

Lockdown: June 2021

Eastern Cycling Club

Newsletter

Duty Roster

Saturday 05 June
GSR, Casey Fields, 2:00 pm
Cancelled

If rostered for duty, you must be there at least 1 hour prior to start time. If unable to do your duty, it's your responsibility to find a replacement, then advise Andrew Buchanan.

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The latest Covid outbreak has reaped its havoc in Victoria again and Club racing is on the back-burner for a while. Hopefully we will be back at it sooner rather than later. Until then, your weekly newsletter will take a rest and will return once racing resumes, or as needed.

This week however there is a belated report from Nick Tapp and his TUS Race 1 efforts at Gruyere.

Doug Page updates us on his Western Odyssey progress.

With the TDF fast approaching for those of you who think they could do a better job than a Director Sportif, see Dean Tune's note regarding the TDF Fantasy Competition.

So we are locked down...We cant *really* ride?... What do we do?... Read! See the flyer for Warren Beaumont's book launch on the history of Australian Cycling. What better way is there to while away those lockdown hours?



A lonely Gruyere without ECC

Photo: Mark Edwards

B-Grade Gruyere 8/5/2021

By Nick Tapp

Back to old hunting grounds this week for our first road race in ages, at Gruyere. Happy hunting grounds for me, once upon a time, but now? After so long not racing at all, then only crits with shorter hills or none, and two birthdays older, I arrived having a minor crisis of confidence. Looking at the start list didn't help: a strong field of 19, including three unknowns from other clubs and four regular A-graders who had received the handicapper's mercy. Paul Firth is always very hard to beat at Gruyere (or anywhere else), Matt Clarke rode away from us all at Rocco Drive, Craig Stannard is looking super strong again – and on it went. But everyone was in the same boat, I guess: two hours of racing to look forward to instead of one, and 12 times up Killara Road hill. At least it was a nice day.

What do I remember? I remember two of the unknowns - one who would turn out to be Peter Dean (SMCC), and one in PMCC kit – prominent among the workers on the front. Of the erstwhile A-graders, Perry Peters did a strong turn, as he always does when in B, and then headed down the back; Phil Cavaleri was riding mid-bunch except on the descents, where he regularly swished past in an aero tuck; while Steve Ross did something similar (but less aero) just once or twice and was next seen in his car, heading home. Ray Russo danced off the front a couple of times. The second time, I bridged across to him up the sharp little pinch after the turn onto Medhurst Road and we stayed away for half a lap or so. Of the rest, Dale

Maizels looked her usual unflappable self, but Kym Petersen had come unstuck about when Perry went to the front. Paul, Matt, Craig, as well as Craig Oliver, Marcus Herzog, Steve White and Dale Walton - all looked good. Dean Niclasen struggled, and we lapped him before he abandoned. Dave Richards looked a bit off top form as well, like Jan Ullrich at the start of the Tour but with only two hours to do something about it, and we eventually lapped him, too. Perry and both Dales also pulled over before the finish.

About halfway through, Paul and Peter opened a gap up the hill and took off down the other side. This looked like trouble, and it took several laps of chasing, choreographed by Craig Stannard and shared among the majority of the bunch, to gradually bring them back. The pace now came off a bit, and I was happy to find myself feeling comfortable on the big hill and still easing slightly ahead towards the top. Maybe I had been underestimating the benefit of the 20kg I give some of these guys, or my own form, or overestimating everyone else's. I've been known to do that. Whatever - I didn't want to blow it. I have a ton of respect for Paul's explosive power, never mind anyone else's, so I tried to ride within myself and save a bit for later. With the extra racing in mind, I scoffed a caffeinated gel.

So there were about 12 left at the bell. I had been on the front, but several went past soon after and I was able to settle in further back. I think we then stayed together until early on the last hill. As usual, it was on from the corner onto Killara Road. Inevitably, Paul went, and Marcus was the only one to get his wheel. I knew I would blow up





if I tried, but four of us (Matt, Peter, one of the other unknowns and I) drew away from the rest, and at the top we were still together. Paul and Marcus had 50m or 100m lead by then. I thought Paul had it in the bag, and Marcus might well be able to stay with him. I didn't look behind to see what was happening there.

My three chase mates were powerful guys, so I tucked in behind and hung on tight as we hammered the descent and around into Cahillton

Road. Less than 1km to go. Paul had dropped Marcus, and we hoovered him up and kept going. Over the last wee rise and there was Paul. We were going to catch him. With 100m to go we swept past. Peter went around Matt, I was on Peter's wheel and passed Matt too, came out of the slipstream and couldn't make any impression, but held off Matt (3rd) and Paul (4th). Congratulations to Peter on a strong win, well done to everyone who stared down their Gruyere gremlins, and thanks to the day's volunteers.



Nick, 'coming out of the slipstream'

Photo: Mark Edwards



Doug Page - Western Odyssey update

A bit of a catch-up email from our rest day at Streaky Bay as it's been a bit too flat out to do much other than ride eat and sleep (and fix a few bikes in between time)

Obviously Dave Bowman (2001: A Space Odyssey), Don McLean (American singer-songwriter) and Vincent Van Gogh. (A good mate of Chopper Reid) spent a bit of time on the Nullarbor with it's clear cool nights and sky full of stars. We had a very good view of the red moon the other night as the Earth blocked out the sun too.

That has also led to some cool mornings, one of pretty much 0 degrees C a few mornings back and so as per the picture, I've cracked out the balaclava, full finger gloves, full length bike pants and about 4 or 5 layers on top to keep me warm until the sun gets high enough to do its job

Our mascot Eddie the eagle can be seen attached to Steve's bike who's a medico from Alice Springs. A few pictures from the old telegraph station at Eucla are also attached

Doug



Doug, feeling the Desert Chill



Steve and Eddy the Eagle



Old Telegraph Station, Eucla



Road Train

Fantasy Tour de France Competition

Hello Members,

Fancy yourself as a top notch Directeur Sportif?

Well, here's your chance to show your talents to your fellow club members and possibly win some cash at the same time.

In recent years, SBS and/or the TdF themselves have run a Fantasy TdF Competition. This year the club intends to set up a private league within the official Fantasy TdF competition so club members can compete against each other.

Not sure what we're talking about here? This competition runs similar to Supercoach in the footy tipping, but instead of coaching your own footy team, you are managing your own cycling team competing in the TdF.

Closer to the start date of the TdF, I will be available to help out anybody who would like to be involved but is not quite sure what they're doing.

The important thing to know at the moment is that this competition will cost you NOTHING. However, it is being limited to club members only. Prize money will be awarded to the top 3 DS at the end of the TdF in the amounts of 1st: \$100, 2nd: \$70, 3rd \$30. So what have you got to lose?

When the official website is up and running, I will set up our league and then send further details enabling you to enter.

In the meantime, start your rider research and if you have any questions, please get in touch.

Dean Tune

Treasurer & Games Administrator.





Have you got what Allan Peiper's got? Enter the Fantasy TDF and find out!

Australian Cycling Champions – 130 years of bicycle racing

By Warran Beaumont

Madam Secretary received details on this book launch during the week:

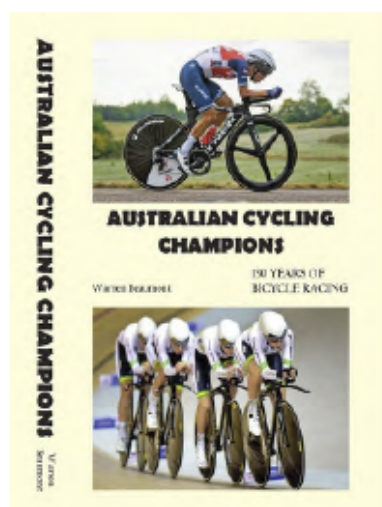
“Australian Cycling Champions 130 years of bicycle racing is one of the most comprehensive books published that covers the early history and major timelines of Australian bicycle racing and the performances of our top track and road cycling champions from the late 1880s to 2020.

The 400-page paperback book includes over 60 colour and black and white photographs and has a RRP of \$23.99. I have attached a promotional flyer (*below*) and you can look up the book's website at <https://www.plateaupublishing.com.au>”



21 May 2021

Australian Cycling Champions 130 years of bicycle racing



Paperback, 400pp
ISBN: 9780646834139
April 2021
RRP \$23.99 (includes GST
& shipping)
Plateau Publishing

Australian Cycling Champions 130 years of bicycle racing is one of the most comprehensive books published that covers the early history of Australian bicycle racing and the performances of our top track and road cycling champions. The paperback book includes over 60 colour and black and white photographs. The book charts the early history of Australia's track and road cycling and its champions from the 1890s to the 1990s, when amateur and professional cycling became 'open', through to 2020 when our cyclists were ranked in the top 4-5 cycling nations.

Featuring comments from newspapers, magazines and historians, and from some of our top cyclists, the book highlights the best performances of over 170 of our top road and track cycling champions, including at the national road and track championships,

Cycling is our third most successful sport at the Olympic and Commonwealth Games for medals won, while Australia is ranked in the top 4-5 cycling nations at the UCI world road and track cycling championships.

Launched in May 2021, Australian Cycling Champions 130 years of bicycle racing, highlights the achievements of our cycling champions at home and internationally. The book is now available for \$23.99 from the publisher's website:

<https://www.plateaupublishing.com.au>



Hubert Opperman during his 1,000 miles motor-paced world record, the Melbourne Motordrome, 1932.

Olympic and Commonwealth Games, UCI world championships, six-day racing, classic road races, and major Australian and European tours including the Tour de France.

Boom days of track cycling, the book's second chapter, covers the beginnings of the sport from the 1880s when track cycling was an amateur sport to around 1900. The introduction of professional 'cash cycling' led to the big divide between amateur and professional cycling when the Austral Wheel and the Sydney Thousand were the richest track cycling races in the world.

Track aces conquer America. From 1905 our top track cycling champions such as Jackie Clarke, Alf Gouillet, Alf Grenda, Bob Spears, and Cecil Walker were based in New Jersey and won USA track cycling championships.

Bob Spears world champion. Spears won the world track sprint championship in 1920 and was Europe's best track cyclist in the early 1920s.

Classic road races & champions. From around 1900 road races such as the Warrnambool to Melbourne handicap race and the Goulburn to Sydney became true classics of the sport. Record setting champions in the road classics include Hubert Opperman, Snowy Munro (the rider who beat the train), Richard 'Fatty' Lamb, and Ern Milliken.

Opperman long distance hero features the record-breaking long-distance feats of Hubert Opperman. In 1931 he beat Europe's big cycling teams in the 1200-mile non-stop Paris-Brest-Paris road classic.



H.K. Smith & R.W. 'Fatty' Lamb, professional and amateur winners of the 1926 Warrnambool to Melbourne road race classic, with Malvern Star's Bruce Small.

Track superstars to 1990s. Dunc Gray was our first Olympic gold medallist in the 1920s and cycling legend Russell Mockridge won two Olympic track golds. World and Commonwealth Games champions included Sid Patterson, John Nicholson, Gordon Johnson, Danny Clark, and Dean Woods.

Kings of six-day racing highlights six-day track cycling champions and focuses on Australia's record-breaking six-day team of Roger Arnold and Alf Strom.

Speed & Power men's track. Our track cyclists continued Australia's great track cycling legacy through to 2020, winning gold medals at the UCI world track championships, the Olympic and Commonwealth Games. Among the top champions are Shane Kelly, Darryn Hill, Ryan Bayley, Brad McGee, Michael Hepburn, Cameron Meyer, Luke Roberts, Peter Dawson, Leigh Howard and Sam Welsford.



Roger Arnold and Alf Strom, Australia's greatest 6-day track cycling team, at the Wembley Six, 1952.

Dynamic women of the track. Our women track champions re-emerged in the 1980s. Great speed and endurance track champions include Julie Speight, Kathy Watt, and Anna Meares, winner of 12 world track championship medals, while more recent speed and endurance champions include Kaarle McCulloch, Stephanie Morton, Amy Cure, Annette Edmondson, and Ashlee Ankudinoff.

Women record breakers. Women set long-distance road cycling records in the 1890s riding the new safety bicycle, when the 'rational dress' was seen as scandalous. One of the trailblazing long-distance cyclist was Sarah (Mrs E. A.) Maddock, the first woman to ride from Sydney to Brisbane, and from Sydney to Melbourne in 1894.



Road men's trailblazers. From the 1950s Jack Hoobin was our first world road champion, Clyde Sefton claimed our first Olympic road cycling medal, while Phil Anderson won major tours and road classics and became the first Australian and non-European to wear the leader's Yellow Jersey at the Tour de France.

Big wheels of the road. Our road cycling champions from the 2000s include Cadel Evans, our first Tour de France winner in 2011; Robbie McEwen our best grand tour road sprinter; world time trial champions Michael Rogers and Rohan Dennis; and Ritchie Porte, our Tour Down Under hero and 2020 Tour de France third place winner.



Caleb Ewan locks on to the wheel of Dylan Groenewegen, before Ewan won the sprint and the stage at Toulouse, 2019 Tour de France. W. Beaumont photo.

Road women in top echelon. Our champion women's road cyclists Anna Wilson and Liz Hepple were ranked in the best in the world, while Kathy Watt and Sarah Carrigan won Olympic gold. Oneone Wood, Katrin Garfoot, Chloe Hosking and Amanda Spratt won major races or world medals competing against the might of European women's cycling.



Amanda Spratt on the last steep ramp during her solo ride at the 2019 La Course by the Tour de France at Pau, before she was caught by the chasing bunch. W. Beaumont photo.

The book, *Australian Cycling Champions 130 years of bicycle racing*, was researched and written by Blue Mountains NSW-based Warren Beaumont, who wrote for Australian cycling magazines such as *National Cycling* and *Freewheeling* and sports trade magazines in the 1980s to the early 1990s. He has worked as a journalist and editor for business magazines and newspapers for over 30 years.

The book can be ordered from bookstores or the Plateau Publishing website for \$23.99 (shipping of \$10.00 and GST included). Books will be shipped within 4-5 days. For more information contact:

Warren Beaumont

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Email: plateaupublishing@gmail.com

Website:
<https://www.plateaupublishing.com.au>



Future events

Eastern CC events

Please refer to page 1 of this newsletter, or go to <https://easterncycling.com/event-calendar/>

Note: Graded scratch race entries are accepted ahead of time on Entry Boss <https://entryboss.cc/calendar/ecc>. 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. 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.

Wednesday racing at the Teardrop/Loop is still cash on the day with registration closing at 10:00 am and a start time of 10:15 am. Cost is \$4 in coins or a \$5 note. No change is offered due to ECC Covid-Safe procedures.

Northern CC events

For details, go to northerncycling.com.au. Please note that Northern road races start at 10 am on Sunday; start time for criterium races at National Boulevard is 9 am.





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