

behind  
bars

# Newsletter

Eastern Veterans Cycling Club



**24<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

**Editor:** Janita Keating; [janita\\_todd@bigpond.com](mailto:janita_todd@bigpond.com)

## Duty Roster

**Jan 24 Dunlop Road:** John Thomson, Ian Milner, Rob Fiegan, Mal Jones, Chris Norbury, John Clarkson, Chris Hughson, David Coull, Tom Leaper, Geoff Miller, Alex Spiteri-James, Alan Hasan, Rob DeBernardi, Hans Werner, Colin Mortley

**Jan 27 Croydon Cycleworks METEC:** Mark Edwards, David Pyne

**Jan 31st Gruyere:** Tony Curulli, Andrew Nielsen, Dave McCormack, Jamie Goddard, Rob Amos, Michael Pearce, Roy Clark, Nick Thompson, Steve Fothergill, J C Wilson, Ken Mayberry, Janita Keating

**Feb 3rd Croydon Cycleworks METEC:** Colin Doherty, Walter Savini

**Note: Members rostered for marshal or traffic control duties must be at the circuit at least one hour before the scheduled start time to assist with the setting up of the course. (But bring your bike, you just never know). If a marshal fails to turn up for duty, a rider will be balloted to do that duty. If you cannot turn up for duty, you must find a replacement and please advise Andrew Buchanan at [tiptop2@optusnet.com.au](mailto:tiptop2@optusnet.com.au)**

## Race Reports

**A Grade (no reports)**

**B Grade (no reports)**

**C Grade**

I knew we were in for a windy day at Casey fields when it was windy at North Ringwood, usually it's calm at home and still windy as all get out at Casey. On arrival my observations were spot-on. It was windier than some of my riding buddies after a night eating curry and it was only going to get stronger.

We started on our way with some 14 riders taking on the conditions and keeping well clear of each other's wheels. After the neutral lap Peter Ransome upped the pace and I took a hard turn at the front, I was taking my usual line of keeping the track as short as possible and cutting over to the right side when going around right hand bends, when Pete Ransome rode up and said "keep left mate" and explained we were told to keep left at all times because of the intermediate

sprints on today. I missed the pre-race warning (sorry about that), no drama and on the race went.

I went to the back and missed the escape of John Thompson who took off with about 40 minutes to go (brave man). From then on we were riding for second place because no matter what we did we couldn't seem to reel him in. The wind just got stronger and stronger and I thought he would capitulate at some point, but on he went. The bell rang for the intermediate sprint and on the back straight which was down wind Paul James took off and it was on for second place but no one could catch him with Peter Ransome coming third. We then regrouped and during this slow down John Thompson continued at his relentless pace and got further ahead. We continued on with our race and there was no real concerted chase to bring John back, the collective thought was let him have the chocolates. In reality we couldn't have caught him no matter how hard we tried.

Tim Maffey did a power of work on the up wind legs and rode very strongly. Finally the bell rang and the race was on for the minor placings and it was a repeat of the intermediate sprint with Paul going at exactly the same place and Peter not able to catch him. Congratulations to all of the finishers which I think was about 8 in total and to all of C grade for riding so well in very trying conditions. And to John Thompson, bloody hell you're strong! *(Peter Webb)*

## **D Grade**

Saturday morning dawned with good weather and clear skies. This would be my first race for the year and although crits aren't really my thing, I felt like a ride.

Arriving at Casey Fields the wind was blowing strongly, really strongly. "So what's new you say?" It was gusting up to 32 kph! I put in a couple of tentative warm up laps and had to change down two gears when I hit the wind and counter steer when the wind hit me on the corners!

There was also a new twist for me to this race. We were to have an interim sprint at the half way point and then a final sprint at the end. Each sprint was allocated equal points and the winner would be the person with the most points. While trying to work out the mathematics and permutations of this system, the bunch took off leaving me off the back. A good pace was set with a couple of riders bouncing off the front and then retiring to the rear almost as quickly. Then the bell sounded for the interim sprint. I got too far back and was out of the points.

The pace in the second half of the race was even quicker so that we averaged 32.2 kph despite the wind. It also meant that many riders, including a couple who had done well in the first sprint, were watching us from the sidelines as there was only five of us left.

I knew I had to do something as I had no points, so when the bell went, off I went too. No one wanted to lead so I used the tail wind down the back straight to build up speed and a bit of a break.

I powered up the main straight and just managed to hang on from a fast finishing Neil Cartledge on my right with Colin Mortley on my wheel.

The strange system of awarding points meant that nearly everyone got some chocolates. I was especially delighted to have won my first race of the season. I also had my first win in D grade and my first win at Casey Fields despite the wind! *(Bernie Evans)*

The wind was there, as strong as any other day at Windy Fields! During the warm-up it became quickly apparent that this was going to be a tough race. And then it was announced that we would have intermediate sprints to add another dimension to the pain. After some consideration of the conditions, the two intermediate sprints were reduced to one and in hind sight, a good decision.

The neutral lap was completed at a dawdle, then the race pace finally picked up and on maybe lap 2 or 3. Rob Devolle made his first attack. Rob got

a lead of around 60 metres before the bunch reacted. Not to chase Rob down but to leave him out there in the wind but not too far away. No point in spending too many pennies as there was to be a sprint in less than half an hour. Eventually Rob tired and came back to the pack where upon Ron Chapman had a dig. Now Ron could ride away and stay away from us on any day, so this move had to be covered. Andrew Buchanan, Neil Cartledge and a couple of others lifted the pace and got on to Ron's wheel. The loser of this effort was Neil who then inherited the front and the wind for a couple of laps.

The bell for the intermediate sprint changed the hierarchy as the contenders positioned themselves for the sprint and wound up downwind on the back straight. By the turn the bunch was strung out Ian Smith had moved up to the front while Phil Taylor and JC Wilson were shoulder to shoulder. The followers were Nevil Williamson and Andrew along with Colin Mortley and Bernie Evans. Phil just held off JC and Ian was third in the sprint and collected all the available points. The inevitable counter attack after the sprint came from Rob Devolle and then Ron Chapman. It had the predictable result of dropping several riders over the remainder of the race, some of whom failed to finish or were lapped.

With a small bunch of maybe 6 riders remaining, the time wound down and the lap times correspondingly lengthened an indication of the fatigue in the legs of those that were left in a position to contest the final sprint. Most had done some heavy work on the front at some point in the race, although none had featured in the earlier points score.

The bell for D grade was postponed to finish both B and C grades so that the D grade sprint would not be compromised with other riders. A good decision by the officials but the extra laps not appreciated by "D-legs".

Colin Mortley did some of the last laps on the front ably assisted by Andrew Buchanan. Geoff Cranstone did his bit as well. Ron Chapman had done a lot of work earlier and was now content to watch the sprint from the back. The last lap board gave Bernie Evans the impetus to take the lead which he held uncontested for most of the bell lap. With the wind from directly behind of the

bunch on the back straight, the speed increased to well over 50k's. Bernie was leading into the last turn and Andrew along with Colin well positioned on his wheel. The sprint was well and truly 'On'!

Neil was 3 or 4 lengths off the back of the powerhouse and made a further error of not jumping at his normal point. Bernie was wound up and pulling away from Andrew but Colin was holding Andrew's wheel. Neil used the right hand side of the road to get wind cover while slowly pulling up to Bernie's shoulder as they hit the line. Bernie taking first place by half a wheel, Neil second and Andrew third over the line with Colin a close fourth. *(Neil Cartledge)*

## **E Grade**

If it seems an improbable notion, that wind ferocity would not dominate the opening paragraphs of a Casey Fields race report, then last Saturday's Criterion certainly would not be an exception.

Eight humble E grade riders emerged from the shelter of the Pavilion, with a stiff northerly streaming over the Western Port plains. It was one of those days which to paraphrase Frank Nyhuis (in the car park), you'd rather be somewhere else, doing something else.

With an Intermediate Sprint (I.S.) pending in about 25 minutes, a few warm up laps passed before a serious attack was launched by Zen Gawronski. Given the early attack no one responded, the bunch preferring to let Zen hang 50m or so out front. A couple of laps passed before a combo of riders, led by Kim Petersen, Mick Paull and Nick Hainal, decided it was time to reel him back.

Things settled for a while and I guess most were thinking it would be nice to conserve energy for the I.S. However, Zen was not having any of this and launched a race defining attack into a head wind at the "Twistes". Again the bunch did not respond but it would be to their detriment, Zen gradually increasing his advantage to approx. 200m. Despite the bunch having a one lap

notification of the I.S. Bell, Zen held this margin to claim the first 3 points. Robin Condie followed by Nick!? (who powered over Robert Lackey and Peter Gray) taking the remaining I.S. placing. The I.S. really split the Bunch up. Zen with a comfortable lead, chasers Nick and Kim forming an alliance and Robin, Robert and Peter (still recovering from the I.S.) combining their depleted resources. The alliance duo, were the only chasers appearing likely to bridge the gap to Zen, as the depleted trio soon split and lost contact.

The duo worked well together closing the gap to 25m however Zen put in a surge and pulled away to an unassailable lead. Kim over Nick in their finish, followed by an isolated Robert and Peter about half a lap later.

Wrap up

Congratulations to Zen who executed a well-timed attack and maintained his advantage throughout the race. Kim and Nick who combined well to almost bridge the gap. It's not often we see an E grade race with such tactical variety and success.

Finally, it's great to hear Janita (and maybe Todd)? Keating are taking up the Race Report duties. I'm certain the pair will bring along lots of humor and wit to an important club media connection. Janita, did you say "a short race report"? Perhaps we should rename it to "The Keating Report". It's the one we had to.....well, you know the rest of it.  
*(Peter Gray)*

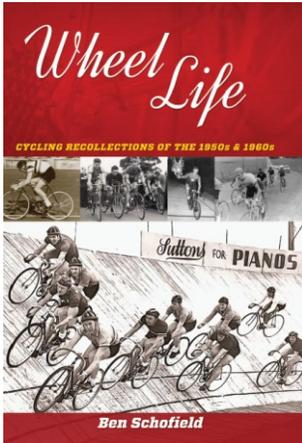
## **F Grade**

**S**itting here trying to remember the day's racing I'm also having thoughts of my long ago school days when those English Teachers tried to teach

me things I was not really interested in learning. Everybody knows you went to school to play football and cricket. With apologies to those unsung heroes here goes. The wind certainly limited any breakaway attempts (we are talking about F grade here) with everybody seemingly happy enough roll around although Richard did a lot of work into the wind. At the mid race sprint Richard really put in just after the U turn at the top of the course and stretched the field all the way to the line but the old stager Ron Stranks scored the sprint points. With the bunch back together for the last lap the speed didn't pick up until the tail wind section where once again Richard stepped on the pedals closely followed by Ron and Laurie with Laurie going over the line 1st followed by Ron and Richard. Thanks officials and riders for a good safe race. Hopefully better conditions next week.  
*(Laurie Bohn)*

## News and stuff

### Wheel Life book - cycling recollections of the 1950s and 60s by Ben Schofield



The story of cycling in the 50s and 60s, is told in this collection of 14 lively interviews with cycle racers from the period. Recollections range from stories about Russell Mockridge to the Italian track stars regularly brought out to Melbourne - and everything in between.

Ben will be at Dunlop road this Sat 24 January with copies of the book. The cost is \$30 each. Copies can also be ordered online via Ben's email: [benjschofield68@gmail.com](mailto:benjschofield68@gmail.com), and postage cost is \$7.

### A new record on Strava for 1 in 20, The Basin



A young fellow by the name of Brendan Canty has just achieved the new KOM up 1:20 in a blistering time of 13:04. That works out at an average of 30.7 km/hr for the 6.7km category 3 climb. That broke the record by 15 seconds. I'd do a similar speed in the car following a tourist motorist!

### Spain Cycle Trip in August 2015



Interested in travelling to Spain for the 2015 Vuelta a Espana? Check out Gradient Blue's flyer at the back of the newsletter.



## Classifieds



**For Sale: Fuji Ace 20 Kids bike \$180**

Blue; flatbar; shimano Revo 7 speed; some very minor scratches. Shifter a bit worn, but works fine. Fitted with wider bar, have the original bar which you can also take.

Pickup: Boronia. *Janita* 042 761 2310 [janita\\_todd@bigpond.com](mailto:janita_todd@bigpond.com)

## Race Results

No race results for Tuesday METEC as it was not on.

Sat 17/01/15 Casey Fields	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
A Grade (0)			
B Grade (9)	P Thompson (5)	R Russo (3)	S Crowhurst, D Goodall (2)
C Grade (14)	J Thomson (6)	P James (4)	P Ransome (2)
D Grade (12)	P Taylor, B Evans (3)	JC Wilson, N Cartledge (2)	
E Grade (8)	Z Gawronski (6)	R Condie, K Petersen, N Hainal (2)	
F Grade (7)	R Stranks (5)	L Bohn (3)	R Hensey, C Wright (2)

**Note:** The plan on Saturday's race was to have a points score race for B, C, D, E and F, with two intermediate sprints. Because of the very windy conditions, it was decided at the last minute to only have one intermediate sprint. This decision, while making it easier for those on the finish line, had unforeseen implications, in that it would almost certainly ensure that a number of riders would finish on equal points. Where this happened, riders shared the money. Also, the A graders had a team's race and did not have an intermediate sprint.

**Special thanks to:** Nigel who brought the drinks, Kevin who was on first aid, marshals Steve Barnard, Brian McCann, Edward Smith and Keith Bowen. Steve Barnard for being the race controller, David Hyde towing the trailer, Peter M and Ron S who were taking entries.

Wedn 21/01/15 The Loop	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Division 1 (8)	T Coulter (N)	A Burmas	T McDonough
Division 2 (8)	T Curulli	P Webb	M Collins (N)
Division 3 (9)	N Cartledge	A Hocking (W)	S Barnard
Division 4 (7)	B Rodgers	F Lees	S Murphy

Thanks go to Keith for managing this increasingly popular mid-week social race.

## Future Events

**Eastern Vets Program: [www.easternvets.com/](http://www.easternvets.com/)**

	Date	Time	Location	Melway Ref	Event
Tuesday's	Until April	6:00pm	Metec	51 E7	Croydon Cycleworks Summer Series
Wednesday's	All	10:15am	The Loop, Yarra Bend Park.	2D C7	Graded Scratch Races, all year.
Saturday Jan	17	2:00pm	Casey Fields	134 E10	Graded Scratch Races
Saturday Jan	24	1:30pm	Dunlop Rd	70 K10	Graded Scratch Races
Saturday Jan	31	2:00pm	Gruyere	282F10	Graded Scratch Races
Saturday Feb	7	2:00pm	Casey Fields	134E10	Graded Scratch Races
Saturday Feb	14	1:30pm	Dunlop Rd	70K10	Graded Scratch Races Team Race

Note: Graded Scratch Race entries are accepted on the day up to 15 minutes before the advertised race start time. Handicap entries close the Tuesday before the race. Riders entering a handicap MUST pay the entry fee regardless of participation. Fees are due on race day; entrants will NOT be allowed to start in any EVCC race until fees have been paid. No late entries will be accepted for either scratch races or handicaps. Entries to handicaps can be submitted via e-mail to the handicapper or on any race day prior to the eve.

### Northern Vets Program: [www.northerncycling.com/](http://www.northerncycling.com/)

Date 2014	Race	Dist.	Venue	Time	Event
18/1/15	GSR	1 hr. + Bell	National Boulevard (Ford)	9:00 am	Graded scratch race
25/1/15					Australia Day. NO racing
01/02/15	Vin Nuttal Memorial	64km handicap	Avenel Rd, Seymour	9.30am	64km handicap
8/02/15	GSR	1hr + Bell	National Boulevard (Ford)	9:00am	Graded Scratch race

### Training Rides

Day/Time/Place	Route	Style	Contact
<b>Tuesdays</b> 9:30 am (9:00 am during DST). Main Yarra Trail (meet under Burke Road overpass).	Under Burke Road on Main Yarra Trail to Southbank via Yarra Boulevard and bike paths along the river and return.	Social, bike paths and roads, coffee @ Southbank.	Keithb33@optusnet.com.au
<b>Sunday Mornings</b> Beach Road Ride. Leave 8.00 am sharp.  Meet at Peanut Farm Reserve. Cnr Blessington & Chaucer Sts. St Kilda.	Ride along Beach Rd to Frankston. 10 min stop. Then ride back to St Kilda. (approx. 65 km).	Social Ride - Coffee back at St Kilda.	

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## **2015 Gradient Blue Tour of Spain**

Our tour focuses on beautiful mountain rides, coastal views & local Spanish culture. Enjoy several days of Vuelta race action & ride great climbs in southern Spain. Malaga serves as a perfect base for riding the Montes de Málaga & Sierra de las Nieves mountain ranges. Short trip to our Queen Stage in the Sierra Nevada mountain range @ 3000m above sea level. A must do!



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