



Unchained

Queensland's Big Wheel News #4
15 March 2013

Welcome!

It has been unpredictable weather for riding with a fair bit of rain coming down around the place through February. As the sun returns the ground is drying out a bit, and isn't it nice to have the sun on our face and the wind is in our hair again!



(L-R Shane Rush, Andrew Koschmann, Dean Tummers, Clayton Greaney and Janine Prince give the velodrome at Rockhampton some Penny Farthing style.)

Club update

At the last meeting on Sunday 3rd March the club proceeded to open member ships and there was a rush on for the low numbers! You'll find your membership form on the last page of this newsletter in case it didn't arrive with this missive.

We also passed a resolution to incorporate the club and this important step is the last hurdle in the arduous journey towards gaining insurance and holding our own events. Alongside this newsletter you should also have received a copy of the President's survey, and you're invited to pour your heart out anonymously or put your name to your views no matter if you intend to join the club or not.

☺ Hip Hip Hooray!

News

- 🕒 There are still a small number of places available on the 'Build a penny farthing course' under the expert tutelage of a renowned local bike builder through the auspices of a local skills school. The course starts soon, so move swiftly to secure this opportunity and phone 1800 654 447 to enrol.
- 🕒 The club will be taking a stand! That's right; the annual "Pushies Galore" event will feature penny farthings and vintage bikes this year. The club has reserved an information booth and all members and friends are invited to bring their bikes along for the 'show and shine'. Sunday 14th July from 10am to 2 pm at Holland Park. More details in future editions.

- 🕒 **Terry Kay's** private bicycle collection in Gympie available for viewing! Long a collector of historical and vintage bicycles, Terry welcomes visitors interested in bikes. His collection has grown throughout the years and most items come with a story of their origins and how they made it into the museum.



Located at Terry's property in Gympie, he asks that you call ahead to confirm he'll be home. It is a marvellous space, with plenty of ephemera and other miscellany to enjoy.

Terry's Bikes

21 Groves Road, Gympie.

Telephone 07 5482 2878

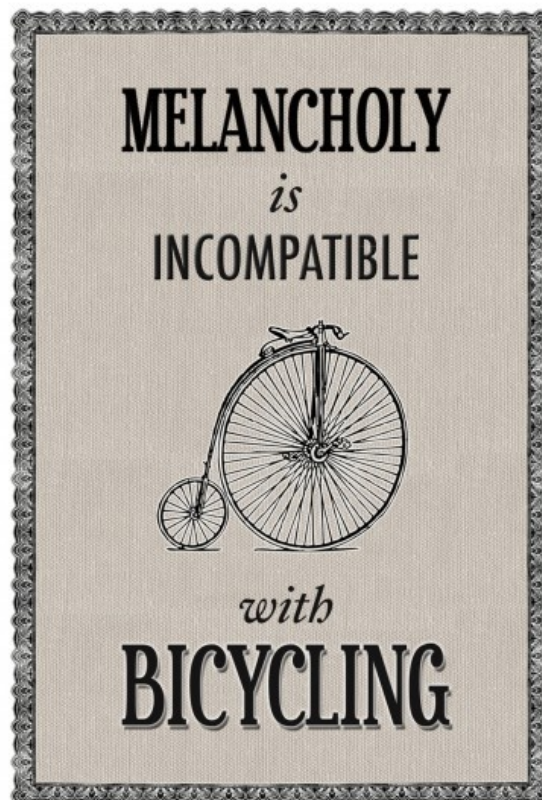
Members' recommendations

Transporting a penny is never pretty but Paul Beukelman has discovered an elegant, purpose-built solution.

Australian company Grip Sport is a small, family-owned, engineering company setup in 1999 to work exclusively in the bicycle industry.

Here you can see Paul's penny secured to the back of his car. For more information on this product,

contact the friendly people at Grip Sport. <http://www.gripsport.com.au/> or by email mail@gripsport.com.au



Member Profile

Meet member #1, **Kev Wain**, a Penny Farthing enthusiast from the Sunshine Coast. (Photo to right, Kev rides at Sandgate for the 2011 Pennys by the Sea.)

“Owning a Penny Farthing has been on my bucket list since seeing a penny hanging up in a museum when I was a young school boy. Holidaying in Tasmania in 2000 I visited Evandale and this really ignited the enthusiasm already smouldering inside me. I think Evandale must be the penny farthing capital of Australia.

Over the next few years I attempted to purchase a penny but for various reasons I was unsuccessful. While on holidays in New Zealand in 2005 I met up with **Robin Willan** and his family, on checking out the quality of the bikes manufactured by Rob, I just had to have one. Before the earth-quake hit Christchurch, Rob used to manufacture about 6 bikes a year, mainly for the American market, but only one was completed in 2012. Rob makes all the parts himself other than bearings and rubber.

Rob measured me up for a 51 inch wheeler and I placed my firm order. From memory it took about 9 months (about 300 hours) to manufacture and then it was shipped to Australia. My bike was made by Rob in 2005, and I received it late that year.

The bike is a near perfect copy of an English "Regent Rational" of 1884, except for the handle bar assembly which is copied from an American "Gormully and Jefferies.

My bike is engraved on a cover plate at the back of the steering head reading “MAKER RWILLAN CHRISTCHURCH NEW ZEALAND” and on the goose neck is stamped RW 18 and 51. The 18 is the serial number or build number and the 51 is the size of the front wheel.

I still love my penny and over the years have ridden in four events in Maryborough, on several occasions in Caloundra including a special 8 kilometre event around Lake Kawana. I have also ridden twice at Sandgate in the Pennys by the Sea event.

I hope this snippet of information will be of some interest.

Regards,
Kev.



Below: Kev near the Mary Poppins statue at the Maryborough festival in 2012.



Below: Kev in the Maryborough Herald dated 07 July 2010



A tale of two gentlemen

It was the best of times it was the worst of times. But really it was the best of times.

Two intrepid travellers Sir Hamish 'Penny' Lamb and Lord Aaron 'Farthing' Wray set off to seek their fame and fortunes in a far off Van Diemen's Land on behalf of the Qld Penny Farthing and Historical Cycle Club. Hamish was the first to spy the welcoming shores of Van Diemen's Land. He bravely undertook many feats of strength, challenge and endurance and made his way out of the Launceston Airport lounge with barely a penny to his name.

Onto the beautiful town of Evandale where Hamish was to participate in the ultimate test for a penny farthing ride of 100 miles or 800 furlongs or 33.33 leagues. Along with several other brave souls from across the world. He valiantly fought his beast of burden over the furlongs but the beast was not to be tamed that day due to injuries received in the line of battle, he received the award of valour and metric century award. An amazing result most worthy of such a fine gentleman.

Lord Aaron arrived a few days later with his family Lady Rachel 'I guess this will be our annual holiday' Wray, Miss Abigail 'sleeping beauty' Wray and the newest member of the family Racing Rose Wray. It was slightly sad to leave Betty Wray at home looking after the manor. Rose was an untamed beast and it was going to take all of Lord Aaron's strength, wit and humour to ride such an elite beast.



First challenge was the slow race. Both Sir Hamish and Lord Aaron participated in this event. We both went a little too slow grinding to a halt and making a hasty exit from our steeds. The slalom race we both heroically avoided like the plague as 'that event be crazy' was uttered more than once. We were part of the Queensland relay team which for the first time in a long time we actually had 4 real live actual Queensland residents participating along with Peter 'built for speed' Hines and Sally 'Lady champion 2012' Dillon. We heroically came somewhere towards the back of the pack thanks mostly to a blistering lap by Lord Aaron 'the human statue' Wray bringing us from near the front to the back of standings.

Sir Hamish participated in the novice race and achieved an astounding third in a hotly contested race, which makes the second year in a row a QLDer has taken third (as Lord Aaron took third in 2012).

Now for the big event the heat of the championship. Lord Aaron mounted his steed and quickly got into a solid forth in line. Down the main straight on the second lap he had a rush to the head and decided to gee up his rig to overtake however he heroically misjudged his speed into pub corner and decided to take a well earned rest on the hay bales (see images following). This was the end of his day and the sad end to racing Rose's second rim. Sir Hamish was forced to shoulder the massive burden to fly the flag for the QPFAHCC which he did with aplomb. Relieved of the dead weight of Lord Aaron dragging him down he won the Best Presented Rider award, the first time in many a year a male has won. Hoorah!

A vote of thanks to the Evandale Village Fair for hosting us from 'there be dragons' state of QLD.

Warmest regards,
Lord Aaron 'Farthing' Wray

Pictures tell the tale



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 FOR BREAKING NEWS examiner.com.au NEWS

Rider rattled by mere mouse at Evandale event

By EMILY BAKER

DESPITE attracting participants from interstate and overseas, the task of this year's National Penny Farthing Championships at Evandale was a tiny mouse.

The mouse launched racer Gray McKinnel on to a spectacle after it started from the hay into hammer on to the road.

While onlookers insisted McKinnel had been dismounted by the rodent, the racer said he had simply taken the mouse too widely.

One of the event's organisers and sponsors, Dr Sullivan, said despite the minor incident, the championships had been a great success.

"It's about good fun and it brings in a whole range of riders," Mrs Sullivan said.

The rider far from his home in southern India was Gabriel Lopez.

The penny farthing enthusiast, who works in Sydney, had participated in the National Penny Farthing Championships since 2011.

"It's like when you go into a shop you might see a pair of shoes and you think 'That's for me, this is my thing'," Lopez said.

The sentiment was echoed by women's event winner Kat Augmented, who in previous years travelled from London to Evandale for the event.

"It's an incredibly special day and a very dynamic and very welcoming community," the Sydney-rider said.

Sean Hennessy took out the F. H. Stephens trophy for his efforts in the National Penny Farthing Championship race.

The Adelaide representative powered through the finish line despite not having ridden a penny farthing since his win at the championships in 2007.

"I do love coming here, it's a friendly atmosphere and an enjoyable weekend spending time with people with similar interests," Hennessy said.

Jeff McCurg, of New South Wales, and Hamish Lamb, of Queensland, compare riding tips at the National Penny Farthing Championships at Evandale yesterday. Picture: PHILIP BRUCE

Barjo Dillon-Hines receives loud applause as he reaches the finish line of the junior event.

Douglas Gray, of Victoria, Dan Burrell, of Victoria, Gray McKinnel, of New Zealand, and Peter Hines, of Queensland.

Sail to Melbourne and kids travel FREE!

More speed!



Nope don't think I'm going to make this corner now.



Yep really sure I'm not going to make it now.



Missed me by this much!



Hey you! Are you stealing that bike?



(Photos from The Examiner)

March Calendar

16th to 24th [Bike Week](#)

The annual Bicycle Queensland week of festivities is announced including the [Great Brisbane Bike Ride](#) (two distances - 30km and 50km) route travels over the Gateway Bridge.

24th Practice Day for 12 hour ride (see April listing)

Time is TBA. Giving people the opportunity to try out the circuit and plan for the event. Venue: Lakeside Park, Lakeside Road, Kurwonbah.

April Calendar

20th [L'Eroica in the Tuscan Hills of Beechworth](#)

Part of the *Gran Fondo* Beechworth weekend in Victoria, this event is a period cyclosportive rally for riders and collectors of classic racing bicycles built before circa 1980. Celebrating both Italian culture and the heroic times of bike racing it is based in the "Tuscan Hills" surrounding Beechworth. Modeled on the hugely popular L'eroica event held in Tuscany it is not a race but an opportunity for riders to experience the rugged conditions, gravel roads, punctures and minimal support that was the lot of racers in the era of "heroic" road racing.

24-28th April The Treadlie Magazine Bicycle Exhibition
Westfield Chermisde. Showing the latest in bikes and accessories.

Saturday 27th April, 2013 Ipswich festival street parade
“One upon a nursery rhyme”

28th Ride for Daniel Day Fundraiser Lakeside Park

A 12 hour team ride raising funds for the Daniel Morcombe Foundation. Live music food stands etc at event. Consideration is being given to placing a Penny team – indications of interest to Shane Rush please. To make a registration or for more information please telephone 3480 6625 or 0418 878 514. Venue: Lakeside Park, Lakeside Road, Kurwonbah.

** A practice day for the Penny Team will be held on 24th March. Shane and Andrew co-ordinating the team.**

May

Please provide any event information you have for May.

June

30th Mary Poppins Festival - Maryborough

10am to 4pm

Helen Lyndon Goff (or P L Travers as she became known) was born in Maryborough in Queensland in 1899. Her character Mary Poppins appeared in print in late 1934.

Nannies race each other pushing prams in the great Nanny Challenge; chimney sweeps compete in the Chimney Sweep Dash while Mary Poppins characters come to life from the pages of books and mingle with the crowd.

The entertainment includes professional street theatre performers, sidewalk artists, jugglers, roving Penny Farthing, grand costume parade, kite display, vintage cars, carnival rides and old fashioned games and workshops.



July

14th Pushies Galore 10am to 2pm Holland Park

Stall and show and shine – no ride component. More details in future editions.



Submissions accepted

Unchained accepts unsolicited material and suggestions.

Email: janine.e.r.prince@gmail.com

Errata

The caption on the photo on page 1 of edition #3 ought to have read “November” not “December” many apologies.



For Sale - Print mounted on board \$500

The owner is pleased to offer the following fine item for sale.

Salvaged from well known Brisbane company Thurlow Blinds is this print of John Thurlow posing in his school cap with his Penny Farthing. This print in good condition is mounted on board. Size is approx 1500mm high x 1200mm wide.

Queries welcome, inspections available. Contact Paul Norris (of **Grand Ideas** – salvage and recycle station) at 40 Holland street, Northgate on mobile 0401 580 166 email on info@grandideas.com.au .





Queensland Penny Farthing and Historical Cycle Club

Membership form

March to June 2013 - membership fee is \$20

Please complete the following details and post or email the completed form with payment to the Club Treasurer (details below).

🕒 Name:

🕒 Postal address:

🕒 Phone number (if a landline, please indicate if this is a work or after hours number)

🕒 Email address:

🕒 Please indicate your preferred mode for receiving the newsletter: email or post

🕒 Payment of \$20 membership fee.

Direct transfer or cheque is available for payment (cash taken only at meetings).

Electronic transfer to the club account is welcome (please use your name and 'mship' in the notes field).

Direct payment into Club bank account

Bendigo Bank BSB 633 000

Account 147968572

Account name *Queensland Penny Farthing and Historical Cycle Club*

Please email your receipt of deposit to the Treasurer.

Cheques to be made payable to

Queensland Penny Farthing and Historical Cycle Club

🕒 Please post completed forms with cheques to the Treasurer:

Max Robbie

Queensland Penny Farthing and Historical Cycle Club

PO Box 1414, Springwood QLD 4127.

Email of completed form and payment receipt max@metalsignlabel.com.au



Office use

Date payment received

Member #