Loyalties were split over Easter weekend. Forty-three raced at METEC – results and race reports are inside. Several Eastern riders competed in the AVCC Championships in Maryborough. Congratulations to all, especially to:

- **Tony Kimpton** (1st, Road Race, Men 50–54)
- **Russell Newnham** (1st, Road Race, Time Trial and Criterium, Men 55–59)
- **Phil Smith** (2nd, Road Race, Men 55–59)
- **Chris Ellenby** (1st, Road Race, and 2nd, Criterium, Men 65–69)
- **Martin Peeters** (1st, Road Race and Time Trial, 2nd, Criterium, Men 75–79)
- **Lisa James** (1st, Road Race, Time Trial and Criterium, Women 50–54)
- **Pamela Vandersluys** (3rd, Road Race, 2nd, Time Trial and Criterium, Women 60–64)
- **Dan Ives** (2nd, Time Trial, Men 75–79)
- **Steve Ross** (2nd, Criterium, Men 55–59)
- **Rob Amos** (2nd, Criterium, Men 60–64)
- **John Thomson** (2nd, Criterium, Men 70–74).

Apologies if we missed anyone.

Racing this Saturday is at Jindivick. Coming in on Jacksons Track, the registration area is in Kydd–Parke Reserve, 100 metres or so east of the general store. Racing starts at 2 pm and the desk will close at 1.45 pm.

On the next page are the details of the members night on Tuesday 7 May at Croydon Cycleworks, where you will be able to order the new club kit.

Max Komhofer (middle) celebrated his last race on our shores for a while with a win in B Grade on Saturday.
Eastern Cycling Club MEMBERS NIGHT
In partnership with our major sponsor Croydon Cycle Works
we are holding a members night to launch the new ECC kit!

Tuesday 7 May at 7.00pm
CCW Shop, Mount Dandenong Road, Croydon

Don’t miss your chance to try on a sample for size and place your order to take advantage of the ECC bulk order price. There will also be a surprise model to showcase the new kit.

Get your raffle tickets on Saturday race days, or on the night, and go into the draw to win a

new club kit (jersey and bib shorts) valued at $289

TICKETS: $10 each or 3 for $20

Funds raised will go towards a new canopy for the club registration tent
in the new club colours.

Croydon Cycle Works will have an ECC members–only special offering
10% store wide and special prices on a select range of bikes.

Kit pricing

Jersey & bib nicks $289
Jersey only $124
Arm warmers $55
Gilet $135
ChillBLOCK Jacket $219

Note: you must order via CCW and pay in full at time of order.

Orders close on Friday 10 May, orders taken from Thursday 18 April.

These prices are for first bulk order and will go up by approx. 30% after the initial order.
Graded scratch races, METEC, 20 April

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>3rd</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Grade</td>
<td>Jean-Philippe Leclercq</td>
<td>Kevin King</td>
<td>Steve Parker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B Grade</td>
<td>Max Kornhofer</td>
<td>Mark Edwards</td>
<td>Walter Savini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C Grade</td>
<td>Ken Saxton</td>
<td>Peter Ransome</td>
<td>Doug Reynolds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D Grade</td>
<td>Max Michelson</td>
<td>Colin Mortley</td>
<td>Peter Shanahan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E/F Grade</td>
<td>Ron Stranks</td>
<td>John Eddy</td>
<td>Neil Cartledge</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**B Grade (I)**
*By Max Kornhofer*

As I rocked up at METEC, the gents on the desk had put me in B Grade, which I wasn’t unhappy about because I was nursing a bit of a cold. A Grade suffering can wait.

Eleven starters in B Grade rolled onto the course, with the usual suspects sans Dean (who was away) taking their turns for a reasonably paced first 15 minutes. As I am leaving for my ‘real life’ in Europe (think: work) this week, there was no reason for me to hold anything back, so I thought I would try to hurt the lads a bit with some hard attacks, but someone always sacrificed himself and brought the whole bunch back. Paul Firth and Walter Savini were working quite a bit, too, and Mark Edwards was never far back. Between the attacks we lacked Dave Richards to keep the pace high, so everyone stayed together.

As we couldn’t get a split as we were nearing the anticipated bell lap, I took the chance of some sneaky tactics: just as we cleared the s-bend we were at the back of C Grade, who were on their last lap. I knew if I pulled hard I could gap them enough to not interfere with their sprint, and I was hoping that the rest of our grade would hesitate that moment too long. So I basically put in a sprint for the line and was hoping that I could last on the fumes in the tank until the chequered flag goes down for B Grade. My plan worked and I got a 50 metre gap, but Paul was working hard to chase. Luckily for me, nobody helped him too much as far as I could see. One lap later the bell rang for us and after a new PB of wattage for the last 5 minutes I could hold the gap to the line. Behind me Paul had some gearing issues so Mark and Walter left him for dead and took 2nd and 3rd.

A special mention also to Craig Stannard, who was quite active, too. Some things to be expected there in the future.

So thanks to everyone for a fun and safe summer of racing, can’t wait to get back in spring!

Stay safe.

**B Grade (II)**
*By Peter Webb*

METEC is not my favourite course; in fact, it has been some eight years since I have ridden it. Last time I broke my collarbone in a crash on the little hill when the peloton fell down and I went over the top of them.
Anyhow, I thought I would race on Saturday. My thinking was that most of the guns would be at Maryborough and some of the others would have done the Good Friday crucifix ride in the Dandenongs. My plan was a good one because at the sign-in and with a bit questioning I was convinced that I was in with a chance. Then that plan was shot when Max Kornhofer turned up, looking fit, muscular and, worst of all, young. When John Williams asked me what the strategy for the day was, I replied, ‘Try to finish’.

The race started and first to attack was Ian Smith. He was riding in newly acquired Croydon gear and nobody recognised him. He got a fair bit of a lead until Mark Edwards asked me, ‘Who’s that out in front?’ Then the alarm bells rang and Mark and Max closed it down and we all hung onto them. Next to attack was Paul Firth; again it was Max who shut that one down. And then Max decided to attack.

We all took a collective deep breath and decided that we would have to work hard to stop this one. Rob Suter did a great job of working at the front, then Mark, Paul and Walter Savini managed to bring Max back into the fold. We slowed down a bit and this allowed the rest of the gang back into the race. I think that attack might have been the one that dropped John Williams out of the race, or perhaps he decided to go to the football early.

We had a bit of a break from hard racing when we got stuck behind F Grade on their finishing lap and we were all able to get our breath back and heart rates down. Max attacked again but none of us could match his speed this time and away he rode. We got the bell and were now riding for the minor placings. Mark had positioned himself towards the rear so he could do his flying attack. Paul accelerated and Walter was on his wheel, then Mark came flying by and the race was really on. Max won easily with Mark 2nd and Walter 3rd. Goodbye Max, off to A Grade you go.

Overall, a good race, and I think my METEC demons have gone.

**Wednesday criterium at the Loop, Yarra Boulevard, 24 April**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division</th>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>3rd</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Division 1a (3)</td>
<td>Grant Farr</td>
<td>Russell Newnham</td>
<td>Chris Ellenby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Division 1b (10)</td>
<td>Nick Tapp</td>
<td>David Rooke (N)</td>
<td>Terry Hollibone (N)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Division 2 (7)</td>
<td>Doug Reynolds (GCM)</td>
<td>Tony Curulli</td>
<td>John Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Division 3 (1)</td>
<td>Shane Dwyer (N)</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Division 4 (5)</td>
<td>Michael Waterfield</td>
<td>Neil Cartledge</td>
<td>Laurie Bohn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thanks to referee Mark Williams, Dean Niclasen and other helpers.
Increase in race fee

After careful consideration, the committee has decided to increase race day fees for all Saturday and Tuesday twilight races to $15 so that we may continue to cover the cost of providing safe racing for our members. This change will come into effect on 1 May 2019. We are aware that this comes on top of an increase in our membership fee this year, but increasing costs and falling membership numbers have meant that we have been spending more each year than we receive in fees, and this is not sustainable.

The committee has also decided to revise all prize money and the thresholds for the number of riders in each grade determining the prize money, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Riders</th>
<th>Prizes</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1–4</td>
<td>1st $30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4–8</td>
<td>1st $30, 2nd $25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8–15</td>
<td>1st $30, 2nd $25, 3rd $20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16–20</td>
<td>1st $30, 2nd $25, 3rd $20, 4th $15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21+</td>
<td>1st $30, 2nd $25, 3rd $20, 4th $15, 5th $15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adam Dymond, ECC President

Australia? You’re standing in it

I guess you’re wondering, ‘Hasn’t this guy got anything better to do with his time?’ The simple answer is, yes, constantly! But tonight, as I was counting the club’s drink cash-box takings, a strange feeling came over me.

No, it wasn’t one of absconding with the proceeds. It was kind of like that movie, where one character experiences a ‘close encounter’ with an alien force and becomes obsessed with the sculpture of a mountain facsimile, after playing with his mashed potatoes at dinner. He tries desperately to travel to this place after seeing it on a TV news disaster report.

So here I am, sitting at the dinner table on Good Friday eve, watching the footy with a mass of coins laid out before me.

I have a strict routine when it comes to counting money:

• Firstly, account for the notes before turning my attention to all that silver and gold–looking stuff.
• 50c goes first because they’re the largest and easiest to identify.
• 20c are next for much the same reason.
• 10c next since (in the right light) it now becomes easier to distinguish a lyrebird from a kangaroo or a traditional inhabitant of this ancient land.
• A few lonely 5c pieces start to poke their little echidna heads out. They can be a bit prickly to handle.

So now I’m left with approximately two hundred $1 and $2 coins.

This is when the ‘close encounter’ thing develops. I start to visualise a map of our ‘wunderbar
land’. (You mean Austria? No! Australia!) With all the ones rounded up, I start to arrange one hundred and forty $2 coins into the rough shape of our unique landmass. Not satisfied with something that was looking more like Antarctica, I race to the bedroom bookshelf to reference our trusty Heinemann Atlas (second edition). At last, it was taking shape.

‘I’ve gotta get a pic of this on the mobile.’

Bugger! The colour of the coins doesn’t contrast well with our tablecloth.

'I'll have to find something brighter for the underside.'

Frantically searching through the linen press, I discover an old aqua-coloured beach towel. Perfect! It will give the impression of viewing the continent from the International Space Station, (ISS) orbiting 408 km above planet Earth, as distinct from a Martian dust storm.

Now things are starting to get really serious. I'll have to draw up a grid map, in order to reproduce my obsession on an ocean background.

It all transfers nicely. I get the pic from the ISS, but can only dream that my ultimate destination might have been Skylab.

Oh s#@t, it’s 3 am and I haven’t gone to bed yet. I'll have to continue my story next week about what happened to the $1 rejects. There’s some interesting ‘ones’. Ha ha!

Oh! See if you can locate:

• Invictus Games
• Possum Magic
• Queen Elizabeth II.

Good night.

Peter Gray

Room to rent in Girona

Eastern member Rob Birch lives in Girona, Spain. It is a fantastic location for cycling, not far from the Pyrenees, France and the Mediterranean.

Rob has a 2-bedroom apartment and his second bedroom is available to rent for any Eastern Cycling Club member, subject to availability (June is currently booked out). Price is €120 per week or €20 per night. Rob’s contact details are as follows:

Email: robgb53@gmail.com
WhatsApp: +61 478 119 502
Mobile: +34 662 060 483
Future events

Eastern CC events
Please refer to page 1 of this newsletter, or go to https://easterncycling.com/roster/.

Note: Graded scratch race entries are accepted on the day up until 15 minutes before the advertised race start time. Handicap entries close the Tuesday or Wednesday before the race, as advertised. Riders who enter a handicap must pay the entry fee regardless of whether they participate. Fees are due on race day; entrants will not be allowed to start in any ECC race until fees have been paid. No late entries will be accepted for either scratch races or handicaps. Entries to handicaps can be submitted to the handicapper via email or TeamApp, or on any race day before the event.

Northern CC events
For details, go to http://northerncycling.com.au. Please note that Northern has a new start time of 10 am for road races. Start time for criterium races at National Boulevard remains unchanged at 9 am.

VCV events

Sunday 5 May: Brennan/Hall Memorial. Hosted by Warrnambool Veterans Cycling Club
Entries close Tuesday 30 April. NOTE: Change of venue, back to the traditional course at Wangoom. No nasty hill at the start of each lap!


Scroll down to see a flyer for this event.

Sponsors
Warrnambool Veterans Cycling Club
Proudly Presents the 60km
Brennan/Hall Memorial
Sunday 5th May 2019
Commencing at 10.00am
Wangoom Community Hall
Wangoom-Warrumjea Road, Wangoom
$25.00 Entry Fee
2 Bants 1 Falls circuit 60km
http://www.warrnamboolvetscycling.com/category/circuits/
Entries close Midnight Tuesday 30th April 2019
www.veterancycling.com.au

SouthWest Credit