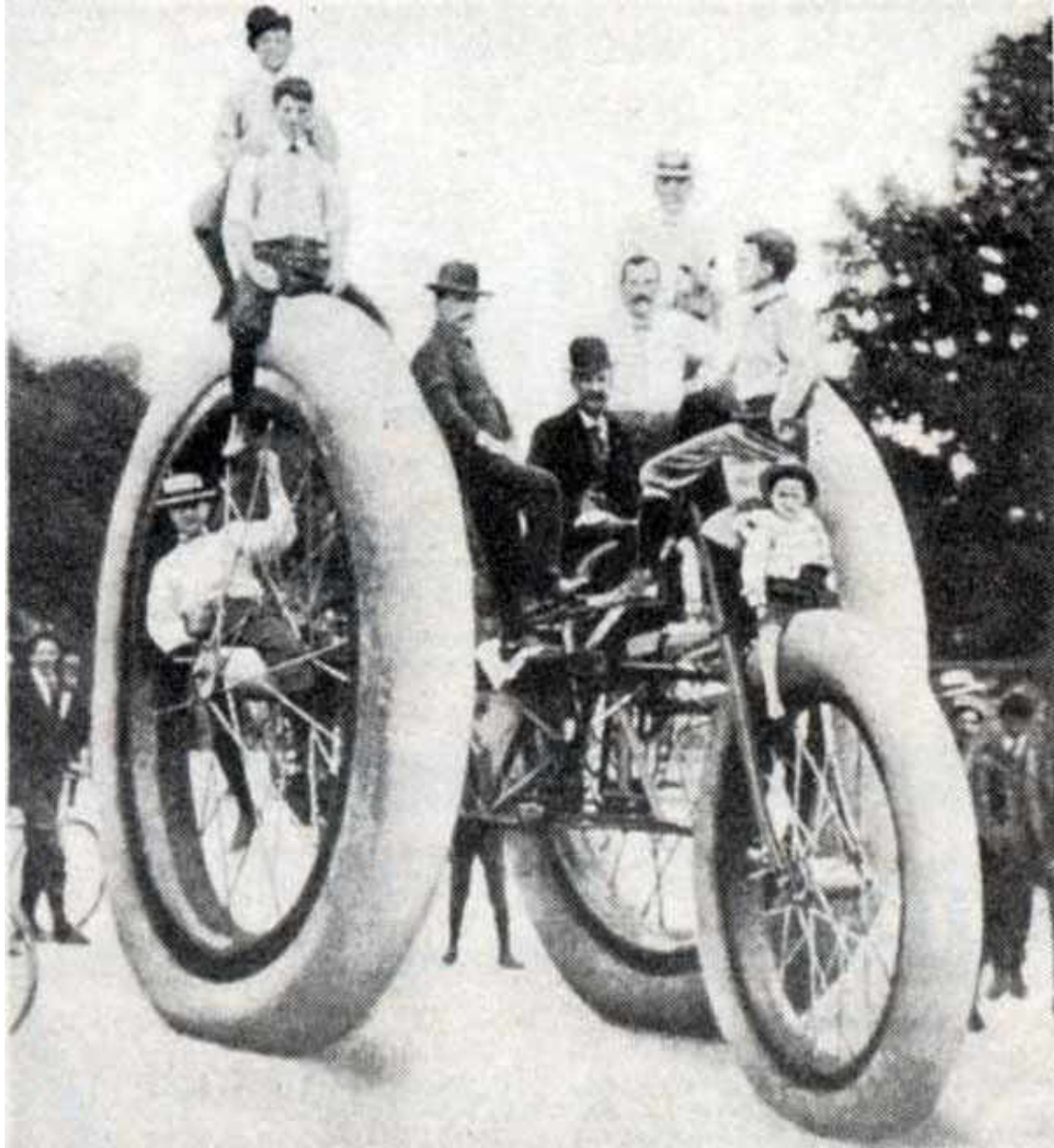


Newsletter and calendar submissions are welcome!

Please send your articles, reviews, photos and ideas etc in to share in the newsletter.

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This newsletter is published by the Qld Penny Farthing and Historical Cycle Club Inc. on an *ad hoc* basis. We aim for monthly, but sometimes life intervenes.



1898 - Giant 8 man tricycle, used in a 'Vim' tyre promotion!
(proposed club build for 2014?)