

eastern veterans cycling club

PRESENTATION DINNER DANCE, STILL WANT TO GO AND YOU HAVEN'T BOOKED. TALK TO ALAN AND YOU JUST MIGHT BE LUCKY. TODAY IS DEFINITELY YOUR LAST CHANCE

Newsletter July 7, 2001

LAST WEEK JUNE 30 GRADED SCRATCH RACES – AFL PARK

A glorious morning brought everyone out to the Park in the afternoon, but unfortunately it became a bit overcast and cooler as the day wore on.

Nevertheless, conditions could not have been much better, with virtually no wind, just a zephyr from the south, which meant race speeds were high. 81 riders turned up and with some major reshuffles of grades for some riders and a combination of A and B saw large competitive fields in all grades. The races went from 2 hours for A/B Grade down to 1¼ for F Grade.

Four riders in A/B Grade cleared out and were within about a quarter of a lap of lapping the rest of their bunch, so the judges decided to take pity on the remaining riders and award a fifth place. The winner, surprise surprise, was Phil Thompson from B Graders Martin Stalder, Roger Byrnes, Steve Pryor, with David Kenney winning the bonus fifth place for the bunch sprint.

C Grade had the biggest field of the day with 24 riders, including a number of promotions for the day in Alan Sandford, Bill Dove, Ian Smith, Barry Rogers, Hilton Preece and Graham Cadd. Geoff Vincent won from Brod Taylor with Nick Panou just holding off Alan Sandford and Greg Molesworth.

Because of the promotions to C Grade, D Grade did not have the biggest field for a change, but nevertheless the 20 riders kept the pace up for an average race speed of 35 km/hr. Andy Maclean and David Triggar did a lot of work early, then towards the end of the race Harold Simpson, Alex Reinehr, Glen Archer and Bill Upston were always near the front. In the sprint Harold Simpson was too strong for a fast finishing Ken Woollard, with Steve Oberg, who was dropped after the intermediate sprint, finishing third and David McCormack just beating Clive Wright for fourth.

Hans Werner was too strong for the 12 E Grade riders, doing long turns at the front and winning from Phillip Johns, Don Ferguson and John C Wilson. Hans was the only dual winner of the day in winning both the intermediate sprint and race.

Our lady riders had a good day in F Grade, with Gayle Pung, winning from Liz Randall and new rider Mick Fisher third in his second race.

A great day's racing at a great venue, a pity that we will lose it one day soon.

Prizes for the intermediate sprints were kindly donated by Steve Chan of Le Tour Cycles.

RESULTS

	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Sprint
A / B Grade (15)	Phil Thompson	Martin Stalder	Roger Byrnes	Steve Pryor	Roger Byrnes
C Grade (24)	Geoff Vincent	Brod Taylor	Nick Panou	Alan Sandford	Chris Ellenby
I Grade (20)	Harold Simpson	Ken Woollard	Steve Oberg	David McCormack	Russell Jones
I Grade (12)	Hans Werner	Phillip Johns	Don Ferguson	John C Wilson	Hans Werner
I Grade (10)	Gayle Pung	Liz Randall	Mick Fisher		Col Tessier

OFFICIALS

Helpers today were Vince Di Nuzzo, Rob Graham, Lou Edwards, Michael Paul, Lou Edwards and Sue Wray, with Glen Archer on the drinks. Thanks very much to you all.

TODAY

A new course for many of us today, although some may have ridden it as part of some of Southern's courses. A 3 lap, group handicap sponsored by Delmont Private Hospital.

NEXT WEEK

It's the Teams Event next week at Steels Creek with three divisions, comprising a team time trial of 16 km and scratch race of 48 km with intermediate sprints, the winners being determined on a points basis.

EASTERN VETS PROGRAM

Saturday July 14	2.00 pm	Steels Creek	Teams Event
Saturday July 14	7.30 pm	Park Orchards Chalet	Presentation Dinner Dance
Saturday July 21	2.00 pm	East Wandin	Graded Scratch Races
Saturday July 28	2.00 pm	Yarra Glen/Toolangi	Graded Scratch Races KOM
Saturday August 4	2.00 pm	AFL Park	GSR's with Intermediate Sprints

SOUTHERN VETS PROGRAM

Sunday July 8	9.00 am	Lang Lang	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday July 15	9.00 am	Dromana	Club Championship
Sunday July 22	9.00 am	Crib Point	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday July 29	9.00 am	Bayles	Handicap
Sunday August 5	10.00 am	Bayles	Tim Bates Handicap

NORTHERN VETS PROGRAM

Sunday July 8	9.30 am	Campbellfield	Criterionms
Sunday July 15	10.00 am	Lancefield	Handicap 62 km
Sunday July 22	9.30 am	Toolernvale	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday July 29	10.00 am	Pyalong Rd Seymour	Handicap 53km
Sunday August 5	9.30 am	Campbellfield	Criterionms



NERANG CRITERIUM CIRCUIT

For those of you who haven't been there, this a photo looking back from just short of the finish line at the Nerang Criterium Circuit, Gold Coast. There are three circuits, the main one comes in from the left at the top of the hill, an intermediate circuit, in from the right at the top of the hill and the easiest one, in from the right at the bottom. The hill is steeper than it looks and makes for fast sprinting at the finish. The trouble is you have to climb, about twice the elevation of the hill shown. Nevertheless a great facility and if only we could get something like this in Melbourne..

TRACK RACING AT VODAFONE ARENA

Steve Di Tullio earlier described his Summer Track Season touring Victoria on his postie bike. He now tells us what it is like at Vodafone Arena. Racing at Vodafone is in contrast to Colin's Smythes's account of racing at the Essendon Board Track.

The Vodafone arena is located in Swan St, Melbourne, in the Sporting precinct. It is opposite Olympic Park and next door to the Rod Laver Arena. The track itself is made out of Baltic pine and measures 250m in length with the main banks being 42 degrees, which looks bloody steep rolling around at the top or standing on the walkway landing watching the races, the main straights are at an angle of 12 degrees. The Baltic pine is laid in the direction of riding, most unlike the Essendon track (see Colin Smythe's article June 9) there is no distinct rattling and rumbling, just all smooth power on the boards.

I could not have chosen a bigger race, the famous Austral Wheel Race, to make my debut on a type of track that I had absolutely no experience on, but we have to start somewhere. It just so happens that this particular Austral Wheel Race was an absolute sell out and they actually turned away about 300-400 patrons wanting to get in. The velodrome seats approximately 4500 people and the management then went on to sell the standing room areas on the corners where they squeezed in another 300 patrons.

The track is super fast and this was driven home to me when on my first ride I had a 50 x 15 gear on (90 inch). All Christmas, I had struggled to get on top of this size gear in races, well I rolled three laps at the start of the warm up at Vodafone and went straight off and put on 48 x 14, giving me 92.6. This wasn't a bad gear to use, but it wasn't until the last race of my track season that I thought I found the right gear 52 x 15 (93.6), now I have to wait until next year.

Unlike Colin Smythe's experiences with track racing, there was only one bookie at the track and he did reasonably good business on the Austral night. There were some criticisms of the

public address system and eventually over a number of carnivals the Victorian cycling mob got it close to right.

Well much like my Christmas racing I did not fair too well at the Austral, but it was absolutely fantastic to race in front of such a large crowd. Unfortunately after the Austral the next three carnivals did not get anywhere near as many spectators in and although the crowd was small the racing was still good to watch and participate in. I do not know why the punters stayed away, maybe it was the outlaying of \$20-\$25, depending on where you sat, four weeks running that turned them off.

A few falls occurred and most of them happened as the bunch rolled around to get the gun to start races. With riders not going fast enough or keeping pressure on the pedals going around the banks they just slid down the track taking out riders underneath them and causing a chain reaction among the field. Some other spectacular falls occurred through the good ol' plain hook as a rider comes around you and the best one of the carnivals was Ryan Bayley (W.A) being taken out by Jeff Hopkins (N.S.W.). Ryan came down and slid a good 20m along the track picked up his bike walked straight down the steps he stopped next to and sat in his seat trying to soak up the pain. he did not ride the next week due to a super large bruise on his hip.

Well, that is Vodafone arena and the good oil is that a new indoor velodrome is going to be built on the existing site of the Northcote velodrome. Work will commence sometime in the near future with the Northcote club being warned it won't have a track for this coming track season and possibly the 2002/03 season as well.

Everyone has heard this story for ages but apparently the funds are there and waiting!

CLUB NEWS

TRAINING/CAPPUCINO RIDES

Interested in some easy training rides, including a coffee break. Then the following might be of interest.

Sunday Morning

St Kilda to Frankston and return. Starting at the corner of Beach Road and Wentworth Avenue at 8.00 am. Approximate distance 75 km. Enquiries to John Macleod 9722 1522.

Tuesday Morning

This ride is now becoming popular, with 7 or 8 riders. Yarra bike path to South Bank, Port Melbourne, or Botanic Gardens (approximate distance 70 km from Lower Plenty). Meet at various points along the bike path, 9.00 am Bonds Road Lower Plenty, 9.30 am Burke Road, other points as you wish. Enquiries to Keith Bowen 9439 8013

REMEMBER

If you have any news, members results from non Eastern events, bike bits to sell, pet or regular training rides, advertisements, or anything else that you would like to include, please give it to me on race day, by phone (9439 8013) or by e mail (keithb@rabbit.com.au).

NEW LINKS ON WEB SITE?

Leon Bishop maintains our web site, <http://www4.tpg.com.au/users/lfbishop> and has recently put up a number of new links to other cycling sites. When the Tour de France starts in a few weeks you can find the latest results through our web site. Check it out today.

HELP NEEDED

I'm running short of material for the Newsletter, if you have anything to contribute, please give it to me on race day, by phone (9439 8013) or by e mail (keithb@rabbit.com.au).

TOUR DE FRANCE

SBS are showing highlights each night at 6.00 pm from Sunday July 8. In case you are not home in time and you don't know how, or forget to set the video, there is a replay each night at about 11.30 pm. There will be live coverage of two stages this year, the mountain stage to Aix Les-Thermes, which includes about 30 km of Category 1 climbing, starting at 10.00 pm Friday, 20 July and the final stage starting 10.05 pm on Sunday, 29 July

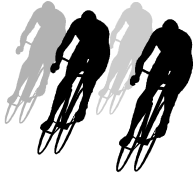


WE'RE STILL LOOKING FOR MARTIN'S BIKE

Martin Peeters has been burgled and in addition to losing TV's and power tools, has had his Colnago race bike stolen. It is a relatively rare model, with a twin down tube and is consequently very distinctive. It is a 54 cm titanium frame, painted white, yellow and blue in typical Colnago fashion, with Record 9 speed group set and Giant wheels, with black bladed spokes and carbon hubs. Please keep a lookout for anyone who has recently acquired such a bike, or if you hear of one for sale, contact Martin.

PRESENTATION DINNER DANCE

Numbers attending the Presentation Dinner Dance have to be confirmed today with the Park Orchards Chalet, consequently any cancellations after today will have to be paid for.



eastern veterans cycling club

**PRESENTATION DINNER DANCE
SEE YOU THERE TONIGHT.**

Newsletter July 14, 2001

LAST WEEK JULY 7 DELMONT PRIVATE HOSPITAL HANDICAP YANNATHAN

Well a disappointing day. Cold and wet in the morning and a forecast for a miserable afternoon resulted in a cancellation of last Saturday's race. A phone around in the morning meant that most, but unfortunately not all riders, were contacted and advised of the cancellation. Apologies to those hardy souls who ventured forth to Yannathan, only to find that no one was in attendance. If you are in any doubt as to whether racing will be on, ring the race day phone 0407 688 154, or a committee member.

The Delmont Private Hospital Classic Handicap will now be held on 28 July on the Yarra Glen Toolangi course.

TODAY

It's the Teams Event next week at Steels Creek with three divisions, comprising a team time trial of 16 km and scratch race of 32 km with intermediate sprints, the winners being determined on a points basis.

NEXT WEEK

Back to East Wandin next week for Graded Scratch Races.

EASTERN VETS PROGRAM

Saturday July 21	2.00 pm	East Wandin	Graded Scratch Races
Saturday July 28	2.00 pm	Yarra Glen/Toolangi	Delmont Hospital Classic Handicap
Saturday August 4	2.00 pm	AFL Park	GSR's with Intermediate Sprints
Wednesday August 1	8.00 pm	Maroondah Club	Committee Meeting
Saturday August 11	2.00 pm	East Wandin	Avon Tyre Service Classic Handicap

SOUTHERN VETS PROGRAM

Sunday July 15	9.00 am	Dromana	Club Championship
Sunday July 22	9.00 am	Crib Point	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday July 29	9.00 am	Bayles	Handicap
Sunday August 5	10.00 am	Bayles	Tim Bates Handicap

NORTHERN VETS PROGRAM

Sunday July 15	10.00 am	Lancefield	Handicap 62 km
Sunday July 22	9.30 am	Toolernvale	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday July 29	10.00 am	Pyalong Rd Seymour	Handicap 53km
Sunday August 5	9.30 am	Campbellfield	Criteriaums

CLUB NEWS

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NEW LINKS ON WEB SITE

Leon Bishop maintains our web site, <http://www4.tpg.com.au/users/lfbishop> and has recently put up a number of new links to other cycling sites. If you are missing the action of the Tour on SBS, check the Club's website and select a link to the Tour.

TOUR DE FRANCE

Are you watching the Tour, highlights are on each night at 6.00 pm with a replay about 11.30 pm. There will be live coverage of two stages this year, the mountain stage to Aix Les-Thermes, which includes about 30 km of Category 1 climbing, starting at 10.00 pm Friday, 20 July and the final stage starting 10.05 pm on Sunday, 29 July. Sunday July 15, 12.30 pm SBS has a show on the preparation of US Postal Team for the Paris Roubaix Race.

CLUB NEWS

Tee Shirts

Now available in black or white with club logo at a cost of \$20. See Dick Fox to order yours. Limited stocks available so be early to make sure you don't miss out.

Stubby Holders

Also in club colours available from the drinks team of Steve Fothergill and Glenn Archer for \$5. The holders were kindly donated by Elgas, through Glenn.

The tee shirts and stubby holders were designed and supplied by Redfox Design. So if you, or your firm, or organisation requires any graphic design work contact Marty Fox on 8802 7301.

Officials Roster

Because of the difficulty of getting enough officials for races, the Committee decided to institute a roster system. If you are listed on the roster, you must either turn up and do a corner or whatever, or arrange a replacement. If you do not turn up, you will not be able to race until such time as you officiate at a race. Sorry about that, but unfortunately it is being left to a few members to carry out the various duties associated with a race.

Assistance With The Trailer

The purchase of the trailer has made transport of the race gear to the race venue much easier than transporting in the boot of someone's car. However assistance is needed to look after the trailer and tow it to races. At the moment we have four volunteers, Alan Sandford, Nick Hainal, Graeme Parker and John C Wilson. If you are able to help, please see Alan Sandford.

Looking For A Housing Loan

Victorian State Home Loans is sponsoring the Club's Benalla weekend and providing a commission of 0.1% (\$100 in \$100,000) for loans to members, or where the lead for a loan comes from an Eastern member or through the Newsletter. So, if you are looking for a loan, or know someone who is, contact Laurie Baigent on 0419 116 682 for a competitive rate and for the benefit of the Club. John Walker is a principal of Victorian State Home Loans and Laurie is Eastern Suburbs Regional Manager.

Gold Coast Holiday

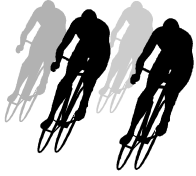


I'm off to the Gold Coast next week, finding out again what it is like to ride a bike in temperatures above 20° C. See you in a few weeks.

In my absence Leon Bishop will take over the Newsletter, so if you have any contributions see Leon.

Eastern Veterans Cycling Club
Proudly Sponsored by





eastern veterans cycling club

Newsletter August 18 and 25, 2001



**DON'T FORGET THE COMMITTEE MEETING ON
SEPTEMBER 5.
IMPORTANT MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED.
FEES FOR NEXT YEAR.
COME AND HAVE YOUR SAY.**

August 11 East Wandin-

Avon Tyres Handicap (Div 1) Graeme Parker Classic (Div 2)

Around 35 riders turned up for a great day at East Wandin racing in two handicap races. Special thanks to members Nick Hainal and Graeme Parker for sponsoring the day.

Division 1 raced over 60 km and Division 2 over 48 km on the hilly East Wandin circuit. Regular riders at this venue will know that it is always a good workout for lungs and legs and a pretty demanding handicap course.

The good news is that member Paul Leonard who fell on the day is OK, apart from losing a lot of skin and shredding his knicks.

Division 1 was won by A Grade rider Phil Thompson (scratch) who gave second place rider Quentin Frayne 2 minutes and third place getter Graeme Parker 7 minutes.

Division 2 was won by John Hopkins with Ron Stranks both off one minute, with Gregor McGibbon coming in third after having ridden the whole race alone from the 12 minute mark.

Presentations were held in the hall with a great spread of food organised by Jenny Fairbanks who also took care of the raffle.

Special thanks this week to our corner stewards and helpers: Lou Edwards, Michael Paul, Steve Fothergill, John McLeod and Clive Wright. Steve DiTullio was also highly visible patrolling the course on his familiar postie bike.

Thanks also to Leon for doing the Newsletter in my absence (Keith Bowen).

(Sorry it's a bit boring this week. I wasn't actually there. Leon)

RESULTS

Division 1	Division 2	Fastest Times
Phil Thompson (Scr)	John Hopkins (1 min)	Division 1
Quentin Frayne (2 min)	Ron Stranks (1 min)	John Williams
Graeme Parker (7 min)	Greg McGibbon (12 min)	Peter Doonan
Rudy Joosten (2 min)	Richard Maggs (Scr)	Division 2
John Walker (2 min)	John C Wilson (1 min)	Frank Barlow
		Glenn Archer

August 18 Graded Scratch Races Yarra Junction

Well, after three weeks of glorious weather on the Gold Coast, low 20's every day, never out of shorts, it was a shock for me to experience a Melbourne winter's day. I was not looking forward to racing, particularly when I had to drive through a hail storm between Healesville and Yarra Junction. I was greatly relieved when a vote between the 20 odd hardy souls who turned out, decided to call of the days racing. Four or five did head off for a ride, the rest of us headed home to the warmth of a fire or the ducted heating.

TODAY

Back to Steels Creek today for graded scratch races.

NEXT WEEK

If you are entering the Basin Hill Climb on September 29, then next week is your opportunity to get in some training with graded scratch races from Yarra Glen to Toolangi and return.

EASTERN VETS PROGRAM

Saturday September 1	2.00 pm	Yarra Glen/Toolangi	Graded Scratch Races
Wednesday September 5	8.00 pm	Maroondah Club	Committee Meeting
Saturday September 8	2.00 pm	No Racing	
Sunday September 9	9.00 am	Dromana	Southern vs Eastern
Saturday September 15	2.00 pm	Steels Creek	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday September 16		Paraparap	VVCC Road Championship

SOUTHERN VETS PROGRAM

Sunday August 26	9.00 am	Drouin South	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday September 2	9.00 am	Somers	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday September 9	9.00 am	Dromana	Southern vs Eastern
Sunday September 16	9.00 am	AFL Park	Graded Scratch Races 2 hours
Sunday September 23	9.00 am	Bayles	Graded Scratch Races

NORTHERN VETS PROGRAM

Sunday August 26	10.00 am	Lancefield	Open Championships
Sunday September 2	9.30 am	Toolernvale	Time Trial Sealed Handicap
Sunday September 9	9.30 am	Campbellfield	Criteriaums
Sunday September 16	10.00 am	Pyalong Rd Seymour	R and R Stranks Handicap 53km
Sunday September 23	9.30 am	Toolernvale	Graded Scratch Races

CLUB NEWS

Licences

Everyone should have received letters from the AVCC and the VVCC regarding insurance. In a nutshell our current insurance runs out on 31 October and licences will need to be renewed from then. The good news is that the new licences will run to 31 December, 2002 and that the cost for the extra 2 months is only \$5. We are now insured with QBE for the same premium as charged by HIH. All up, the collapse of HIH has cost us \$5, which is not too bad.

Fees for 2001 – 2002 will be \$70 (licence, AVCC and VVCC contribution) plus the Club's proportion, which in the past has been \$10. This amount will be set at the next committee meeting on September, 5. In the meantime there is no need to do anything, just race and enjoy it.

I also have a copy of the certificate of insurance which covers us any where in Australia for the benefits listed below. Don't ask me, I don't understand what it means either, but I will try and find out.

Personal Accident

Capital Benefits	\$50,000 (Death Cover Limited to \$10,000 for under training) percentage scale as per policy.
Weekly Benefits	80% or \$300 per week whichever is the lesser. Maximum Benefit 52 weeks, 14 day excess period.
Medical Benefits	80% reimbursement. Maximum Benefit 52 weeks and \$1000 in all. Excess for each and every loss.
Public Liability	\$10,000,000. Excess \$500 each and every loss.

Keith's Gold Coast Holiday

The Gold Coast is a great place for a holiday, with its fabulous winter weather, beaches, scenery, the rain forests of the hinterland, etc. An added attraction is that there is now a vets club with Bill Long as President. Like Eastern they race every Saturday afternoon at 1.30. They race on the Nerang Criterium Circuit and on a road circuit near Helensvale. The circuit is very safe, 5 km in length, has two 'U' turns, but a very **harsh** surface, much harsher than anything in Victoria. Unfortunately the circuit is only available until December this year. I raced with them 3 times, a handicap at Nerang, the Russell Mockridge Time Trial of 25 km, in which there were outright placings and an age adjusted handicap event. I am not sure how the times were adjusted for age, but it was all done by computer. Finally a 30 km handicap.

The best feature though is the training rides. There are groups going out just about every morning for rides varying in distance from 50 to 85 km and varying from flat to super steep. Some of the hills even give you the percentage grade. Terry Wallace is the main man for racing and training rides. So if you are going north to escape the Melbourne winter, contact Terry on 07 5535 5229, you will be very welcome and are sure to meet other Victorian vets there.

New Links On Web Site

Leon Bishop continues to do a great job maintains our web site, <http://www4.tpg.com.au/users/lfbishop> and has recently put up a number of new links to other cycling sites, including Southern Vets results, Dean Woods Direct, Netti and many others.

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Eastern Veterans Cycling Club
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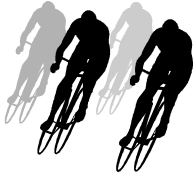
Photos from the Mountain Bike Day at Gembrook, May



Participants



Graeme Parker leads Dick Fox along the trail.



eastern veterans cycling club

Newsletter September 8, 2001



**SEE YOU WEDNESDAY NIGHT AT THE
COMMITTEE MEETING.
MAROONDAH CLUB 8.00 PM.
IMPORTANT MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED
FEES FOR NEXT YEAR.
DON'T FORGET,
LAST MONTH MOST OF YOU DID.**

SEPTEMBER 1

GRADED SCRATCH RACES YARRA GLEN TOOLANGI

Races have been cancelled for a number of reasons this season. Eastern have lost two because of wet weather, Southern because of fog and now Eastern lose one to a car rally!

A Saturday phone call from the locals Steve Fothergill after consultation with Colin Smythe warned of possible problems with Saturday's race, because the Australian Rally Championship had taken over the Yarra Glen race course and we would have to find another place to park the cars. Arrival at Yarra Glen showed the problem was more serious, 60+ rally cars as well as support vehicles and spectators would be travelling from Healesville to Yarra Glen in the afternoon. The prospect seemed to be a bit dangerous, so everyone adjourned to Steels Creek. Not having a race permit to race on the Steels Creek course, wiser heads prevailed and it was decided not to race.

Racing without a permit may have made any

claims difficult in the case of a fall and jeopardised our applications for future permits. Obviously the Rally would have had to obtain a permit and it is a pity that we were not advised that permits were granted to both organisations for the use of public roads on the same day. Anyway we must remember to make sure we don't clash again next year.

Training rides seemed to be the best option and two bunches did 3 laps of the Steels Creek course, in pretty slick time for a training ride. Another bunch rode up the Mount Slide Road (an 8 km climb on a dirt road) to the Kinglake – Healesville Road, across through Toolangi and down the Myers Creek Road.

Notwithstanding widespread rain in various suburbs on Saturday morning and afternoon, there was no rain at all at Steels Creek or across the top through Toolangi.

AUGUST 25 GRADED SCRATCH RACES STEELS CREEK

Following the cancellation of racing last week, the sunny morning was likely to attract a few more starters than usual. However, perhaps people were put off by the weather forecast which was for a late change. Sunny skies and strong northerlies greeted the 36 starters, with the hills cunningly hiding threatening clouds from the west. The sun disappeared just as we started, but the good news was that the wind gradually declined in strength.

B Grade was first away the plan being for the A Graders to give them a start and chase. The plan came unstuck when Rob Graham found a new way to miss a race, by

puncturing during the warm up, replacing the tube, only for that to go flat also. Rob then retired to the judging panel, leaving Phil Thompson and Andrew Laird to chase. Phil rode off and did his best, but although closing the gap was unable to catch the B Graders. B Grade included Ian Smith, who has earned rapid promotion after winning the Le Tour Classic Handicap in June off 24 minutes and winning once in C Grade. Dayle Goodall winning from Ross Edwards and Nick Skews. In C Grade, Michael Pitrun after his extended sojourn overseas won from Andy Maclean and Geoff Schreppell. D Grade rode off the line like men possessed and seemed to be hell bent on catching

C Grade, evidently they thought it was a handicap and had to catch the bunch in front. The average speed for the first lap was an unlikely 34 km/hr. Common sense eventually prevailed and particularly by the third lap, the pace had slowed right down, leaving the gate open for the sprinters Harold Simpson and Glenn Archer to get the money over Keith Bowen. New rider John Hopkins did a lot of work and is sure to be in the money soon. Surprise, surprise, John Porter won again in E Grade from Phillip Johns and

Leon Bishop, while in F Grade Liz Randall was too good, winning from Grigor McGibbon.

All in all an enjoyable days racing with a special thanks to the officials of the day. With Steve Fothergill stationed half way along the course and Steve Di Tullio riding 'shot gun' along the course, it was comforting to know that in the event of a puncture, or a fall, help was near at hand.

RESULTS

Grade	First	Second	Third	Officials
A Grade (3) 4 laps	Phil Thompson	Andrew Laird		Graeme Parker
I Grade (6) 4 laps	Dayle Goodall	Ross Edwards	Nick Skewes	Steve Di Tullio
C Grade (9) 4 laps	Michael Pitrun	Andy Maclean	Geoff Schreppell	Martin Stalder
I Grade (8) 3 laps	Harold Simpson	Glenn Archer	Keith Bowen	Dick Barnes
I Grade (7) 3 laps	John Porter	Phillip Johns	Leon Bishop	Rob Graham
I Grade (3) 3 laps	Liz Randall	Grigor McGibbon		Steve Fothergill

SEPTEMBER 9 SOUTHERN VS EASTERN CHALLENGE

There is no racing next Saturday. Instead racing is on Sunday in the bi annual Eastern vs Southern race at Dromana. In previous events, except when they have been held at AFL Park, there has been a poor turn out from the visiting club. In an endeavour to encourage participation, the Clubs have agreed that the visiting club will not to race that weekend. Yes I know, Dromana is a long way and the starting time of 9.00 am is early. Unfortunately because of the constraints on Southern's race permit it is not possible to start later.

The Dromana course is a popular short circuit course of 6.5 km and is used for Southern's championships. It has one, not very demanding hill, well, not until about the fifth lap anyway. Melway Reference 160 C6 (park in Dalkeith Drive).

Come and support your Club in this challenge event.

Remember racing starts at 9.00 am.

EASTERN VETS PROGRAM

Wednesday September 5	8.00 pm	Maroondah Club	Committee Meeting
Saturday September 8	2.00 pm	No Racing	
Sunday September 9	9.00 am	Dromana	Southern vs Eastern
Saturday September 15	2.00 pm	Steels Creek	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday September 16		Paraparap	VVCC Road Championship
Saturday September 22	2.00 pm	East Wandin	Jack Thompson Memorial

SOUTHERN VETS PROGRAM

Sunday September 9	9.00 am	Dromana	Southern vs Eastern
Sunday September 16	9.00 am	AFL Park	Graded Scratch Races 2 hours
Sunday September 23	9.00 am	Bayles	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday September 30	9.00 am	Lang Lang	Graded Scratch Races

NORTHERN VETS PROGRAM

Sunday September 9	9.30 am	Campbellfield	Criteriaums
Sunday September 16	10.00 am	Pyalong Rd Seymour	R and R Stranks Handicap 53km
Sunday September 23	9.30 am	Toolernvale	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday September 30	10.00 am	Broadford	Mountain Goat Classic

THE NIGHT THE S...t. HIT THE FAN

By Ron Stranks

Little did we know when we arrived at the Olympic Velodrome this night that it would have been the most frightening night in Australian sporting history. More about that later. I am pleased to say that after nearly 45 years, of the 160 riders who took part that night, only 3 are still racing and all with Eastern Vets. Our vibrant President Alan Sandford, Ivan Collings and me. There was an L Gibson from Stawell entered who may be the Leon Gibson racing with the Stawell Vets. There is a strong connection between Ivan, Alan and me, Ivan and I raced on the road together, mostly off the same mark for a long period in the 50's. I transferred to Brunswick in 1959 after 10 years and raced against Alan, who had to give me a start in track racing, he was always a great sprinter. Ivan of course has the wonderful distinction of being a great road rider and has also achieved the dream of all trackies, winning the Austral.

This was the night we had all waited for a long time, to race for the first time on the new Olympic Velodrome. The meeting was an all amateur international meeting six days after the closure of the Melbourne Olympic Games. Members of the Italian team were also entered on this wonderful night of racing of various events. The Italians were led by the incredible Ercole Baldini, who 7 days previously had destroyed the world class field in the Olympic road race, winning by 1 minute 59 sec from Arnaud Geyre of France and Alan Jackson of Great Britain Ireland, third. Baldini also held 3 World records, I think one was the one hour record and I am not sure of the others. Also present was Leandro Faggin, 1 km track time trial winner in the record time of 1m 9.8 sec. He also World record holder in this event with a time of 1m 9.2 sec for the time. You could not miss this bloke, he was one of those rare Italians with blond hair. Faggin also won gold in the Teams Pursuit. Other members of the team were Valentino Gasparella, Antonio Domenicali and Franco Gandini. Guelliemo Pesenti, silver medallist in the sprint also raced that night. So you can see that the Italian team was easily the most successful in the Olympics, with 3 gold, 1 silver and a bronze in the tandem. Never before had such a line up of stars raced at an Australian Amateur track meeting, Baldini, Gasparella, Faggin, Pesenti, also our great bronze medallist in the sprint, Dick Ploog, Neville Perkinson (NZ), Jan Buis (Holland), Peter Brotherton (GB) and Fred Markus (Canada). I must mention that Australia won gold in the Tandem with Melbourne's own Ian Browne and Tony Marchant, with remarkable time of

10.8 sec for the last 220 yards and of course Dick Ploog was also from Melbourne. Ian rode for Hawthorn, Tony Chelsea and Dick Coburg, all three medals by local boys and by God we were proud of them. Scratchmen in the Velodrome Handicap were Clive Middleton (Essendon), Peter George (Footscray), and a human powerhouse in John Perry (Brunswick).

By the time the first event is due to start, spectators are hanging from the rafters. At least 11,000 are present in a stadium limited to 10,000. They are packed in like sardines and 10,000 are Italians, come to see their idols in action. In all my years at the Essendon Board track, I had not seen anything like this, an awesome sight.

Racing got underway with a Junior B Grade scratch race of 3000 metres (9 laps) and contained future stars in Ron Baench, Brian Drew and Tassie Johnson. The next event is the E Grade scratch and includes Stewart Doyle, who has made his name a great cycling announcer/caller. Third event is the D Grade scratch and I get a bit of a buzz to be balloted to carry number 1, Ivan Collings is number 4, and my lifetime mate John May number 15. I'm happy to finish a close up 5th after a pretty rough ride. Most riders had not ridden the track before as we were not allowed to train on it. I dug my pedal into the bend coming into the finishing straight, pretty frightening. Many riders did the same thing over the years at this spot, a small bump in the surface perhaps.

One of the feature races of the night is a Pursuit match race over 4000 metres. Clive Middleton, the local Essendon rider versus Ercole Baldini. This freakish Italian runs down Clive in about 5 of the designated 12 laps. Baldini was an absolute machine and made it look so easy, I take nothing away from Middleton, he was a great rider. By now the Italian crowd are going crazy, they have got what they have come to see, their man has won the road race and a track pursuit in the space of 7 days, awesome stuff.

Then we have the Velodrome Wheel Race heats, Alan Sandford has 25 yards, Ivan Collings and I have 60 yards, limit is 150 yards. My mate, John tells me that John Baker (Brunswick), 130 yards won the final over 3 laps (1000 metres).

Then at 9.52 pm the second heat of the International Derby starts, Guglielmo Pesenti, John Perry, Max Guest, Arthur Bateman and Tony Andreatta are away over 3 laps (1000 metres). To me Pesenti appears to

be riding in a nervous manner in strange surrounds. At about half way they are working up to about half pace, Pesenti is trying to get a sit on Perry, but Max is helping John and positions himself between them to back Pesenti off. Pesenti doesn't handle it and hits the deck. The fall appears to be a light one, but the Italian spectators go berserk, the roar that went up was unbelievable, and continues with abuse and catcalls, because Pesenti doesn't get up. He stays down like a soccer player trying to get the offending player sent off. All sorts of missiles start to come over the fence as John Perry, Max Guest, Arthur Bateman and Tony Andreatta come into the front straight. Suddenly the blond headed Faggin runs at Perry, swinging a chair at him. John who is a big guy and doesn't take crap from anybody is off the bike and as the Italian team manager starts to swing at him like a barn door, he grabs his bike by the front wheel and swings it like a golf club at the two of them. After copping a whack, the team manager loses interest very quickly.

This is where we get to the title of the story. The shit hits the fan, the Italian spectators are coming over the fence and we are in big trouble, within a minute the it's on for young and old in the centre of the track. The situation doesn't get any better, because Pesenti is still sitting on his backside in the middle of the back straight. Maxie Guest is shaping up to them and letting them know he won't take any shit either. According to Alan they all keep their distance from Maxie, but by this time the mob are all getting stuck into the rest of us. Someone yelled out, 'get in a group, get in a group' and that probably saved us from serious injury. Think about it, we are out

CLUB NEWS

Race Day Telephone

The race day phone, 0407 688 154, after being inactive for awhile, is now active again. If you are unsure of where racing is to be held, ring the above number and listen to the recorded message, giving details of the days racing, or in the case of bad weather, whether racing will be cancelled.

VVCC ROAD CHAMPIONSHIPS

These championships will be held on 16 September at Paraparap, near Geelong starting 10.00 am. See Keith Bowen for entry forms.

Points Score Update to End of August

Phil Thompson runaway leader.

Thompson, Phillip	61	Stalder, Martin	37
Archer, Glenn	43	Parker, Graeme	35
Smythe, Colin	39	Porter, John	34
Smith, Ian	38	Joosten, Rudy	33
Oberg, Steve	37	De Kam, Ian	32

Eastern Veterans Cycling Club
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numbered 10 to 1, and are arming ourselves with anything we can lay our hands on, most guys do what Johnny and I did, arm ourselves with our pumps which were all made of metal in 1956. Two or three have bike chains and suddenly a huge brawl erupts in the main stand. My mates from South Melbourne Pros are right in it, particularly the Brothertons, Keith and Billy. They are doing well until Billy gets bowled down the concrete steps, hits his head and takes no further part. The whole stadium is total chaos for about 15 minutes, with fights, missile throwing and abuse, until the police reinforcements arrive and quickly take control of the situation, in 1956, unlike today, more's the pity, they were allowed to use a bit of force in situations like this.

Eventually Pesenti gets up and walks back past me with arms stretched out in front of him. I can see he has lost a bit of skin off his claws and I'm thinking that the pathetic look on his face suggests that maybe he has never fallen before, can't be true, I'd like ten bucks for every time I have.

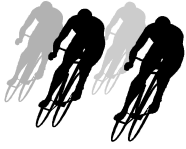
The place comes to order very quickly when the fans see that Pesenti is OK and after a quick clean up of the track, racing gets underway again without any further incident for the evening.

In closing the story, I must say that the 14 December, 1956 was the most frightening day of my life. 3 days before my 21st birthday. Looking back on it, we were very lucky that night.

Hope you enjoyed this piece of cycling history.

Ron Stranks

VICTORIAN STATE
HOME LOANS



eastern veterans cycling club

Newsletter September 22, 2001

SEPTEMBER 15

GRADED SCRATCH RACES STEELS CREEK

Racing today was preceded for a minutes silence in memory of those killed and injured in the World Trade Centre disaster. Such a disaster has an impact even on a small club like Eastern. John Macleod spent some anxious hours waiting to hear from his daughter in New York who is thankfully safe and well.

At long last a moderately warm day (max temperature of 20° C) greeted the riders and resulted in the biggest field for awhile (44 riders up from about 35 in recent weeks). We still had a strong northerly to contend with, but at least we didn't need arm or leg warmers.

In A Grade Peter Oziemski returned to racing after a few months absence, but Colin Morris visiting from Northern was too strong. In B Grade, John Walker, a reluctant starter in B Grade, claiming lack of training blah blah blah, proved the handicappers judgement was right winning from Rudy Joosten and a continuing to improve Ian Smith, only a couple of months ago racing off limit in a handicap. C Grade had the biggest field of the day with Andrew Cleaveley

getting the money from Gary Binding and Greg Molesworth. In D Grade Hans Werner rode strongly on the front for much of the race, got bitten on the thigh by a wasp with about three kilometres to go, then took off on the last couple of hills, just being caught in the sprint, by a fast finishing Hylton Preece, but managed to kick away and hold off Glenn Archer. Graeme Parker rode with D Grade to give newcomer John Hopkins and the rest of us some coaching on race tactics etc, but John punctured at the end of the first lap. Anyway John's first win in D Grade is not far away. Also in the punctures was Chris Ellenby. Chris either doesn't carry a spare tube, or can't be bothered changing one on the road and rode back from the tennis courts on a flat tyre.

Surprise, surprise John Porter won again in E Grade from Clive Wright and a rapidly improving Mark Granland. Michael Fisher, featuring a new bike, won for the first time in F Grade from Paul Leonard returning to racing after his fall the other week at East Wandin.

Results

	First	Second	Third
A Grade (4)	Colin Morris	Peter Oziemski	
B Grade (8)	John Walker	Rudy Joosten	Ian Smith
C Grade (11)	Andrew Cleaveley	Gary Binding	Greg Molesworth
D Grade (9)	Hylton Preece	Hans Werner	Glenn Archer
E Grade (8)	John Porter	Clive Wright	Mark Granland
F Grade (4)	Michael Fisher	Paul Leonard	

OFFICIALS

Officials today in no particular order were, Kerrie Barratt, Rod Goodes (visitor from Northern), Michael Paull, Glen Campbell, Steve Fothergill and Glenn Archer on the drinks as usual and Alan Sandford and Graeme Parker doing their usual masterful job of overseeing it all.

TODAY AT EAST WANDIN

Today it's the Jack Thompson Memorial Handicap. Make sure you stay for the presentation, the afternoon tea is great.

NEXT WEEK

It is the event hill climbers wait all year for. The Bayside Cycles Basin Hill Climb. Make sure your entry goes in today. Will Mick Buckley take a second off his last year's time and break 15 minutes. Prize money down to 5th and for the first two in each grade. Start at The Basin, Melway 65G7.

EASTERN VETS PROGRAM

Saturday September 29	2.00 pm	The Basin	Bayside Cycles Hill climb TT Classic
Wednesday October 3	8.00 pm	Maroondah Club	Committee Meeting
Saturday October 6	2.00 pm	Yarra Junction	Classic Handicap
Saturday October 13	2.00 pm	Benalla	Classic Handicap
Sunday October 14	10.00 am	Benalla	Graded Scratch Races
Saturday October 13	10.30 am	Camperdown	Camperdown to Warrnambool
Sunday October 21			Around the Bay in a Day

SOUTHERN VETS PROGRAM

Sunday September 23	9.00 am	Bayles	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday September 30	9.00 am	Lang Lang	Graded Scratch Races

NORTHERN VETS PROGRAM

Sunday September 23	9.30 am	Toolernvale	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday September 30	10.00 am	Broadford	Mountain Goat Classic
Sunday October 7	9.30 am	Campbellfield	criteriums
Sunday October 14	9.30 am	Campbellfield	criteriums
Sunday October 21			No Racing Around the Bay in a Day

31ST NOVE COLLI

Colin Speller rides the 31st Nove Colli

The Nove Colli rides starts and finishes in Cesantico, not far from San Marino in northern Italy. The ride is named after the nine peaks that you climb during the ride. There are two options, a 200km ride climbing all the peaks, which means you climb a total of 2864 metres, or the shorter 130 km ride, climbing 4 peaks and a total of 1335 metres.

10,000 riders, yes 10,000, participate in the ride and all are individually timed and placed in order. The ride starts in three groups of 3000+ riders. You can imagine that with this number of riders things are pretty congested, but fortunately there were no falls. With such a large number of riders, when the field reaches some of the narrow streets in the villages, there is not enough room for everyone and those at the back of the field have to get off and walk.

As those who have ridden in Europe would know, the hospitality and support given to cyclists is unbelievable. Roads closed, cheering

crowds, no abuse from passing motorists, absolute courtesy at all times. You get all this in the Nove Colli. The 130km ride means you climb 4 of the nine peaks, the longest and

steepest, Barbotto, has an overall gradient of 6.9%, but includes a section with a gradient of 18%! They time everyone up this climb. (For comparison the gradient of the '1 in 20' climb in the Dandenongs, if it is 1 in 20, is 5%).

They feed you well, the first feeding station is at 65km and the second at 85km before you attempt the Barbotto climb. There were something like 40 people serving food at these stations and they catered for every cyclist's wish for foods to sustain you. The same thing happens at the finish.

How did I go? Pretty good I thought, 4,141 out of 10,000, with an average speed of 23.5 and a time of 6 hr 8 min, which included a time of 32 min up Barbotto climb of 5.5 km.

By the way the fastest time was 3 hour 33 minutes, which is an average of 36.6 km/hr! Unbelievable!

Will I be there next year? You bet. I forgot to mention the weather, it was just perfect.

Details of the four climbs are shown below.

Climb	Dist km	Rise m	Average Gradient %	Maximum Gradient %
Polenta	5.5	245	3.06	13
Pieve di Rivoscho	8	379	4.74	9
Ciola	6	331	5.5	11
Barbotto	5.5	380	6.9	18

Some of the above information was taken from the Nove Colli website (www.novecolli.it). This site is worth a look, it has a map of the route, ride profile, listing the above information on grades etc, including which gear you should use

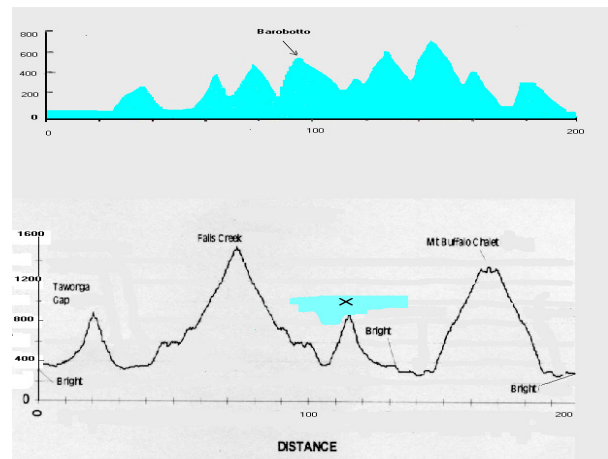
to ride the hills (Barbotto 39/24-26), results for previous rides, photos, video of the ride including commentary, unfortunately it is in Italian.

* * *

Colin at the top of the Barbotto Climb.



Many of you will have ridden the 200 km Alpine Classic, from Bright to Falls Creek, Bright, Mt Buffalo to Bright. The profiles of these two rides are shown below. As far as I can make them, the horizontal and vertical scales are the same. Nove Colli, lots of short (well relatively) steep climbs. Alpine Classic, fewer but longer climbs and except for the Tawonga Gap (X), not as steep. More about the Alpine Classic later in the year.



CLUB NEWS

Royal Prince Alfred

For non medical types RPA on Channel 9, Thursday 9.00 pm is gripping stuff. In recent weeks we have seen the ravages that skin cancers can cause to a person's face. From now on if you forget to put the 30+ on, there will be some in the Club trailer for you to use. Watch

RPA next week and you will never ride without sunscreen on again.

Vodafone Arena

Steve Di Tullio can get season tickets (five races) at the Vodafone Arena for the 2001-02 Track season. The catch is he must have the money/form in by Friday 12 October 01. The

seats are located on the lower level in the finishing straight, they are what they call the 'premium seats'. The races the tickets cover are:

1 Dec 01 Melbourne Cup on Wheels

9 Feb 02 Forges Stores Wheelrace

23 Feb 02 Austral Wheelrace

16 Mar 02 Australian Madison Championships (a recommended [by me] night)

6 Apr 02 Sid Patterson Grand Prix

Cost: (all five races) Premium Reserved Seats in the finishing Straight Adults - \$150

Aged or Disabled - \$125 (sorry no Seniors Card), Children - \$100, Family (2 adults and 2 Children) - \$400.

After 12 October tickets will only be available through Ticketek or at the door. Note that the only night that sold out last year was the Austral night. If anyone wants Steve to get them tickets they need to see him at racing on any Saturday prior to the 12 October and give me the money and he will fill in the form and get the tickets.

VVCC Titles Paraparap, September, 16

Rob Graham talks with feeling

Yes Keith I did ride in the VVCC 2001 Road Champs at Windy Paraparap on Sunday 16 September and I came 2nd in the 50-54 age group. I'm not sure about the winner's (John Weir Geelong Vets) tactics in the sprint, going to the far right on the wrong side of the road (a road that was not closed)! A disqualification in many other VVCC races but apparently not this one.

Phil Thompson thought he came 3rd, although he ended up 4th in the 40-44 group, after 1 rider who broke away in a supposedly neutral zone and then rode 50 km alone to win. But we were all told you would be disqualified if you went in the neutral zone. However he was not disqualified, some ruling problems!!! Another Eastern rider, Nick Skewes was 4th or 5th 35-39 group.

Overall very safe racing on a course too flat for me but great for **wheel sucking sprinters**.

Eastern Veterans Cycling Club
Proudly Sponsored by

Annual Fees Letters have been handed out at race meetings or are in the mail. Annual fees (\$85) are due now, licences expire on 31 October. Good news if you are over 70, the fee remains at \$50.

The Club Trailer has been a great acquisition, but its condition leaves a lot to be desired. The tow bar is too short, the floor and sides are rotten and with only a rear entry, access is very difficult. John C Wilson is investigating whether it can be repaired and painted in Club Colours or whether we would be better of purchasing a new one. John is doing a great job, you will notice the plastic containers for the helmet covers, supplied courtesy of John.

Victorian State Home Loans Up's the Ante

Victorian State Home Loans is now providing a commission of 0.2% (\$200 in \$100,000) up from 0.1% for loans to members, or where the lead for a loan comes from an Eastern member or through the Newsletter. For details contact Karl McKeown 0418 526 131 for a competitive rate and for the benefit of the Club. John Walker is a principal of Victorian State Home Loans and Karl is Eastern Suburbs Regional Manager.

The kids have left home and are about to buy a house, the gardening and the vacuuming are getting you down and you are about to move into something smaller, make sure you contact Karl and that the kids do likewise. It's the best housing loan deal in town.

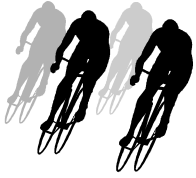
Victorian Home Loans is also sponsoring the Club's forthcoming Benalla weekend.

Missing Persons

Last week we were looking for anyone who new Stan Bansgrove. Of course Colin Smythe came good and remembered him.

This week we had an email enquiring about the whereabouts of Geoff Calwell who used to own a shop in Hawthorn called The Race Bike. I think he said that he was a member of your Veterans Cycle group. Anyone know his whereabouts see Leon Bishop or Keith Bowen.

**VICTORIAN STATE
HOME LOANS**



eastern veterans cycling club

Newsletter September 8, 2001



**SEE YOU WEDNESDAY NIGHT AT THE
COMMITTEE MEETING.
MAROONDAH CLUB 8.00 PM, SEPTEMBER 5
IMPORTANT MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED
FEES FOR NEXT YEAR.
DON'T FORGET, .**

SEPTEMBER 1

GRADED SCRATCH RACES YARRA GLEN TOOLANGI

Races have been cancelled for a number of reasons this season. Eastern have lost two races because of wet weather, Southern one because of fog and now Eastern lose one to a car rally!

A Saturday phone call from local Steve Fothergill after consultation with Colin Smythe, warned of possible problems with Saturday's race, because the Australian Rally Championship had taken over the Yarra Glen race course and we would have to find another place to park the cars. Arrival at Yarra Glen showed the problem was more serious, 60+ rally cars as well as support vehicles and spectators would be travelling from Healesville to Yarra Glen in the afternoon. The prospect of being rammed from behind by a rally car seemed to be a bit dangerous, so everyone adjourned to Steels Creek. Not having a race permit to race on the Steels Creek course, wiser heads prevailed and it was decided not to race.

Racing without a permit may have made any

claims difficult in the case of a fall and jeopardised our applications for future permits from the council and police if we had been found out. Obviously the Rally would have had to obtain a permit and it is a pity that we were not advised that permits were granted to both organisations for the use of public roads on the same day. Anyway we must remember to make sure we don't clash again next year.

Training rides seemed to be the best option and two bunches did 3 laps of the Steels Creek course, in a pretty slick time for a training ride. Another bunch rode up the Mount Slide Road (an 8 km climb on a dirt road) to the Kinglake – Healesville Road, across through Toolangi and down the Myers Creek Road.

Notwithstanding widespread rain in various suburbs on Saturday morning and afternoon, there was no rain at all at Steels Creek or across the top through Toolangi.

AUGUST 25 GRADED SCRATCH RACES STEELS CREEK

Following the cancellation of racing last week, the sunny morning was likely to attract a few more starters than usual. However, perhaps people were put off by the weather forecast which was for a late change. Sunny skies and strong northerlies greeted the 36 starters, with the hills cunningly hiding threatening clouds from the west. The sun disappeared just as we started, but the good news was that the wind gradually declined in strength.

B Grade was first away the plan being for the A Graders to give them a start and chase. The plan came unstuck when

Rob Graham found a new way to miss a race, by puncturing during the warm up, replacing the tube, only for that to go flat also. Rob then retired to the judging panel, leaving Phil Thompson and Andrew Laird to chase. Phil rode off and did his best, but although closing the gap was unable to catch the B Graders. B Grade included Ian Smith, who has earned rapid promotion after winning the Le Tour Classic Handicap in June off 24 minutes and winning once in C Grade. Dayle Goodall winning from Ross Edwards and Nick Skews. In C Grade, Michael Pitrun after his extended sojourn overseas won from Andy

Maclean and Geoff Schreppell. D Grade rode off the line like men possessed and seemed to be hell bent on catching C Grade, evidently they thought it was a handicap and had to catch the bunch in front. The average speed for the first lap was an unlikely 34 km/hr. Common sense eventually prevailed and particularly by the third lap, the pace had slowed right down, leaving the gate open for the sprinters Harold Simpson and Glenn Archer to get the money over Keith Bowen. New rider John Hopkins did a lot of work and is sure to be in the money soon. Surprise, surprise, John Porter won again in E Grade from Phillip Johns and

Leon Bishop, while in F Grade Liz Randall was too good, winning from Grigor McGibbon.

All in all an enjoyable days racing with a special thanks to the officials of the day. With Steve Fothergill stationed half way along the course and Steve Di Tullio riding 'shot gun' along the course, it was comforting to know that in the event of a puncture, or a fall, help was near at hand.

RESULTS

Grade	First	Second	Third	Officials
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I Grade (7) 3 laps	John Porter	Phillip Johns	Leon Bishop	Rob Graham
I Grade (3) 3 laps	Liz Randall	Grigor McGibbon		Steve Fothergill

SEPTEMBER 9 SOUTHERN VS EASTERN CHALLENGE

There is no racing next Saturday (September 8). Instead racing is on Sunday in the bi annual Eastern vs Southern race at Dromana. In previous events there has been a poor turn out from the visiting club, except when they have been held at AFL Park. In an endeavour to encourage participation, the Clubs have agreed that the visiting club will not to race that weekend. Yes I know, Dromana is a long way and the starting time of 9.00 am is early. Unfortunately because of the constraints on Southern's race permit it is not possible to start later.

The Dromana course is a popular short circuit course of 6.5 km and is used for Southern's championships. It has one, not very demanding hill, well, not until about the fifth lap anyway. Melway Reference 160 C6 (park in Dalkeith Drive).

Come and support your Club in this challenge event.

Remember racing starts at 9.00 am.

EASTERN VETS PROGRAM

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Saturday September 22	2.00 pm	East Wandin	Jack Thompson Memorial

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THE NIGHT THE S...t. HIT THE FAN

By Ron Stranks

Little did we know when we arrived at the Olympic Velodrome this night that it would have been the most frightening night in Australian sporting history. More about that later. I am pleased to say that after nearly 45 years, of the 160 riders who took part that night, only 3 are still racing and all with Eastern Vets. Our vibrant President Alan Sandford, Ivan Collings and me. There was an L Gibson from Stawell entered who may be the Leon Gibson racing with the Stawell Vets. There is a strong connection between Ivan, Alan and me, Ivan and I raced on the road together, mostly off the same mark for a long period in the 50's. I transferred to Brunswick in 1959 after 10 years and raced against Alan, who had to give me a start in track racing, he was always a great sprinter. Ivan of course has the wonderful distinction of being a great road rider and has also achieved the dream of all trackies, winning the Austral.

This was the night we had all waited for a long time, to race for the first time on the new Olympic Velodrome. The meeting was an all amateur international meeting six days after the closure of the Melbourne Olympic Games. Members of the Italian team were also entered on this wonderful night of racing of various events. The Italians were led by the incredible Ercole Baldini, who 7 days previously had destroyed the world class field in the Olympic road race, winning by 1 minute 59 sec from Arnaud Geyre of France and Alan Jackson of Great Britain Ireland, third. Baldini also held 3 World records, I think one was the one hour record and I am not sure of the others. Also present was Leandro Faggin, 1 km track time trial winner in the record time of 1m 9.8 sec. He also World record holder in this event with a time of 1m 9.2 sec for the time. You could not miss this bloke, he was one of those rare Italians with blond hair. Faggin also won gold in the Teams Pursuit. Other members of the team were Valentino Gasparella, Antonio Domenicali and Franco Gandini. Guelliemo Pesenti, silver medallist in the sprint also raced that night. So you can see that the Italian team was easily the most successful in the Olympics, with 3 gold, 1 silver and a bronze in the tandem. Never before had such a line up of stars raced at an Australian Amateur track meeting, Baldini, Gasparella, Faggin, Pesenti, also our great bronze medallist in the sprint, Dick Ploog, Neville Perkinson (NZ), Jan Buis (Holland), Peter Brotherton (GB) and Fred Markus (Canada). I must mention that Australia won gold in the Tandem with Melbourne's own Ian Browne and Tony Marchant, with remarkable time of

10.8 sec for the last 220 yards and of course Dick Ploog was also from Melbourne. Ian rode for Hawthorn, Tony Chelsea and Dick Coburg, all three medals by local boys and by God we were proud of them. Scratchmen in the Velodrome Handicap were Clive Middleton (Essendon), Peter George (Footscray), and a human powerhouse in John Perry (Brunswick).

By the time the first event is due to start, spectators are hanging from the rafters. At least 11,000 are present in a stadium limited to 10,000. They are packed in like sardines and 10,000 are Italians, come to see their idols in action. In all my years at the Essendon Board track, I had not seen anything like this, an awesome sight.

Racing got underway with a Junior B Grade scratch race of 3000 metres (9 laps) and contained future stars in Ron Baench, Brian Drew and Tassie Johnson. The next event is the E Grade scratch and includes Stewart Doyle, who has made his name a great cycling announcer/caller. Third event is the D Grade scratch and I get a bit of a buzz to be balloted to carry number 1, Ivan Collings is number 4, and my lifetime mate John May number 15. I'm happy to finish a close up 5th after a pretty rough ride. Most riders had not ridden the track before as we were not allowed to train on it. I dug my pedal into the bend coming into the finishing straight, pretty frightening. Many riders did the same thing over the years at this spot, a small bump in the surface perhaps.

One of the feature races of the night is a Pursuit match race over 4000 metres. Clive Middleton, the local Essendon rider versus Ercole Baldini. This freakish Italian runs down Clive in about 5 of the designated 12 laps. Baldini was an absolute machine and made it look so easy, I take nothing away from Middleton, he was a great rider. By now the Italian crowd are going crazy, they have got what they have come to see, their man has won the road race and a track pursuit in the space of 7 days, awesome stuff.

Then we have the Velodrome Wheel Race heats, Alan Sandford has 25 yards, Ivan Collings and I have 60 yards, limit is 150 yards. My mate, John tells me that John Baker (Brunswick), 130 yards won the final over 3 laps (1000 metres).

Then at 9.52 pm the second heat of the International Derby starts, Guglielmo Pesenti, John Perry, Max Guest, Arthur Bateman and Tony Andreatta are away over 3 laps (1000 metres). To me Pesenti appears to

be riding in a nervous manner in strange surrounds. At about half way they are working up to about half pace, Pesenti is trying to get a sit on Perry, but Max is helping John and positions himself between them to back Pesenti off. Pesenti doesn't handle it and hits the deck. The fall appears to be a light one, but the Italian spectators go berserk, the roar that went up was unbelievable, and continues with abuse and catcalls, because Pesenti doesn't get up. He stays down like a soccer player trying to get the offending player sent off. All sorts of missiles start to come over the fence as John Perry, Max Guest, Arthur Bateman and Tony Andreatta come into the front straight. Suddenly the blond headed Faggin runs at Perry, swinging a chair at him. John who is a big guy and doesn't take crap from anybody is off the bike and as the Italian team manager starts to swing at him like a barn door, he grabs his bike by the front wheel and swings it like a golf club at the two of them. After copping a whack, the team manager loses interest very quickly.

This is where we get to the title of the story. The shit hits the fan, the Italian spectators are coming over the fence and we are in big trouble, within a minute the it's on for young and old in the centre of the track. The situation doesn't get any better, because Pesenti is still sitting on his backside in the middle of the back straight. Maxie Guest is shaping up to them and letting them know he won't take any shit either. According to Alan they all keep their distance from Maxie, but by this time the mob are all getting stuck into the rest of us. Someone yelled out, 'get in a group, get in a group' and that probably saved us from serious injury. Think about it, we are out

CLUB NEWS

Race Day Telephone

The race day phone, 0407 688 154, after being inactive for awhile, is now active again. If you are unsure of where racing is to be held, ring the above number and listen to the recorded message, giving details of the days racing, or in the case of bad weather, whether racing will be cancelled.

VVCC ROAD CHAMPIONSHIPS

These championships will be held on 16 September at Paraparap, near Geelong starting 10.00 am. See Keith Bowen for entry forms.

Points Score Update to End of August

Phil Thompson runaway leader.

Thompson, Phillip	61	Stalder, Martin	37
Archer, Glenn	43	Parker, Graeme	35
Smythe, Colin	39	Porter, John	34
Smith, Ian	38	Joosten, Rudy	33
Oberg, Steve	37	De Kam, Ian	32

Eastern Veterans Cycling Club
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numbered 10 to 1, and are arming ourselves with anything we can lay our hands on, most guys do what Johnny and I did, arm ourselves with our pumps which were all made of metal in 1956. Two or three have bike chains and suddenly a huge brawl erupts in the main stand. My mates from South Melbourne Pros are right in it, particularly the Brothertons, Keith and Billy. They are doing well until Billy gets bowled down the concrete steps, hits his head and takes no further part. The whole stadium is total chaos for about 15 minutes, with fights, missile throwing and abuse, until the police reinforcements arrive and quickly take control of the situation, in 1956, unlike today, more's the pity, they were allowed to use a bit of force in situations like this.

Eventually Pesenti gets up and walks back past me with arms stretched out in front of him. I can see he has lost a bit of skin off his claws and I'm thinking that the pathetic look on his face suggests that maybe he has never fallen before, can't be true, I'd like ten bucks for every time I have.

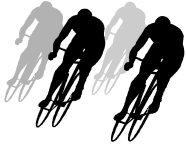
The place comes to order very quickly when the fans see that Pesenti is OK and after a quick clean up of the track, racing gets underway again without any further incident for the evening.

In closing the story, I must say that the 14 December, 1956 was the most frightening day of my life. 3 days before my 21st birthday. Looking back on it, we were very lucky that night.

Hope you enjoyed this piece of cycling history.

Ron Stranks

VICTORIAN STATE
HOME LOANS



eastern veterans cycling club

Newsletter September 22, 2001

SEPTEMBER 15

GRADED SCRATCH RACES STEELS CREEK

Racing today was preceded for a minutes silence in memory of those killed and injured in the World Trade Centre disaster. Such a disaster has an impact even on a small club like Eastern. John Macleod spent some anxious hours waiting to hear from his daughter in New York who is thankfully safe and well.

At long last a moderately warm day (max temperature of 20° C) greeted the riders and resulted in the biggest field for awhile (44 riders up from about 35 in recent weeks). We still had a strong northerly to contend with, but at least we didn't need arm or leg warmers.

In A Grade Peter Oziemski returned to racing after a few months absence, but Colin Morris visiting from Northern was too strong. In B Grade, John Walker, a reluctant starter in B Grade, claiming lack of training blah blah blah, proved the handicappers judgement was right winning from Rudy Joosten and a continuing to improve Ian Smith, only a couple of months ago racing off limit in a handicap. C Grade had the biggest field of the day with Andrew Cleaveley

getting the money from Gary Binding and Greg Molesworth. In D Grade Hans Werner rode strongly on the front for much of the race, got bitten on the thigh by a wasp with about three kilometres to go, then took off on the last couple of hills, just being caught in the sprint, by a fast finishing Hylton Preece, but managed to kick away and hold off Glenn Archer. Graeme Parker rode with D Grade to give newcomer John Hopkins and the rest of us some coaching on race tactics etc, but John punctured at the end of the first lap. Anyway John's first win in D Grade is not far away. Also in the punctures was Chris Ellenby. Chris either doesn't carry a spare tube, or can't be bothered changing one on the road and rode back from the tennis courts on a flat tyre.

Surprise, surprise John Porter won again in E Grade from Clive Wright and a rapidly improving Mark Granland. Michael Fisher, featuring a new bike, won for the first time in F Grade from Paul Leonard returning to racing after his fall the other week at East Wandin.

Results

	First	Second	Third
A Grade (4)	Colin Morris	Peter Oziemski	
B Grade (8)	John Walker	Rudy Joosten	Ian Smith
C Grade (11)	Andrew Cleaveley	Gary Binding	Greg Molesworth
D Grade (9)	Hylton Preece	Hans Werner	Glenn Archer
E Grade (8)	John Porter	Clive Wright	Mark Granland
F Grade (4)	Michael Fisher	Paul Leonard	

OFFICIALS

Officials today in no particular order were, Kerrie Barratt, Rod Goodes (visitor from Northern), Michael Paull, Glen Campbell, Steve Fothergill and Glenn Archer on the drinks as usual and Alan Sandford and Graeme Parker doing their usual masterful job of overseeing it all.

TODAY AT EAST WANDIN

Today it's the Jack Thompson Memorial Handicap. Make sure you stay for the presentation, the afternoon tea is great.

NEXT WEEK

It is the event hill climbers wait all year for. The Bayside Cycles Basin Hill Climb. Make sure your entry goes in today. Will Mick Buckley take a second off his last year's time and break 15 minutes. Prize money down to 5th and for the first two in each grade. Start at The Basin, Melway 65G7.

EASTERN VETS PROGRAM

Saturday September 29	2.00 pm	The Basin	Bayside Cycles Hill climb TT Classic
Wednesday October 3	8.00 pm	Maroondah Club	Committee Meeting
Saturday October 6	2.00 pm	Yarra Junction	Classic Handicap
Saturday October 13	2.00 pm	Benalla	Classic Handicap
Sunday October 14	10.00 am	Benalla	Graded Scratch Races
Saturday October 13	10.30 am	Camperdown	Camperdown to Warrnambool
Sunday October 21			Around the Bay in a Day

SOUTHERN VETS PROGRAM

Sunday September 23	9.00 am	Bayles	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday September 30	9.00 am	Lang Lang	Graded Scratch Races

NORTHERN VETS PROGRAM

Sunday September 23	9.30 am	Toolernvale	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday September 30	10.00 am	Broadford	Mountain Goat Classic
Sunday October 7	9.30 am	Campbellfield	criteriums
Sunday October 14	9.30 am	Campbellfield	criteriums
Sunday October 21			No Racing Around the Bay in a Day

31ST NOVE COLLI

Colin Speller rides the 31st Nove Colli

The Nove Colli rides starts and finishes in Cesantico, not far from San Marino in northern Italy. The ride is named after the nine peaks that you climb during the ride. There are two options, a 200km ride climbing all the peaks, which means you climb a total of 2864 metres, or the shorter 130 km ride, climbing 4 peaks and a total of 1335 metres.

10,000 riders, yes 10,000, participate in the ride and all are individually timed and placed in order. The ride starts in three groups of 3000+ riders. You can imagine that with this number of riders things are pretty congested, but fortunately there were no falls. With such a large number of riders, when the field reaches some of the narrow streets in the villages, there is not enough room for everyone and those at the back of the field have to get off and walk.

As those who have ridden in Europe would know, the hospitality and support given to cyclists is unbelievable. Roads closed, cheering

crowds, no abuse from passing motorists, absolute courtesy at all times. You get all this in the Nove Colli. The 130km ride means you climb 4 of the nine peaks, the longest and

steepest, Barbotto, has an overall gradient of 6.9%, but includes a section with a gradient of 18%! They time everyone up this climb. (For comparison the gradient of the '1 in 20' climb in the Dandenongs, if it is 1 in 20, is 5%).

They feed you well, the first feeding station is at 65km and the second at 85km before you attempt the Barbotto climb. There were something like 40 people serving food at these stations and they catered for every cyclist's wish for foods to sustain you. The same thing happens at the finish.

How did I go? Pretty good I thought, 4,141 out of 10,000, with an average speed of 23.5 and a time of 6 hr 8 min, which included a time of 32 min up Barbotto climb of 5.5 km.

By the way the fastest time was 3 hour 33 minutes, which is an average of 36.6 km/hr! Unbelievable!

Will I be there next year? You bet. I forgot to mention the weather, it was just perfect.

Details of the four climbs are shown below.

Climb	Dist km	Rise m	Average Gradient %	Maximum Gradient %
Polenta	5.5	245	3.06	13
Pieve di Rivoscho	8	379	4.74	9
Ciola	6	331	5.5	11
Barbotto	5.5	380	6.9	18

Some of the above information was taken from the Nove Colli website (www.novecolli.it). This site is worth a look, it has a map of the route, ride profile, listing the above information on grades etc, including which gear you should use

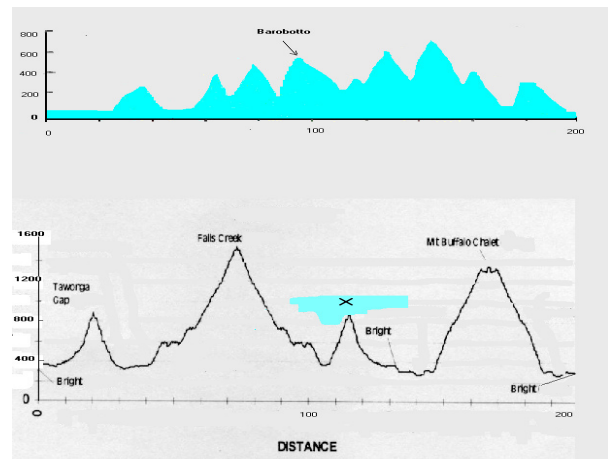
to ride the hills (Barbotto 39/24-26), results for previous rides, photos, video of the ride including commentary, unfortunately it is in Italian.

* * *

Colin at the top of the Barbotto Climb.



Many of you will have ridden the 200 km Alpine Classic, from Bright to Falls Creek, Bright, Mt Buffalo to Bright. The profiles of these two rides are shown below. As far as I can make them, the horizontal and vertical scales are the same. Nove Colli, lots of short (well relatively) steep climbs. Alpine Classic, fewer but longer climbs and except for the Tawonga Gap (X), not as steep. More about the Alpine Classic later in the year.



CLUB NEWS

Royal Prince Alfred

For non medical types RPA on Channel 9, Thursday 9.00 pm is gripping stuff. In recent weeks we have seen the ravages that skin cancers can cause to a person's face. From now on if you forget to put the 30+ on, there will be some in the Club trailer for you to use. Watch

RPA next week and you will never ride without sunscreen on again.

Vodafone Arena

Steve Di Tullio can get season tickets (five races) at the Vodafone Arena for the 2001-02 Track season. The catch is he must have the money/form in by Friday 12 October 01. The

seats are located on the lower level in the finishing straight, they are what they call the 'premium seats'. The races the tickets cover are:

1 Dec 01 Melbourne Cup on Wheels

9 Feb 02 Forges Stores Wheelrace

23 Feb 02 Austral Wheelrace

16 Mar 02 Australian Madison Championships (a recommended [by me] night)

6 Apr 02 Sid Patterson Grand Prix

Cost: (all five races) Premium Reserved Seats in the finishing Straight Adults - \$150

Aged or Disabled - \$125 (sorry no Seniors Card), Children - \$100, Family (2 adults and 2 Children) - \$400.

After 12 October tickets will only be available through Ticketek or at the door. Note that the only night that sold out last year was the Austral night. If anyone wants Steve to get them tickets they need to see him at racing on any Saturday prior to the 12 October and give me the money and he will fill in the form and get the tickets.

VVCC Titles Paraparap, September, 16

Rob Graham talks with feeling

Yes Keith I did ride in the VVCC 2001 Road Champs at Windy Paraparap on Sunday 16 September and I came 2nd in the 50-54 age group. I'm not sure about the winner's (John Weir Geelong Vets) tactics in the sprint, going to the far right on the wrong side of the road (a road that was not closed)! A disqualification in many other VVCC races but apparently not this one.

Phil Thompson thought he came 3rd, although he ended up 4th in the 40-44 group, after 1 rider who broke away in a supposedly neutral zone and then rode 50 km alone to win. But we were all told you would be disqualified if you went in the neutral zone. However he was not disqualified, some ruling problems!!! Another Eastern rider, Nick Skewes was 4th or 5th 35-39 group.

Overall very safe racing on a course too flat for me but great for **wheel sucking sprinters**.

Eastern Veterans Cycling Club
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Annual Fees Letters have been handed out at race meetings or are in the mail. Annual fees (\$85) are due now, licences expire on 31 October. Good news if you are over 70, the fee remains at \$50.

The Club Trailer has been a great acquisition, but its condition leaves a lot to be desired. The tow bar is too short, the floor and sides are rotten and with only a rear entry, access is very difficult. John C Wilson is investigating whether it can be repaired and painted in Club Colours or whether we would be better of purchasing a new one. John is doing a great job, you will notice the plastic containers for the helmet covers, supplied courtesy of John.

Victorian State Home Loans Up's the Ante

Victorian State Home Loans is now providing a commission of 0.2% (\$200 in \$100,000) up from 0.1% for loans to members, or where the lead for a loan comes from an Eastern member or through the Newsletter. For details contact Karl McKeown 0418 526 131 for a competitive rate and for the benefit of the Club. John Walker is a principal of Victorian State Home Loans and Karl is Eastern Suburbs Regional Manager.

The kids have left home and are about to buy a house, the gardening and the vacuuming are getting you down and you are about to move into something smaller, make sure you contact Karl and that the kids do likewise. It's the best housing loan deal in town.

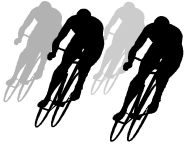
Victorian Home Loans is also sponsoring the Club's forthcoming Benalla weekend.

Missing Persons

Last week we were looking for anyone who new Stan Bansgrove. Of course Colin Smythe came good and remembered him.

This week we had an email enquiring about the whereabouts of Geoff Calwell who used to own a shop in Hawthorn called The Race Bike. I think he said that he was a member of your Veterans Cycle group. Anyone know his whereabouts see Leon Bishop or Keith Bowen.

**VICTORIAN STATE
HOME LOANS**



eastern veterans cycling club

Newsletter September 29, 2001



**SEE YOU WEDNESDAY NIGHT OCTOBER 3
AT THE COMMITTEE MEETING.
MAROONDAH CLUB 8.00 PM.
IMPORTANT MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED**

SEPTEMBER 22

Jack Thompson Memorial Handicap East Wandin

A glorious Spring day on Saturday for the Jack Thompson Memorial Handicap. Driving around the circuit you appreciate how picturesque this part of the Dandenongs is in Spring. An appreciation that you may miss as you puff and pant around the course on the bike. There seemed to be a gentle northerly which helped on the long climb along Wandin East Road.

Division 1 saw a big field of 29 take part. A strong limit bunch off 12 minutes was able to stay pretty well intact until the last lap and keep their lead. The bunch disintegrated on the last lap with Michael Pitrun shaking off Harold Simpson on the long climb and then staying clear of Mario Cordedda to win by 5 seconds. Michael is having a purple patch at the moment with 2 wins and a second in his last three starts. Mario Cordedda who has been fighting the flu for a week or more put in a great ride off 6 minutes to catch Harold Simpson (12 min), showing a return to form after his holiday in Mauritius, on the sharp bend before the finish. Ed Chan (6 min) and Chris Ellenby, who was moved back to 6 min from 10 min on the day, put in creditable performances to finish fourth and fifth. The diminutive Alex Reinehr and Steve Oberg, first and second respectively in Division 2 around this course last time, were moved back to the 10 min bunch (seems a bit harsh), but anyway Alex led the 10 min bunch up all the climbs, but found it hard to keep up with the 90 kg + heavy weights on the downhill

parts of the course. In an appropriate result Phil Thompson was fastest in a time of 1 hr 25 min. Dick Barnes was a standout for the unluckiest, puncturing about 100m after the start. Quentin Frayne almost qualified by puncturing two tubes in the warm up.

Division 2 saw the ride of the day with Ron Stranks winning off 2 min and just missing on the fastest time by 3 seconds. Ron was struggling and in poor health earlier in the year and eventually a chiropractor got back his health and his former ability. He came fourth in the Ron Stranks Handicap at Northern last week, so is having a good patch. Glen Campbell (12 min), recovering from a broken pelvis, left the rest of his bunch behind and led all the way, only to have Ron pass him about 100 m from the line. They led home, three 5 minute bunch riders in Ben Mueller, having his first ride with the club, John Pearce and John C Wilson.

Scratch tried to stay together and kept telling John Hopkins to ease up, so that we would stay intact. We probably did John a disservice, as if we had let him go on the first lap he might have got in the placings. Justice was done and we don't feel quite so guilty now that he got fastest, in a time of 1 hr 19 min. Dominic Schipano won the unluckiest, arriving late, just in time to ride off with second scratch, a bunch or two behind his mark. If he had been on time he would probably been in the placings.

RESULTS

	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Fastest	Time
Division 1	M Pitrun	M Cordedda	H Simpson	E Chan	C Ellenby	P Thompson	1hr 25m
Division 2	R Stranks	G Campbell	B Mueller	J Pearce	J C Wilson	J Hopkins	1hr 21m
Luckiest Division 1	Dick Barnes			Luckiest Division 2	Dominic Schipano		

OFFICIALS

A sterling job was done by the officials, Ken Woollard, Steve Fothergill, Phillip Johns, John Macleod, John Merrony, Mark Granland, Dick Barnes, Graeme Parker with the handicaps, Vince Di Nuzzo with the entries and numbers, with Alan Sandford as usual, the master of the race. To run two handicaps concurrently, with 5 bunches in each and later in the race riders spread out all over the course, requires considerable skill. Steve Fothergill and Glenn Archer were doing their usual top job of keeping up the drinks to thirsty riders. Thanks to Libby Fox and Jenny Fairbanks who were responsible for the terrific spread.

In recent weeks there has been a very good response to our call for help for corner stewards and other duties. Keep volunteering and we won't need to bring a roster system.

TODAY AT THE BASIN

It is the event hill climbers wait all year for. The Bayside Cycles Basin Hill Climb. Will Mick Buckley take a second off his last year's time and break 15 minutes. Prize money down to 5th and for the first two in each grade.

NEXT WEEK

Another Classic Handicap, this time at Yarra Junction. With the fine weather we are having, the hill might come in to play. Make sure your entry goes in today.

EASTERN VETS PROGRAM

Wednesday October 3	8.00 pm	Maroondah Club	Committee Meeting
Saturday October 6	2.00 pm	Yarra Junction	Classic Handicap
Saturday October 13	2.00 pm	Benalla	Classic Handicap
Sunday October 14	10.00 am	Benalla	Graded Scratch Races
Saturday October 13	10.30 am	Camperdown	Camperdown to Warrnambool
Sunday October 21	Around the Bay in a Day		

SOUTHERN VETS PROGRAM

Sunday September 30	9.00 am	Lang Lang	Graded Scratch Races
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NORTHERN VETS PROGRAM

Sunday September 30	10.00 am	Broadford	Mountain Goat Classic
Sunday October 7	9.30 am	Campbellfield	criteriums
Sunday October 14	9.30 am	Campbellfield	criteriums
Sunday October 21	No Racing Around the Bay in a Day		

TRAINING/CAPPUCINO RIDES

Interested in some easy training rides, including a coffee break. Then the following might be of interest.

Sunday Morning

St Kilda to Frankston and return. Starting at the corner of Beach Road and Wentworth Avenue at 8.00 am. Approximate distance 75 km. Enquiries to John Macleod 9722 1522.

Tuesday Morning

This ride is now becoming popular, with 7 or 8 riders. Yarra bike path to South Bank, Port Melbourne, or Botanic Gardens (approximate distance 70 km from Lower Plenty). Meet at various points along the bike path, 9.00 am Bonds Road Lower Plenty, 9.30 am Burke Road, other points as you wish. Enquiries to Keith Bowen 9439 8013

Legends of the Track

During the past 5 years I have compiled a history about 114 years of Australian track cycling with an emphasis on the famous Austral Wheel race. The story contains 251 pages of text supported with 140 illustrations printed on 235x155 mm matt art paper, perfect bound with a laminated finish. This unique publication will represent an important record of our cycling sport and become an indispensable addition to the bookshelves of all cycling fans.

The book takes the reader inside the world of whirring wheels through boom times, slumps and revivals. It recalls the Grand days of the early Australs on high bikes on the MCG and the cycling craze following the introduction of the 'safety-machine'.

The story reflects the ups and downs of cycling over the years. It deals with the golden days, John Wren, the Irish connection, the depression years and the resilience of cycling to survive. It describes how the handicap system when linked to professionalism and gambling became a poisonous cocktail for cycling.

Next it profiles the incredible achievements of Alf Grenda, Alf Goulet, the 'ironman' Reg McNamara, the amiable Bob Spears, our first world sprint champion, and follows the paths of the legends abroad. The roaring Twenties are highlighted by the exploits of Oppy in Europe and Cecil Walker who dominated racing in the States during the thirties.

The post war period belonged to Patto and Mockridge, but also describes a decline that almost spelled the end of the sport. When even the sprinting might of Gordon Johnson could not reverse the downturn in our cycling fortunes.

The story then turns to a new era of champions like Danny Clark, the Allan brothers, Laurie Venn, Hilton Clarke, Keith Oliver and others who blew new life into track cycling. The book

continues with Stephen Pate's record breaking 4th Austral and concludes with the 2001 Austral season that unearthed so much exciting talent for the future.

The publication is a non-profit production and proceeds will be donated to the 'Maillot Jaune' for the benefit of cycling. The Maillot Jaune led by Gordon Johnson is a social cycling club that raises funds at regular functions to help cycling and inducts four candidates every year in the Victorian hall of fame.

Maillot Jaune historians like myself collect materials to establish a data base of our cycling history.

To keep the book within reach of all cycling fans we have decided to launch it for \$16 plus postage.

We hope to distribute the book via cycling clubs, major cycling outlets and direct to the public.

We have received enthusiastic response from the cycling fraternity, encouraging us to proceed with publication. However we do need sponsorship to offset the cost of printing, binding and distribution.

Printing cost per unit is \$7.80 including GST for 750 copies, but \$10 per unit for 500 copies.

Contributions will be acknowledged in the book. If you are unable to help with sponsorship, you can also assist by indicating how many books your club or organisation would like to order at 20 % discount. It would help us determine how many copies to print. We look forward to your support.

To place an order or for more information please call:

Theo van Kalleveen, Maillot Jaune historian at 95573002 or at tvk@optusnet.com.au

John Green, Maillot Jaune secretary at 95447182 or green_john@optusnet.com.au.

If you are interested let Keith Bowen know and we can order copies for purchase through the club.

CLUB NEWS

Royal Prince Alfred

For non medical types RPA on Channel 9, Thursday 9.00 pm is gripping stuff. In recent weeks we have seen the ravages that skin cancers can cause to a person's face. From now on if you forget to put the 30+ on, there will be some in the Club trailer for you to use. Watch RPA next week and you will never ride without sunscreen on again.

Vodafone Arena Have you got your tickets yet?

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1 Dec 01 Melbourne Cup on Wheels

9 Feb 02 Forges Stores Wheelrace

23 Feb 02 Austral Wheelrace

16 Mar 02 Australian Madison Championships (a recommended [by me] night)

6 Apr 02 Sid Patterson Grand Prix

Cost: (all five races) Premium Reserved Seats in the finishing Straight Adults - \$150

Aged or Disabled - \$125 (sorry no Seniors Card), Children - \$100, Family (2 adults and 2 Children) - \$400.

After 12 October tickets will only be available through Ticketek or at the door. Note that the only night that sold out last year was the Austral night. If anyone wants Steve to get them tickets they need to see him at racing on any Saturday prior to the 12 October and give me the money and he will fill in the form and get the tickets.

Annual Fees Letters have been handed out at race meetings or are in the mail. Annual fees (\$85) are due now, licences expire on 31 October. Good news if you are over 70, the fee remains at \$50.

Secret Use for Helmet Covers Riders in various grades, particularly A Grade, seem to have found a use for helmet covers. There are now 30 missing, 10 black, 4 green, 2 blue, 3 yellow, 2 purple, 4 red, 3 white and 2 mustard!!!! Tell us what they are useful for, or, better still sneak them back in the container, washed of course, no questions asked. Also missing is the bell. Probably left at AFL Park, anyone who knows where it is, or has a spare one see Alan Sandford.

Victorian State Home Loans Ups the Ante

Victorian State Home Loans is now providing a commission of 0.2% (\$200 in \$100,000) up from 0.1% for loans to members, or where the lead for a loan comes from an Eastern member or through the Newsletter. For details contact Karl McKeown 0418 526 131 for a competitive rate and for the benefit of the Club. John Walker is a principal of Victorian State Home Loans and Karl is Eastern Suburbs Regional Manager.

The kids have left home and are about to buy a house, the gardening and the vacuuming are getting you down and you are about to move into something smaller, then make sure you contact Karl and that the kids do likewise. It's the best housing loan deal in town.

Victorian Home Loans is also sponsoring the Club's forthcoming Benalla weekend.

Missing Persons we are still looking for Geoff Calwell. Do you know his whereabouts?

Last week we were looking for anyone who new Stan Bansgrove. Of course Colin Smythe came good and remembered him.

This week we had an email enquiring about the whereabouts of Geoff Calwell who used to own a shop in Hawthorn called The Race Bike. I think he said that he was a member of your Veterans Cycle group. Anyone know his whereabouts see Leon Bishop or Keith Bowen.

Benalla Weekend see separate flyer.

Remember

If you have any news, members results from non Eastern events, bike bits to sell, pet or regular training rides, advertisements, or anything else that you would like to include, please give it to me on race day, by phone (9439 8013) or by e mail (keithb@rabbit.com.au).

Eastern Veterans Cycling Club
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