

# Newsletter



## Duty roster

### 12 December, METEC

Steve Barnard (R), Nathan Carter, Dale Linaker, Adam Dymond, Nick Tapp

### 19 December, Dunlop Road

John Thomson (R), Mark Granland (TC), Dayle Goodall (TC), Neil Cartledge (TC), Max Michelson, Kym Petersen, Darren Smith, Ben Muller, Neville Williamson, Greg Harvey, Ron Chapman, Ian Jones, Gerard Donnelly, Bernie Evans, Andrew Mapstone

*If rostered for duty, you must be at there at least 1 hour prior to start time. It's your responsibility to find a replacement if unable to do your duty, then advise Andrew Buchanan, [tjptop2@optusnet.com.au](mailto:tjptop2@optusnet.com.au)*

It was a big weekend of bike racing. The winners from Saturday's Christmas Handicap at Casey Fields were E-grade rider John Marx, who held off a storming field to win; Jean-Philippe Leclercq, who just failed to catch John but took out fastest time – and handicapper Peter Mackie. With five grades represented in the top 10, and the first eight place-getters within 50 metres at the finish, it could hardly have worked out better from the handicapper's point of view. Nice one, Pete! Peter Gray's selection for 'Ride of the Day' went to Steve Short for his gutsy solo attempt to catch the eventual winner.

Several club members were off in Victoria's north-east last weekend, competing in the Tour of Bright. And on Sunday a gallant few took on Northern Cycling in the Dave Ryan Memorial criterium at Northern Boulevard. Reports, including Peter Gray's pictorial report on the Christmas Handicap, are within.

### An omission and a plug

It slipped by without mention at the family day on Saturday that Dean Niclasen had provided LEGO for the children to play with, and also donated a \$70 LEGO set as the prize for the treasure hunt. Thanks, Dean! Dean's business is a specialist LEGO retailer, with a website at [www.toybricks.com.au](http://www.toybricks.com.au). They also have a store at 70 Station St, Fairfield, which stocks the best range of LEGO in Melbourne. If anyone is looking to purchase LEGO or just needs advice, Dean is happy to help.



Editor: [nick.ta...@...m.au](mailto:nick.ta...@...)



CRB Hill, with KOM points at the top, awaits riders in Stage 3 of the Tour of Bright.



## Christmas Handicap, Casey Fields, 5 December

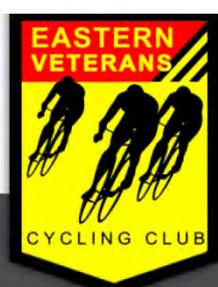
Place	Rider	Grade
1st	John Marx	E grade
2nd	Jean-Philippe Leclercq	A grade
3rd	Roy Clark	A grade
4th	Steve Short	C grade
5th	Troy Drinan	A grade
6th	Rob Amos	A grade
7th	Ray Russo	B grade
8th	Colin Doherty	B grade
9th	John Thomson	B grade
10th	Adrian Dickinson	D grade
Fastest time	Jean-Philippe Leclercq	

### A grade scratch race and final

Everybody started the qualifying scratch race with one aim: finish in the top 5 to qualify for the Christmas handicap. The bunch picked up speed, rolling turns to have a good workout but not trying to wear one another out. This worked well until about 20 minutes to go, when Roy upped the pace to clear a lapped bunch, and new rider Troy Drinan took it as an opportunity to attack. Rob covered the move, as did JP, to ensure qualification, easing up after a couple of laps. Steve Ross was first to go out, with a puncture, after putting in strong turns during the race. Roy had Phil Thompson for company until Ed Smith managed to get back on as Phil went out the back, making the qualifying complete.

In the final, a nice steady start had us all in formation. The next task was to ride as fast as possible to catch all the riders in front. Ed went off after one turn, not yet race fit. A grade was catching B, but despite a big effort by Rob they still managed to jump on the back. As the bell rang it was difficult to tell where they stood with dropped riders all over the track. Into the last loop the lower grades were swept up as a couple of B-graders decided to help with the pacemaking. JP opened up the sprint before the last corner, but it was too late to catch John Marx from E grade, JP and Roy just pipping Steve Short from C grade. Perfect handicapping from Peter, with every grade from A to E in the top 10. Ave. speed 42.7 km/h.

*Rob Amos*



## The Christmas Handicap in pictures (and songs)



### ***'Show Me the Way'***

*Clive Wright leads Brian Farrell near completion of lap 1 after they dropped their F-grade colleague.  
All photos and song titles: Peter Gray*



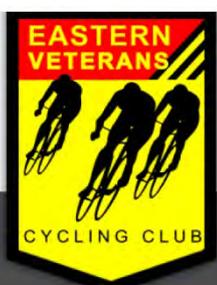
### ***'Walk This Way'***

*John Marx leads Zen Gawronski and Rob Devolle on lap 1.*



### ***'Are You Gonna Go My Way'***

*Rob Castellani of D grade dictates the pace and the path to take for Adrian Dickinson, Greg Harvey and Steve Barnard with Kym Petersen, just ahead of a rapidly approaching C grade.*





***'That's the Way (I Like It)'***

*This is the form that resulted in three B-grade riders in the top 10: Colin Doherty, Dayle Goodall, Ray Russo, John Thomson and Anthony Gullace.*



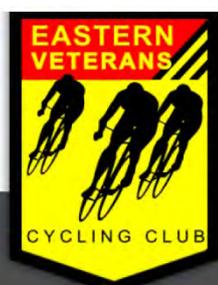
***'That's Just the Way We Roll'***

*Classic time trial configuration was demonstrated by the awesome foursome: Troy Drinan, Rob Amos, Roy Clark and Jean-Philippe Leclercq (just peeling off the front on the windward side).*



***'Go Your Own Way'***

*John Marx decides to go it alone after shredding the exhausted remnants of his team-mates and F-grade competitors.*





**'Way Out There'**

*Steve Short was anything but as he Marx his main man.*



**'It's a Long Way to the Top'**

*Peter Ransome (out of pic) is just about to be swamped by a conglomerate of A, B and C-grade power on the bell lap: Rob Amos, Roy Clark, Jean-Philippe Leclercq, Troy Drinan, Ray Russo, Colin Doherty (obscured), Dayle Goodall, John Thomson and an unidentified C-grade rider.*



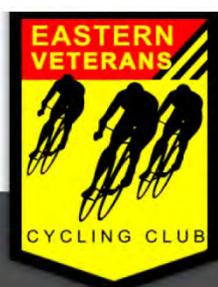
**'(I Did It) My Way'**

*A tiring John Marx just manages to hold off fastest time rider Jean-Philippe Leclercq by less than half a wheel to take 1st place in the handicap.*

**Another view of the day**

Warm and humid, as we probably expected, but a strong southerly came up and made things harder. Very few of the qualifying scratch races were 'ride around and sprint home' affairs, and there were plenty of riders spread around the circuit.

The half-hour recovery break came and went quickly and it was down to business. F grade were at a disadvantage as they only had four riders, and Jenny Collins chose not to ride the final after doing quite well in the qualifier, leaving them with three. My pick was Rob Devolle on his form at Dunlop Road. Rob and Zen had done well in the E-grade qualifier but favourites can fall over, as many a punter will tell you! There were



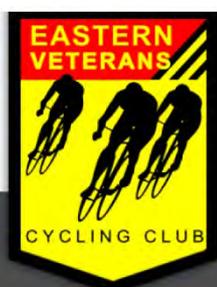


some big gaps between the the bunches and I didn't think we would see A any time soon. The chase was on in earnest when A grade went off but F and E were showing signs of cracking. I had got to know John Marx quite well over previous weeks and with his background in track and field I reckoned that he would have the ability to hold his tempo on his own, despite heading off with around two laps to go. Steve Short looked like he could be a threat but was running a big risk of snapping something, riding that huge gear into the wind.

It was a bit like a greyhound race, with John being the lure. Around the last turn and he still had daylight but the pursuit was really hot with D,C,B and A pulling out all stops. John hit the line and won by a nostril from the flying Jean-Philippe, followed by Roy. A worthy conclusion to a real feature race!

Well done to John Eddy with a win on Sunday and Roy with a 3rd.

*'The Silent Observer', aka Jim Swainston*





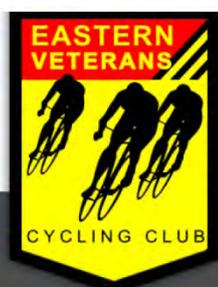
## Tuesday night racing at METEC, 8 December

Grade	1st	2nd	3rd
A grade	Peter Howard	Rob Amos	Tayfun Ugrasbul
B grade	Dave Pyne	Darren Smith	Doug Reynolds
C grade	H. Chapman	Phil Taylor	Bob Lewis
D grade	A. Zubovic	Wes Black	Adrian Dickinson
E grade	Rob Lackey	R. Seville	Harry Hibgame

## Wednesday criterium at the Loop, Kew, 9 December

Division	1st	2nd	3rd
Division 1 (16)	Brett Morton	David Holt	Fraser Short (N)
Division 2 (13)	John Williams	Phil Taylor	Bruce Will
Division 3 (7)	Dean Niclasen	Andreas Weber	Neil Cartledge
Division 4 (6)	John Eddy	Frank Lees	Barry Rodgers

The bell rings on Division 1 at the Loop, with Paul Firth on the front.  
Photo: Amy Tapp





## News etc.

### Dave Ryan Memorial criterium

A great turnout of 91 riders (including 25 from Eastern) competed in the crit races at Northern's National Boulevard circuit last Sunday in honour of late Eastern member Dave Ryan. \$800 was donated to John Logan Foundation, who helped Dave with his cancer treatment.



*Dave Ryan's daughter presents trophies.*



*Dave's family*

Fittingly, the proceedings started with a 'lap of honour' out of respect for Dave, before racing in anger started. Eastern riders were sadly outnumbered, but gave a good account of themselves in all grades.

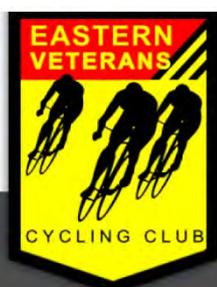
In F grade, John Eddy and Frank Lees took 1st and 3rd. In other grades, although Eastern riders raced smartly and aggressively, weight of numbers and local knowledge counted against us when it came to podium places.

In B grade, we enjoyed almost equal numbers, with 6 of the 14 starters. Walter Savini was amongst it early, chasing down breaks and trying a few escapes of his own. Colin Doherty and Rob Suter were also seen near the front. Towards mid-race John Williams helped out, chasing down the frequent Northern attacks, and during the last few laps Roman Suran fought tenaciously with two Northern riders in a breakaway that was finally caught heading into the finishing straight. In a very fast downhill finish, Colin and Walter got 4th and 5th, marginally behind three Northern riders. Rob Suter and John Williams finished fast and strong but were coming from too far back to impact the placings.

Several members of Dave's family were there to present medals and trophies.

It is a well-organised race on a safe, fast course and deserves more Eastern Vets participation. It would be great to see even stronger representation next year.

*John Williams*





## Tour of Bright

The Tour of Bright is a stage race run by the Bright-based Alpine Cycling Club. All stages start in Bright. Stage 1 is a 13.5 km individual time trial; Stage 2 is a 91 km road stage (131 km for Mens A) that finishes with an 8 km climb to Tawonga Gap; and Stage 3 is 56.5 km long, with a mountain-top finish near the summit of Mount Hotham. Eastern members (with CA licences) have performed well in various Masters categories in recent years, and 2015 was no exception. The 2015 Tour took place on 4–6 December.



Frank Nyhuis, winner of the sprinters jersey, Masters 6+.



Gerard Donnelly: 1st ITT, 2nd Stage 2, 3rd Stage 3, and 2nd Overall, Masters 6+; and Trevor Coulter: 3rd ITT and 3rd Overall, Masters 6+.



Anna Davis: 3rd ITT, Women's A Grade.



John Clarkson: 2nd Stage 2 and 3rd Overall, Masters C Grade.

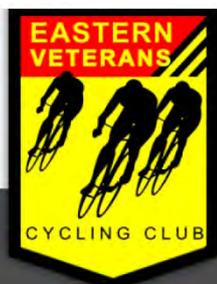


Andrew Stalder (son of Martin): 2nd Overall, Masters A Grade.

## 25 years for Ransome

Last Saturday's Christmas Handicap marked 25 years since Peter Ransome won the coveted Pro-Am trophy. This year Peter represented C grade in the final, and was looking likely to place until the awesome A-grade foursome devoured everyone in its path. Congratulations, Pete, on your longevity and outstanding contributions.

Peter Gray





## JP top of tree

The Christmas Handicap catapulted Jean-Philippe Leclercq to the top of the Club Champion's aggregate. With two races remaining, JP holds a comfortable lead from a floundering Peter Gray and looks likely to hold or increase this advantage given his current form. Also in great form are Colin Doherty and Rob Amos, both in contention for 2nd and 3rd places. Peter Webb could also make the podium if he does well over the coming weeks. Good luck to all.

*Peter Gray*

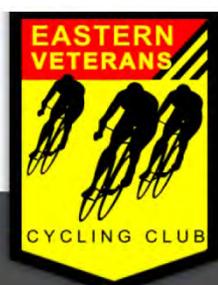
**Get your tickets for the 118th Austral Wheelrace and Australian Madison!**



Tickets are now on sale to the biggest track night of the year. The world's best cyclists are set to light up Hisense Arena on Saturday 19 December. An action-packed night of track cycling will feature the following events:

- 118th Austral Wheelrace Carnival
- 2016 Australian Madison Championships for both Men and Women
- UCI Category 1 Sprints and Keirins

It's a night not to be missed! Purchase tickets now for this event at [Ticketek](#).





## Wellington to Auckland Challenge, 14–21 February 2016

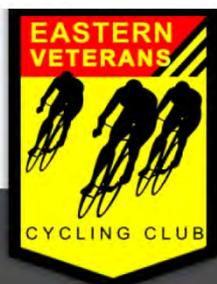
We now have four Vets booked to do the 900 km, 12-stage race from Wellington to Auckland between 14 and 21 Feb 2016:

Geoff O'Loghlen (+ partner)  
Greg Foster  
Dave McCormack  
John Williams.

For anyone else that is interested, it is not too late to enter. Bookings are open until the end of the year, and last year I didn't book until mid-January. Cost for race entry, hotels, dinners and transportation of luggage (each day) is NZ\$1337, or around \$1280 in proper Aussie dollars, and most of us are booking flights into Wellington and back out of Auckland for around \$250 each way, including 30 kg of luggage.

Any queries, please call me on 0419 713 087, or email on [john.williams@jhw.com.au](mailto:john.williams@jhw.com.au).

*John Williams*





## Future events

### Eastern Vets

For other events, please refer to page 1 of this newsletter, or go to <http://easternvets.com/roster/>

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.

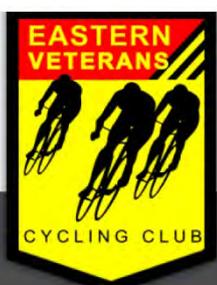
No late entries will be accepted for either scratch races or handicaps. Entries to handicaps can be submitted via e-mail to the handicapper or on any race day prior to the event.

### Northern Vets

For more details go to <http://www.northerncycling.com/>

## 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
Sunday mornings  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	
Saturday mornings (7.30 am) and Sundays/public holidays (8.00 am)  Meet at Ringwood Clock towers, Maroondah Hwy, Ringwood	Maroondah Hwy to Carlton for coffee, then return	Fast social	





## Sponsors

