



Unchained

Queensland's Big Wheel News #17
May 2015

What better time of year than the Queensland autumn to don our tweeds and long woollen socks, perhaps grow some facial hair, mount our mighty highwheels, tricycles and safeties and show the world how cycling used to be. This edition of Unchained brings you reports of QPFAHCC activities including the club's signature event, Pennies by the Sea, a few snippets from our friends interstate and our first Member Profile.



Pennies by the Sea 2015 - Penny stack event

Newsletter

Submissions accepted.

Contributions, articles, reviews, photos and news are welcomed and may be emailed to Kaye and Lyle at columbia1881@gmail.com. Next edition of Unchained will be issued in early August 2015. Closing date for contributions will be 25th July 2015.

Club details

President: Aaron Wray aaron_wray@hotmail.com Ph. 0418786074

Secretary: Andrew Koschmann koschy572@yahoo.com.au

Treasurer: Shane Rush (email) im2tallau@hotmail.com

Club email address: qpfahcc@gmail.com

Club website: www.QPFAHCC.com

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

Coming events in 2015:

- 🕒 24 May - MJCQ Push Bike Run at Wynnum 8:30am Sunday. Meet at Wynnum Esplanade at corner of Bridge St.
- 🕒 31 May - QPFAHCC meeting Sunday
- 🕒 6/7 June - History Alive at Fort Lytton. The club has booked a site, please let Shane know if interested in attending. See the flyer in this edition.
- 🕒 5 July - Mary Poppins Festival - Maryborough
- 🕒 12 July - Pushies Galore - Holland Park Bowls Club on Sunday. The club has booked a site so please let us know if you are able to help out by being on the stand for a while.
- 🕒 18/19 July - Pennies by the Sea (see details below).
- 🕒 25/26 July - South Coast Restoration Society 34th Annual Vintage Display and Crafts Rally - Pioneer Park, Pimpama.
- 🕒 26 July - Morningside Fair. Organisers have again requested that we attend. Some of us rode/walked it last year. Interested? Contact Aaron.
- 🕒 2 August - AGM Sunday
- 🕒 August date TBA - Brisbane Exhibition August
- 🕒 20 September - Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers
- 🕒 7 October - QPFAHCC Meeting
- 🕒 10-18 October - Australian Penny Farthing Annual Tour. Contact Dan Bolwell dan1870pf@gmail.com ph. 0417 565 091
- 🕒 6 December - QPFAHCC Meeting
- 🕒 20 February 2016 - Evandale Tasmania. As reported in the latest issue of The Velocipedist No 160, plans are underway for a new route for the Century Ride on 13 February. Accommodation is being snapped, so get in quickly if you need to book.

News and Past Events

- 🕒 **2015 memberships are open.**

Membership is \$40 individual and \$80 family. New members, please complete a membership form available from the website at <http://www.qpfahcc.com/join-qpfahcc/> and return with payment to the club Treasurer. Payment details are on the form. Make sure you include your current email address and phone numbers. Event organisers have found they need to contact people by phone on occasions particularly when attending events.
- 🕒 **2014 Pennies by the Sea - 22 and 23 November**

This was the club's main event for 2014 and activities over two days provided something for everyone. It was an early start on Saturday with the Queensland Penny Farthing (QPF) Championship race held over 2 laps of the Nundah Criterium Track. A commendable line up of 10 ladies and gents set off at the firing of the starter's gun. The modern cycle racers and their supporters

cheered along our penny riders, enjoying the unique event slotted in between their high speed Criterium races.



Starting line up at the 2014 QPF Championships



With everyone putting in a tremendous physical effort, three placegetters finally pipped the rest and were awarded with spectacular trophies made by Brett Richardson. The town crier, resplendent in his cherry red coat with gold trimmings, topped with a black hat and feather, made these presentations.



Congratulations to the winners of the 2014 Queensland Penny Farthing Championship: 1st Aaron Wray (C), 2nd Mitchell Hale (L), 3rd Sally Dillon-Hines (R).

Following the race, penny farthing and safety riders set off from Nundah for the 25km ride to Einbunpin Lagoon, stopping off on the water's edge at Nudgee Beach for refreshments along the way. Here the riders covered from the blustering nor'easter which made conditions a little tricky, especially for our highwheelers. The ride continued on through the bike tracks of Boondall Wetlands and rolled into Sandgate by late morning.



Meanwhile, the main event site was bustling with spectators enjoying the warm day amid the historic bicycle displays and other stalls. Lyle's 56" penny farthing on a stand was a big hit as it provided members of the public with the



opportunity to safely climb aboard one of these giants of the bicycle world and experience the breathtaking height.

The members provided plenty of entertainment for the crowds including a parade of the tricycles, grandly circling the lagoon track at a leisurely pace with the riders well turned out in their period costumes. By mid-afternoon, the town crier gathered the crowd with his booming voice to read out the Pennies by the Sea statement, followed by the assembly of the penny stack. This year we lined up 25 pennies for an impressive photo (shown on page 1).

(L) The local constabulary test the heights



Vernia Bullivant and Noel Ross

Following the stack, awards were presented to the QPF Championship winners, Aaron, Mitchell and Sally. Kaye Vockenson was awarded Best Presented Supporter in her woollen bustle outfit and Robert Bellert won the Best Presented Penny and Rider award in his colourful Mulga Bill outfit, identical to that shown on the Australia Post stamp issued last year.



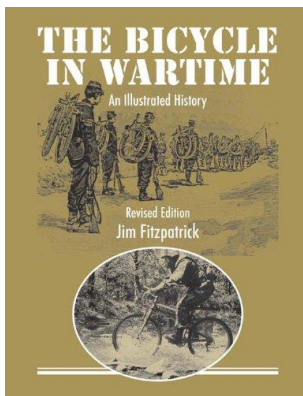
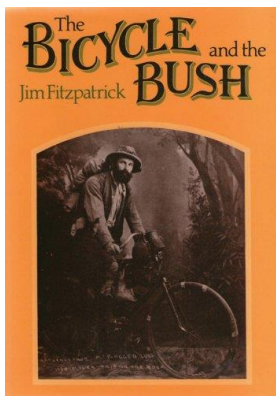
Robert Bellert (Best Presented Penny and Rider) with Councillor Victoria Newton



Lyle Paull and Kaye Vockenson - Coventry Rotary Tandem



Greetings from QPHAHCC's 2015 Penny Stack



That evening, the club members gathered at the Full Moon Hotel function room for a well-deserved meal. We were honoured to be joined by author Jim Fitzpatrick and his partner, Rowy. Jim is best known for his publication, *The Bicycle and the Bush*, an account of the use of the bicycle in rural Australia between 1890-

1920. Jim's presentation and slides were enthralling for this room full of historic velo enthusiasts. Many took the opportunity to purchase Jim's latest publication, *The Bicycle in Wartime - An Illustrated History*, publisher Stat Hill Studio.

Many highwheelers and safety riders gathered next morning for a beachside ride from Sandgate to Woody Point, some very well turned out in a change of costume. Following breakfast, the riders meandered along the waterfront bike paths back to Sandgate, thus concluding events at the 2014 Pennies by the Sea.



Sunday morning ride along the waterfront (L-R) Brett Richardson, Aaron Wray, Noel Ross, Shane Rush

All club participants received a commemorative medal swinging from a ribbon in traditional Queensland maroon. This grand club event came about due to the dedicated efforts of the club Executive team and members. Our 2015 event is shaping up to be another winner.

(Thanks to Vernia Bullivant for photos of this event)

2015 Pennies by the Sea 18 and 19 July

The date for the 2015 event has been brought forward by popular consent to avoid the steamy weather that beautiful Queensland turns on in summer. A winter event should provide perfect conditions for our members to turn out in our splendid costumes and provide some fantastic public spectator events. Program planning is underway and some of the proposed events include a running of the 2015 Queensland Championship, a Tweed Ride, Tricycle High Tea, Penny Stack and a slow race. With such a wide range of events, there should be something for everyone. All members are encouraged to participate by providing ideas, helping out, attending the event and/or encouraging others to attend.

A draft program for Penny's by the Sea on Saturday 18 July has been drawn up.

10:00	Qld PF championship	Nundah Criterion Track
10.30-12.30	Nundah to Sandgate Social Ride	Nundah to Sandgate
12:30-2:30	Tricycle ride and high Tea at Olgas at Shorncliffe.	Sandgate to Shorncliffe and return
14:30	Qld demonstration slow ride to be confirmed	Einbunpin car park
15:30	Penny stack	Einbunpin
16:00-17:00	Tweed Ride	Einbunpin to Decker Park and return
18:30	Dinner	Full Moon Hotel

Outback Rides

Club members Lyle Paul and Hamish Lamb have recently each led successful outback rides. Lyle's Shearers Ride was back again this year with a line up of 5 'shearers' riding the Darling River route from Broken Hill to Bourke in outback NSW. Hamish, along with 2 other cyclists, recently completed a 1100km ride from Charleville through Innamincka to Birdsville in the Queensland far western outback. Read the account of Hamish's outback journey in the edition.

Moving pictures!

QPFAHCC on The Great South East.

On Sunday 19th April, our club featured on the weekly Channel 7 television show "The Great South East". This half hour episode covered cycling in Queensland and featured QPFAHCC club members demonstrating our "downright silly" sport. Noel Ross, Vernia Bullivant, Ross West, Chris Hinds and Aaron Wray spent 3 hours with the film crew, riding their Pennies and a Coventry Tricycle on the banks of the Brisbane River at West End. Both Aaron and Noel were interviewed and few comical asides accompanied the action. The final cut provided QPFAHCC with priceless promotion which has already resulted in enquiries. For those who missed it, a copy is available on You Tube http://youtu.be/63O_ALCu0YU.



Aaron swinging past the camera - never mind the signage



*Laurel Edwards interviews Noel Ross
(Photos by Vernia Bullivant)*

🚲 **Crystal Waters to Kenilworth Ride - 7th March**

Hamish, Janine C, Mitch, Kylie, Shane, Kaye, Lyle and Duane set out on a 60km ride from Crystal Waters Eco Village after a coffee and snack amongst the buzz of the market. The route followed the Mary River and involved a climb over a range before the road dropped down into the little town of Kenilworth. We enjoyed a sojourn in the local pub, refreshing ourselves with ales and a robust pub meal. On the return ride we chose a lesser used road on the other side of the river which was a pleasant diversion until we hit a brute of a hill. This was a tough obstacle for those of us on single speed safeties and even tougher on the downward side for the fixed wheel machines with minimal

brakes. This effort called for ice creams at the Conondale shop before the final push back to our starting point where some cooled their heels in the refreshing waters of the creek.

🚲 **Sizzling Summer Series - Berrinba Wetlands - 28th February.**

The Logan Cycling club invited the QPFAHCC to ride in a 2 lap Penny Farthing exhibition ride as part of the Sizzling Summer Series. The event was scheduled amid the tight program of high level, carbon fibre bicycle racing and we did not disappoint the crowds. Our troupe of penny riders streaked around the penny friendly course which saw Brett, true to form, pip the rest of the field.



Sizzling Summer Series Race line up

🚲 **2 May - Ipswich Festival Parade of Light**

For the first time, the Ipswich Festival street parade was held at night to create a colourful spectacle of lanterns and lamps adorning floats, vintage cars, stilt walkers and even dogs. Of course our QPFAHCC contingent stole the show with Shane riding his huge Penny encased in fluoro tube light and Kaye and Lyle aboard the Coventry Rotary Tandem with its lamps aglow with candles. A small candle mishap created a Dali-like solid green wax stalactite on the front of the frame. While waiting for the start of the parade, we were befriended by an Italian tourist, Phil, who decided to accompany us for the whole parade. That will be another travel story he will tell the folks back home.



*Ipswich Festival Parade of Light
(L-R) Shane, Phil, Kaye*



*Lyle outside St Mary's Church
Ipswich*

🕒 **3 May - Newstead House Open Day Sunday.**

Aaron Wray represented the club at Newstead House Open Day. As part of the Little Historians Festival, Aaron displayed a penny and provided a demo ride for the public by doing some hot laps around the fountain.



*Aaron manages a tight loop around the fountain at Newstead House
Open Day in Brisbane.*

🚲 *Evandale 2015 National Penny Farthing Race Results*



2015 NATIONAL PENNY FARTHING CHAMPIONSHIP RACE RESULTS					
RACE	1ST	2ND	3RD	DISTANCE	TIME
National Championship	James Fowler, NSW	Sam Tully, Qld	Darren Singline, Tas	4 laps (1 mile)	3.28.47
Ladies Championship	Joanne Junor, Vic	Fiona Harding, Qld	Audrey Farthing, Vic	2 laps	2.06.59
Veterans over 50	Darrell Galpin, Tas	John Davey, NZ	John Bennett, Vic	2 laps	1.51.37
Veterans over 60	Hugh MacLaurin, NSW	Peter Jones, Tas	John Bennett, Vic	2 laps	1.50.81
Veterans over 70	Austin Danelutti, NSW	Denis Mahboub, NSW	Phillip Hall, Tas	2 laps	2.08.28
Junior boys	Joshua Junor, Vic	Calum McClintock, Tas	Caleb Bolwell, Vic	1 lap	1.15.09
Junior girls	Molly Bolwell, Vic	Matilda McClintock, Tas	Amy Land, Tas		
Sprint	Darren Singline, Tas	John Davey, NZ	Sam Tully, Qld		18.54
Ladies Sprint	Joanne Junor, Vic	Audrey Farthing, Vic	Fiona Harding, Qld		21.98
Relay	Tasmania 1	Tasmania 2	Victoria	4 laps	3.19.10
Miss 'n Out A grade	James Fowler, NSW	Sam Tully, Qld	Darryn Pugh, Tas		5.13.85
Miss 'n Out B grade	Matt Benn, Vic	Calum McClintock, Tas	Peter Jones, Tas		6.44.20
Handicap	Calum McClintock, Tas	James Fowler, NSW	Caleb Bolwell, Vic	4 laps	4.11.20
Novice	Darren Singline, Tas	Calum McClintock, Tas	Euan Pennington, Vic	2 laps	1.48.39
Slow	Darren Singline, Tas	Jeff McClintock, Tas	Grant Maynard, Tas		
Slalom	John Davey, NZ	Grant Maynard, Tas	Darren Singline, Tas		
Biathlon	Michael Mahboub, NSW	Darren Singline, Tas	Craig Junor, Vic		5.05.10
Obstacle	Matt Benn, Vic	Grant Maynard, Tas	Jeff McClintock, Tas		1.14.34
Unicycle	Darren Singline, Tas	Paddy O'Sullivan, Vic	Jeff McClintock, Tas		57.75
Consolation	Lindsay Munks, NSW	Mark Gilligan, Vic	Allister Crawford, Vic	2 laps	1.59.53
Charity Relay	Football Club	Ladies Football Club	Oxfam		
Road Race	James Fowler, NSW	Matt Benn, Vic	John Bennett, Vic	20 miles	1 hr 07.28
Ladies Road Race	Erin Sullivan, NSW	Janice Munro, Vic	Audrey Farthing, Vic	20 miles	1 hr 29.33



Ladies Sprint, Evandale 2015

Results table and photo courtesy of The Velocipedist, Issue 159, March 2015



Vale Annemarie Driver

The veteran cycling family throughout Australia and overseas was diminished by the passing of Annemarie Driver in January. Annemarie's promotion of cycling, both locally and internationally, will be hugely missed.

Annemarie was the driving force behind the Canberra Bicycle Museum. With Rod's support she amassed Australia's largest collection of vintage cycles, and curated the museum until it was disbanded some years ago. She was the sole publisher of an excellent newsletter, on behalf of the Friends of the Canberra Bicycle Museum. The Driver family were regulars at Evandale events in the 1980's and 1990's, with Matthew winning the National Championship here in 1991. The family are pictured on their first visit to Evandale in 1986.

Rod and Annemarie attended many of the International Veteran Cycle Association annual rallies over the years. Annemarie was the editor of the IVCA Journal for the past ten years, and her contribution to the Association was greatly valued. Bruce Hargrave was one of the veteran cycling family who attended Annemarie's funeral, and was honoured to ride his penny farthing along with the hearse.

Our condolences have been forwarded to Rod and the Driver family.



This article and photo courtesy of The Velocipedist Issue 160 April 2015.

Notes from a 1200km cycle adventure Charleville-Innamincka-Birdsville. By Hamish Lamb

'Grind, Grit and Grimace' should have replaced my 'Slow, Smile and Enjoy' label still visible plastered on my stem from my previous adventure. If you have never visited the western parts of the State I can recommend it. Big beautiful blue skies to cycle under, interesting fauna and flora to see and for the only two mates I could talk into doing this adventure with me, a million star accommodation each night.



Our adventure was piqued by my previous visits for work (beekeeping in nature) to the west and my challenge to progressively cross the continent. A trip like this needed some detailed planning as we would be self-supporting for two and a half weeks and have up to three days between centres which required us to carry water for three days (30L) hence my preference for towing a trailer. Camping is mandatory accommodation on my forays therefore our panniers were packed full of tents, dehydrated food, bicycle spares and of course my kindle reader.

Charleville proved a great point to start as last minute supplies, bicycle repairs/spares were available (broken pedal first day!) and a chance to use my first aid kit on a poor unfortunate parishioner who suffered a nasty gash from a falling palm frond post the Palm Sunday service. Our route was on to Quilpie where we were entertained on the road by Ron during his daily 25km constitutional, the town's bicycle expert housing the district's bike graveyard with his stories of crossing the continent and his magical find at the dump of a Starley-Rover frame!

Bitumen all the way to Eromanga proved a delight and additionally allowed us to hear the road trains coming - handy! One minor welding repair to Jeff's home-made trailer had us on the road again after striking pizza night at the pub. Eromanga is home to new dinosaur discoveries, the oil and gas industry is also prominent. The stretch down to Noccundra and over the Wilson River had us working hard as there is a sandy section that proved challenging especially coupled with a head-wind. This was a precursor of things to come.....

After long days in the saddle camping without washing, making it to the Cooper Creek was a welcome sight. It's a lesson in appreciating the small things in life when you are exposed to the elements. I splashed my body and washed my clothes (for the only time in the trip) in the Cooper. Cathartic. A 28km detour to visit the Dig Tree was well worth the effort. Interestingly some were visiting by light aircraft as the site includes an airstrip! I was able to squeeze in my botanical specimen bag and now have some choice Eucalypt leaves for a wool dying project. Especially prized are the leaves gathered from beneath the Dig Tree, *Eucalyptus microtheca* (Coolabah).



Bushwhackers at the Dig Tree

Innamincka at last - what a ride! The bitumen finishes at the boarder so 30kms into Innamincka South Australia is unsealed hard, hard, hard riding. Sand, stone and corrugation. Oh I didn't mention the flies. Once at Innamincka and camp set up next to the river, the pub naturally became a magnet for wonderful meals especially as this was our only scheduled rest day. Corellas and galahs screeched themselves senseless day and night, yes a reminder of outback Australia.



3km cycle path into Birdsville (photo Mitch Bright)

Advice was to tackle the Cordillo Downs road instead of Walkers Crossing, so obedient to our advisors tackle was indeed what we did. Of interest to those in the club who undertake 'The Shearers Ride' along the Darling River each year, the Cordillo Downs road was a well-worn cycle route for shearers. Sandy tracks, beating sun and corrugations.....due to editorial discretion and readership sensitivities this section of the report has been deleted, apologies for any inconvenience.....sandy blight and contagion nearly dying of exhaustion but eventually making it to Birdsville.

So, the adventure was over. If you're planning something similar, advice is to do your detailed homework in planning your route, test and invest in the best equipment and bicycles otherwise I'd send you away with a flea in your ear.

QPFAHCC Club member profile

Name: Brett Richardson
Resides: Brisbane Queensland.
Age: 54
Occupation: Teacher. TAFE Queensland
How long have you been involved with bicycles?
Competition 45 years. Industry 39 years.



How did you become involved with historic/penny farthing bicycles?

In 1987 I built my first Penny as a promotional bike for the shop. Soon after completion I received a call from Harry Clarke in Melbourne asking me to travel and compete in the Victorian Penny Farthing championships in the grounds of the Exhibition Building in Melbourne. At first I thought it was just a friend pulling a prank call on me. I thought who in their right mind would race these things. The offer was genuine and an all expenses paid trip to Melbourne to compete. It was there that I met people from Tasmania who asked me to go to Evandale Tasmania to race in February. I couldn't believe there were other crazy people that did this stuff. The rest is history and now, after 2 Championship wins, 6 airport wins and a bag of medals I ponder if I'll ever go back again.

Have you built your own penny farthing bicycle? Just finished number 48.

Most memorable ride? Brisbane to Cairns Ride for Life 1977. 2000k solo in 2 weeks.

Most forgettable ride? Grafton to Inverell One Day Classic. The worst I've ever felt at the end of a race. Sprinters don't do hills well!

What is in your bicycle collection so far? It varies depending on new tool desires or holidays. The most recent addition is a Hirodelle and a dual steer ladies/gents tandem. I decided a long time ago that I would only collect my own bikes. I can't see any point in collecting something someone else has built when I could make it myself. That mind-set may change over time but that's how it is for now.

What is your favourite bicycle? The Macmillan. An interesting machine with an interesting recorded history even though some dispute its existence.



What would you like to add to your bicycle collection? Probably something from the 1850-60s.

Cycling likes? Riding by the bay.

Cycling dislikes? Head winds on a Penny.

Interests outside cycling and bicycles? Piano, swing dancing, time on the farm, fishing, motor racing, travelling.

What do you most like about QPFAHCC? After many years of perseverance there is an active local Vintage bicycle club.

What would make the QPFAHCC even better? I think it will evolve and grow over time.



For Sale

Penny farthing builder, Brett Richardson has 4 bicycles for sale. For more information contact Brett at brett.rich@bigpond.com



Tricycle, based on the 'Cripper' design.

\$4000



52" Penny Farthing \$3000



50" Penny Farthing \$3000



Eagle 50" wheel \$3500



The Queensland Living History Federation presents...
HISTORY ALIVE: A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME

*We would like to formally invite you to participate in the
2015 History Alive: A Journey Through Time*

Held at historical **Fort Lytton National Park**, History Alive is the largest multi-period history and re-enactment event in Queensland. In 2014, 12 community and hobbyist history groups joined over 400 re-enactors and living historians to bring history to life for over 3,500 visitors from all over Queensland and New South Wales.

From historical bicycles and steam engines to Romans and Vietnam War period Diggers, the event offers attendees an insight into history not available anywhere else.

We are expecting the 2015 event to be our biggest year yet and your involvement would be a wonderful addition to the event's atmosphere.

Event details

Dates: 6th and 7th June, 2015

Time: 10am to 4pm

If you would like to be part of History Alive in 2015 or you have any questions, please contact us via qlhf@qlhf.org.au

WWW.HISTORYALIVE.COM.AU





Punch Magazine - From the private collection of Dr. Hugh Martin, Sydney, N.S.W.