



## *Unchained*

Queensland's Big Wheel News #12  
13 December 2013

Seasons greetings!

Here it is - this month is our first anniversary! Congratulations and felicitations!  
A year ago we decided to form a club and look what we've achieved in the first action-packed year - from Pennies racing at the Ekka, dozens of events throughout the state and a wonderfully attended Stack to round it all off!



*Santa (Robert) knows if you've been naughty or nice.*

## Club details

President: Shane Rush (email) [im2tallau@hotmail.com](mailto:im2tallau@hotmail.com)

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Club email address: [qpfahcc@gmail.com](mailto:qpfahcc@gmail.com)

Club website: [www.QPFAHCC.com](http://www.QPFAHCC.com)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/219184674781035/>

Next QPFAHCC general meeting is on 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

### Submissions accepted.

This newsletter is published by the Qld Penny Farthing and Historical Cycle Club Inc. All issues of the newsletter are available online at [www.janineprince.com/unchained](http://www.janineprince.com/unchained) as well as at the club's new website. In 2014 the newsletter will move to a bimonthly publishing schedule. Submission deadlines are the Monday prior.

🕒 February 14<sup>th</sup>

🕒 April 17<sup>th</sup>

🕒 June 13<sup>th</sup>

🕒 August 15<sup>th</sup>

🕒 October 17<sup>th</sup>

🕒 December 19<sup>th</sup>

## News

🕒 Congratulations to members Noel Ross and Vernia Bullivant on the occasion of the announcement of their forthcoming nuptials (January 2014). Thank you Noel and Vernia for your unflagging support to the club throughout this year and we wish you every happiness in your union.

🕒 Is your membership current? Unchained special edition #13 is members-only!

🕒 Bikes wanted or for sale? You can list them in Unchained! It is a free service for members. What ho? - how marvellous!

🕒 Be summer smart over the break. Keep yourself protected from the sun and well hydrated. Nothing sours a ride faster than heatstroke or being attacked by dalek. At least one of these factors you can control.



## “SLOW, SMILE, ENJOY “

### *Notes from Cycle Pilgrim Hamish Lamb*

That's the motto I had plastered to my handlebars as I set off on my four month cycle pilgrimage in July 2013. Hoping this would remind me of my purpose and centre me when the going got tough.

*I dismounted....to look backward across the lovely vale. When the gentle cyclist comes across a view such as this - and he should always be on the look-out for such - he should dismount, fill up his pipe, sit on the top of a five-barred gate, or lie prone upon the ground, as he may well do here among the heather, and digest the prospect. Never arrange a journey without allowing sufficient time for meditation and contemplation. If you want time to beat records do it on the racing-track.*

*-Some literary Landmarks for Pilgrims on Wheels, F.W. Bockett, 1901*

I'd planned a route through the UK using Sustrans cycle maps to cover the Speckled Island's length, sometimes referred to as (JOGLE) -John 'O Groats to Lands End. I planned to cycle its breadth along Hadrian's Wall as well. I cobbled together the route as Sustrans do not produce a specific JOGLE route map. Many cyclists undertake the iconic JOGLE along busy roads.....this was not for me so I utilised existing quiet routes. My pilgrimage was to then cover France and Spain following the Camino Frances. My purpose was to utilise my time for reflection, keep an eye out for beekeeping activities (my own profession), and visit some iconic places along the way, bicycle and faith related. I loaded up my kindle with interesting reads, packed four panniers of camping equipment - being self-supported gave me freedom to pull up stumps where I pleased - and carefully packed *Peregrinus* -my Surly Long Haul Trucker into a bike box.

Some of my highlights were;

Visiting and staying on the island of Iona and cycling across Mull in 'good Scottish weather!' I also found out why people despise on midges!

Cycling up the Caledonian Canal following the Great Glen Way Trail, and having to unload *Peregrinus* many times to drag him up the slope after first delivering panniers to the top -a very steep hiking/MTB trail. Perhaps I saw something as I peered down to Loch Ness? -probably still dazzled by Ben Nevis!

Wild camping in quarries and in lonely parks, once being harassed by intoxicated youths jumping over my tent most of the night. They did return hours later and stuffed £10 in my shoe after they had sobered up, to say sorry. Riding through sea water to get on and off Holy Island -Lindisfarne.

Following some of the St Cuthbert's Trail. Taking it easy along Hadrian's Wall cycle path -very easy riding. Cycling between the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales whilst being treated to a vintage air show overhead. Brushing up against Alfred Wainwright's Coast to Coast walking trail. Miles and miles of tow path cycling into and out of Manchester. A circuit of Knutsford where the Penny Farthing event is held every ten years. Cycling across narrow-boat bridges in Llangollen, Wales. Circuiting the Brecon Beacons playing imaginary games of riding past Rob Penn and Jack Thurston and perusing the book shops in Hay-on-Wye. Visiting the baths in Bath and traversing an excellent cycle tunnel south of there. Cycling to Glastonbury Tor. Spotting deer along the rolling hills of Exmoor National Park. Bodmin Moor air strips. And of course

signing the End to Enders' book in Lands End. There is an interesting museum in Lands End full of whacky feats of achievement. A number of people have cycled JOGLE on Penny Farthings.

I was met by my cycle buddy Mitch and his new bike in Bath who was great company for the Cornwall section. Here he shouted us a night at the Hilton! Me, having lived in a tent for the past 40 days, and only staying with the occasional Warm Showers\* host, thought it was going to be the best night sleep this pilgrim would get.... until a fire alarm caused total building evacuation at 4.30am!

Janine joined Mitch and myself in Paris after a wonderful ferry crossing and ride from Roscoff. Mitch delighted in the fact we had to show French authorities documentation of our intended accommodation that evening as the landing was at 10.00pm. He produced and unfolded a napkin where he had scratched out a hotel address in Roscoff. Much to the immigration officials surprise at our rough and may I say gravy stained document we cycled off into the heavy fog. After a rest in Paris we took a train to Orange and slept in a French-man's back yard after the campsite failed to materialise from map markings.

"I cycled a total of  
4500kms over the  
four month period."

The three of us took a cycle up the iconic Mt Ventoux, what a day that was! Hundreds of cyclists were on the road with us and we were to discover it was an organised event ride, of international teams with mechanic vans and buses of supporters! Crowds would line the road shouting through megaphones and cheering us on. Riding over the boldly painted roads of such messages as 'CRIKEY CADEL' etc, it was the closest thing to 'The Tour' one could hope! We did notice sideways glances at our touring bikes but it was sweet to pass a lot of carbon. Little did they know it was a walk in the park after lugging 40kg of bike and panniers the length and breadth of Brittan!

Mitch departed to explore the US, Janine and I cycled on visiting Taizé and then continued our journey over the Pyrenees, after sleeping in a vacant allotment with the local gypsies in Pau. They happily accepted our gifts that would lighten our load and wished us '*Bon Camino*' with dazzling gold smiles.

Fare-welling France and into Spain, sometimes on the road and sometimes on the pilgrims trail, the scenery remained dramatic. Of course the walking pilgrim numbers grew as St Jean Port a Pied is the popular starting point to the Camino Français. The Compostela de Santiago is a medieval pilgrim's walk, and more recently cycle, of approximately 800km that honours a tradition of St James being buried at Santiago de Compostela.

I cycled a total of 4500kms over the four month period, camping most of the way. Campsites were chosen where available and wild camping when I had to, always attempting to seek permission. I camped in churchyards, town commons, cow

paddocks, lonely vacant woods and backyards. I broke a back wheel (split rim along the brake wall – strange), had four punctures, one bubbled out/failed Schwalbe marathon tyre (had done 3600kms on it), three sets of brake pads (lots of mud and grit and never ending hills in UK), replaced bent peddle from one too many curb hits whilst dreaming. Other than that *Peregrinus* performed extremely well. I'm pleased that I decided to fit fenders and invest in good quality waterproofs as a lot of wet weather was encountered. My Ortlieb panniers were excellent as they are very waterproof. We all found the drivers in Europe courteous and I met many touring cyclists quietly going about their business and passion for cycling. We would always exchange travel notes and bicycle specs. One interesting geography teacher cyclist I met was circumnavigating the UK coastline and writing a book of the history and experiences. He would spend a couple of weeks each holidays working on his exploration. I also stayed with four Warm Showers hosts, each one being a cycle tourist and assisting with great local information. One had cycled for a year crossing Africa and another The Himalayas. I visited various museums many with a cycle content. The best one by far was the scientific instrument museum in Paris called 'Museum Des Arts et Metiers'. It had good examples of many types of bicycles.

The hardest section I remember was cycling in Scotland -the Tarbert - Loch Awe - Oban section but it was the most rewarding.

If you are planning a similar tour I can recommend it and am happy to provide more specific details for planning purposes over a cuppa.

*The cycle is no longer a machine for covering the longest distance in the shortest space of time. It is a companion to the solitary, a friend that is always exhilarating and never selfish, an aid to reflection; it gives inspiration to the poet, health and strength to the plain man, vigour to the man of science, and breadth to the philosopher.*  
*-Some literary Landmarks for Pilgrims on Wheels, F.W. Bockett, 1901*

Some recommended Kindle cycle reading...

- Five Years In The Bike Shop - John Flaherty
- The Bicycle Reader Number 1 and 2
- Amber, Furs and Cockleshells - Anne Mustoe
- The Wheels of Chance - H.G. Wells
- Paris – Roubaix: The Inside Story - Les Woodland
- The Lost World - Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- Some Literary Landmarks for Pilgrims on Wheels - F.W. Bockett
- Don Quixote - Miguel de Cervantes
- Dividing the Great - John Metcalfe
- Blazing Bicycle Saddles - James Clarke
- Moods of Future Joys - Alastair Humphreys

And some good audios can be downloaded onto Kindle from Resonance FM - The Bike Show.

\*Reciprocal online hosting for cycle tourists.





Signing the End to Enders log book at Land's End



Sustrans signage always a welcome sight!



Interesting finds in museums along the way  
Thurso museum Scotland.



Historical display at bike week in Newcastle





Sometimes it's better to follow the directions you can read.



Sometimes one must camp as close to amenities as possible





Island hopping in Scotland by ferry



## *Disguising Helmets as other Things*

by Vernia Bullivant

I have noticed that the subject of bike helmets seems to raise its head often, and also the way to disguise them to make them look the part when wearing period costume.

I thought members may be interested to see three examples of "helmets with flair" which I photographed when at the Oamaru Heritage Week celebrations in New Zealand (November 2013).







There's a helmet under there!

## *Event Reports*

### **Toowoomba Tweed Run**

Toowoomba tweed run was held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2013, as a fund raiser for Movember, by a few local cycling enthusiasts. I didn't hold much hope of the ride going ahead, as it was a rainy morning in Brisbane, but by the time I arrived in Toowoomba the rain had stopped.

Attendance was down due to the wet weather that morning, but we all had a great time. Organisers had set up a coffee and sandwich station, and were selling raffle tickets for charity. A professional photographer was taking photos of the riders and their bicycles.

We headed off around 3:30pm for a casual ride through Toowoomba, seeing the sights, following the creek up a slight rise. We then returned and the riders headed for a lap of the town.

On return to the park, prizes were issued for best dressed, won by Jonathan Clark, and the raffle was drawn. Good to see a few of the prizes made their way back to Brisbane that evening.



I had arrived early that afternoon to greet Graham Potts & his friend Steven, after his ride from Brisbane to Toowoomba on his Claud Butler. The 157km ride took slightly longer (both time and distance) than they expected, so we did not meet until after the tweed ride had ended.





The Toowoomba Tweed Run attracted some celebrity entrants

## 2014 Events Calendar

**January Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>** 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 2<sup>nd</sup>**

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.

### **10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> May**

Tour of Toowoomba (Tentative)

### **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

**13 July** Pushies Galore - Brisbane bike festival

**Friday 8 to Sunday 17 August** The Brisbane Ekka

**Newsletter submissions welcome**

Please send your event information or reports, articles, reviews, photos and ideas etc in to share.

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## *Wanted*

Road bike (pre 1987)

52-54cm steel lugged frame with downtube shifters.

All bikes meeting these criteria considered. Reasonable money paid.

Contact Clayton Greaney on 0416 526 050

## *For Sale*

New replica Tricycles (2) based on the 'Cripper'.

The one in the photograph was only ridden once by a lovely lady on a Sunday morning.

Two available, the other is black. Price \$2500 each.

Contact **Brett Richardson** on 0407 345 451.

