

May 2000

TANDEM CLUB OF AUSTRALIA



NEWSLETTER No. 87



It was on for young and old: the Fisher children at the Treasure Hunt

The Annual Tandem Club Treasure Hunt

On Sunday 16 April, ten tandem teams (some with families) set out from Westgarth Station in Northcote for a thrilling encounter with destiny: the Tandem Club Treasure Hunt, organised by Tony Barter and Linda Anderson. It was tough, it was cruel: only ten teams returned.

As always, there were plenty of tricky questions, such as determining how many Neighbourhood Watch stickers were on houses in one street, or stating the length of a particular cricket pitch (we were lucky: we always carry a tape measure to measure the odd door or piece of fabric).

There were fun exercises for young and old alike. For example, each team had to construct a nest for Easter eggs; the resulting structures were quite impressive! Also, there were plenty of unusual finds long the way: flowers to adorn the bikes, Easter eggs from a magic cabin (oh, all right, a rusty and dilapidated tin shed), balloons (stocked in *our* letterbox! What a surprise!)

And there were special contests too. One was a slide race: each team

had to go up and down the slide twice, with their time being recorded. Teams were also asked to stride into the centre of the Fairfield Amphitheatre and render a nursery rhyme as a duet. As always, there were one or two ambiguous questions, just to keep everyone on their toes.

The event ended with afternoon tea at Tony's house. This also gave everyone a chance to ponder the prizes, artfully suspended from the rafters. I noticed Angelika covetously eyeing the packet of Kit-Kats, but unfortunately we won the not-so-splendid stainless-steel serving plate, artfully machine-stamped with icons of Australia. A treasure in its own right, it now hangs in a prominent position between the spiders in our bike shed!

On behalf of everyone, thanks to Tony and Linda and all the other helpers for putting together a delightful event.

Fred Surr and Angelika Stoll

(more Treasure Hunt photos on page four)

President's Report

As some of you might know, this year is the Tandem Club of Australia's 20th anniversary. That's something in itself to celebrate, but I also think this year the committee has achieved a lot and, more importantly, created the groundwork for increasing the strength of the club.

I was elected as president in April 1999 with several other new faces - Kim Travers, Derek McKean and Peter Hines - to complement old hands Andrew McDowall and John Harland. I went overseas to work for several months in June, and came home to find the committee and TwoUp subcommittee had done all the hard work in organising the club's annual gathering.

TwoUp99 in Euroa attracted a record 35 tandems, with nine children among those attending from the ACT, NSW, ACT and Victoria. As usual, Charlie Farren did a great job in enthusiastically running the event, with help from the subcommittee. As well as being a great social event, TwoUp saw several members step forward to take up the new role of state organiser: NSW - Matthew Leditschke and Linda Barnes, SA - Margaret Day, and ACT - Judy and Stuart Durrant. Jaimie Cook (Queensland) and Wayne Kelly (Tasmania) were unable to come to TwoUp, but have volunteered for state posts.

The TwoUp subcommittee decided that, on the back of this success,

TwoUp2000 would be held in Canberra. The city was chosen to try to encourage more attendance from Queensland, NSW and ACT members, and to give a sense of the event's national importance in the year 2000. It was also hoped that we may pick up some of the overseas visitors here for the Olympics or Paralympics may join the event.

The enthusiasm created by TwoUp also created the impetus for the committee to give the club an administrative shake-up. The committee voted to hold six regular meetings a year, on the second Tuesday of every odd month; and to publish six regular newsletters, on the 20th of every odd month, with a submission deadline of the 6th of that month. We decided to get the club a central PO Box, streamlined our newsletter mailing list to give unfinancial members only two more mailouts, and started thinking of ways we could promote the club to increase membership.

State representatives were to play a pivotal role in any membership drive, promoting membership in their states, organising rides, promoting the club through bike shops and being the first contact point for potential members in their state. So far, this has worked quite well: Queensland has monthly rides; the ACT has had several rides, and Judy has been helping heaps with the TwoUp organising; Tasmania has already had newspaper publicity for a ride; and SA and NSW have had a few successful rides.

The committee has also discussed printing club business cards and membership cards to hang off new tandems in shops, both of which will be projects for the coming year.

The web page has been extensively upgraded, and now has everything members need to know on-line, including the club calendar, contact details for committee members, a summary of the club's purpose, a membership form, back copies of several newsletters, tips on buying a tandem, and a list of shops that stock tandems. Plans for the coming year are to add a picture gallery, but we are limited by the amount of space we have on this free site; the newsletters each take up about 1/2 MB of space, and we only have 5 Mb available.

More recently, the committee has reassessed all its positions and, as reported

in the last newsletter, has formally recorded job descriptions and has redefined several others. A new position of information officer was created to manage the web site, keep the club's three library books and

back copies of the newsletter; the vice president role now takes in some international liaison, and the position of librarian was abolished.

An e-mail mailing list has been used over the past few months to try to remind members of events between newsletters; so far it appears to be working well. Only about 50% of members are on the list, and it is hoped that other member will contact the membership secretary to ask to be added; a request through the last newsletter hasn't seen much response.

The newsletter is becoming bigger and better, with a mix of information and a regular events calendar. John Harland has continued to edit

the newsletter while overseas, e-mailing it to me for printing. Kaye Traynor and Martin O'Brien have lent many cheerful hours to folding and addressing the newsletters, which has been much appreciated. More articles will always be welcomed; John has had some problems in converting computer file formats, so requests we send material saved as text only. The newsletter is the club's main service to members throughout Australia, but needs members' input to remain a lively and informative read, with information from every state. Get writing! The club has started mailing the newsletter to *Australian Cyclist*, and will this year make contact with each of the state cycling groups to arrange a reciprocal newsletter mailing and request that Tandem Club events be publicised in their newsletters.

Through my contacts in France, the club now has a reciprocal arrangement with the Tandem Club of France, whereby each club will receive the other's newsletter. This may open doors to members of the club planning to tour overseas.

Finally, I am happy to report we now have 75 financial members (this figure is lower than the one reported earlier, as unfinancial members and reciprocal memberships were initially being counted in the total). Twenty-two new tandem teams have joined the club in 1999-2000, increasing the membership by 30% on last year's figures. Membership outside the traditional club stronghold of Victoria is growing rapidly.

That's pretty exciting, and there's no reason why we shouldn't expect the club to continue growing at the same rate in 2000-2001. Thank you to all outgoing officers for a job well done, and a big welcome to new officers.



Your new committee: (standing, from left) Secretary Janette Beeston, President Sally Dillon, Information Officer Peter Hines, Membership Officer Kim Travers; (sitting, from left): Treasurer Will Ievecke, Technical Officer Derek McKean. (not in photo) Social Secretary Tony Barter, Newsletter Editor John Harland.). Remember, the contact details for all committee members are on the back page.

Sally Dillon

Coming events

Melbourne Dinner Ride

Saturday June 3. A night dinner ride, departing the floral clock (opposite the National Gallery of Victoria) at 5pm.

This is an easy ride of about 30km, all on trails and bike-paths.

Children are most welcome. Don't forget your lights.

Run in conjunction with the Melbourne Bicycle Touring Club.

Bookings are essential. Please ring and book with Tony Barter on (03) 9481 5526, by **Friday May 26.**

Two-Up 2000.

Please mark Saturday November 11 and Sunday November 12 in your diaries and make sure that you, your partner and your tandem are in Canberra for this fantastic annual event. Lots more details will be coming to you later.

Bike SA Murray Meander.

Are there any members, from any state, interested in forming a tandem gaggle at the wonderful annual Bike SA ride this year? The ride is from Saturday September 23 to Saturday September 30, Adelaide to Adelaide. Please contact Bicycle S.A. on (08) 8410 1406 for more information and let me (Tony Barter) know if you are interested: phone (03) 9481 5526 ore-mail <barter.tony.r@edumail.vic.gov.au>

Forthcoming rides

Please note that the closing date for announcements in the next rides calendar is July 6th.

Fietsfeest 2000, the bicycle festival.

One of the things your editor has been working on in Amsterdam is assisting with the organisation of *Fietsfeest 2000*, the bicycle festival that will open the week of events around *Velo Mondial 2000*, the international bicycling conference.

It's on Sunday June 18 in the Vondel Park in Amsterdam and there will be a wealth of bikes of all kinds to wonder at and to try out.

Now is probably too late for most of you to book a fare there but perhaps you might like to see this family who showed up with their very Dutch tandem at the previous Fietsfeest in 1996.



The Dancing Tandem.

We were pretty happy to see a photo of our old tandem in Ron Shepherd's recently released book, *The Dancing Chain*. Well, not ours really, just its twin. It is the one on page 135. Believe it or not, the riders pictured are wearing broad brims too. If you have not seen *The Dancing Chain*, do yourselves (and Ron) a favour and buy it. It is a great read.

We bought the tandem second-hand years ago when we lived in the country and our children were small. It had a Canadian YHA sticker on it but we never found out anything more of its past. Someone who knows all about lugs told us it was probably made about 1938. Ron's book confirms this.

It had hub brakes and a speedo, almost unknown in the late 50s. The handle bars are quite unusual, curling back towards our knees.

We set it up with a cane babyseat on the back for a while. Our daughters used it for Guide camping trips and Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions. It was very stong and at times had five people on it, using both cross bars and the rack to carry extra passengers. Our sons almost wrecked it as they grew older and more vigourous, taking their friends on various excursions and riding it almost to destruction. Then, as happens, they left home and we were left with a slightly sorry-looking tandem.

It was made over and put to rights eventually and we continued to

use it for fun, particularly for the Penny Farthing Challenge weekends which were held in Strathalbyn for many years. One particular race was a free-for-all, several circuits on anything available. We raced it with a fervent competitive spirit. The first circuit had Graham on the front, me on the back doing my knitting, laden panniers in place on the back rack. Then we changed places and I rode front seat with Graham sitting up reading his book as we pedalled furiously past the finishing post. But our son actually won the silver cup that year on his unicycle. Another year we raced it with a small grandson on the hitch bike behind: warning! long vehicle.

Since then it has had kiddy cranks fitted to accommodate our little grandchildren and has provided the whole family with years of good times and memories.

We have another light and nippy Family Tandem as well now but the old one has many happy memories and we still love it.

Margaret Day

PS: Copies of Ron's book, *The Dancing Chain*, are available by sending a cheque or money order for \$80 (including postage) to Ron Shepherd, PO Box 275, East Melbourne 3002.

About the TCA Newsletter

This newsletter is **published** on the 20th of every odd month (ie January, March, May etc).

The **final submission date** is on the 6th of the month of publication.

Articles are welcomed from members and personal notices are published free of charge.

We reserve the right to decide what is published. Material (including graphics) may be edited unless specifically requested otherwise.

Editor John Harland will be living in the Netherlands until July 1 at:

Plantage Muidergracht 20 A1

Amsterdam 1018 TV

The Netherlands

Submissions can also be emailed to him on his normal email address:

<jch@sci.vu.edu.au>

or they can be posted to the Club's mailbox:

PO box 12259, Melbourne 8006

The Treasure Hunt in pictures



New members Andrew Harding & Katherine Hirst do some nest building as one of the Treasure Hunt challenges.



Treasure Hunt old hand Andrew McDowall came equipped with high tech clue reading device for stoker Caroline.



Robin Dexter, Janette Beeston and children Oliver and Byron took second place in the Treasure Hunt (pictured with Tony Barter).

Tandemming around the World

Is there anybody out there? In fact there is. Recently we were contacted by extra terrestrial (overseas) tandemists who keep a web site listing dozens of tandem clubs around the globe. As well as the TCA, there is the venerable Tandem Club of Great Britain, which apparently has around 6000 members. Other (known) national clubs reside in South Africa, Canada, Switzerland, France, the USA and Scotland.

But the internationals are small cheese compared to the highly competitive scene of the US clubs, each vying for the most entertaining title.

The animal theme is a popular one. How about AARDVARKS - Ann Arbor Riding Duos Venturing About Rolling Kountry Sides, COYOTES - Coalition of Young & Old Tandem Enthusiasts (Tucson, Arizona), COWS - Couples on Wheels, CRABS - Couples Riding a Bike Simultaneously, DOGS - Doubles Of the Garden State, EGRETS - Enthusiastic Group of Riders Exercising Tandem Style, MULES -

Missouri Union of Longbike Enthusiasts, PIGS - Paired Iowans Going Somewhere, TIGERS - Tandems Illinois Going Everywhere Riding in Style and the lovable WABITS - Washington Area Bicyclists In Tandem Society.

The Dallas Area Tandem Enthusiasts - DATES are no doubt trying to avoid any association with the BUTTS - Boulder United Tandem TeamS. Other cute titles include the FLATTS - Florida Tandem & Touring Society, Inc and the lovable BART - Bay Area Roaming Tandems. But my favourites would have to be the imaginative PEACHES - Pairs Enthusiastically Astride Cycles Having Experiences Simultaneously or TOPLESS - Tandems of Ponca Laughter Eating & Social Society

Thanks go to Mark Livingood for creating this wonderful site and saving me any effort in researching this article! Check it out at: <<http://home.flash.net/~livngood/clubaddresses.html>>

Peter Hines

Welcome to new members

Qld Leonie Hamilton & Andrew Hamilton
Vic Robert Gordon & Lisa Gordon
Vic Anne Lyon & David De Pury
Vic Ken Inchley & Diane Inchley
Vic Andrew Harding & Katherine Hirst
Vic Stephen Lansell & Dolly Kenny

Letter

Hello John

A small correction to the Jan TCA newsletter (which for a variety of reasons I have only just received).

Thanks for including the Twin Air piece with photo, but I do not sell Bike Fridays. I am just the evangelist. It is direct selling between the manufacturers and customers. I have the info, the videos and brochures to distribute but money does not change hands.

Margaret Day, State Organiser, SA

Thanks for the clarification, Margaret, and apologies for the misunderstanding.

John Harland

RVIB ride

A fantastic Sunday outing with approximately 16 kms of riding around a velodrome and out along beautiful cycling paths. This was a tandem event where we had new captains on unfamiliar bikes and very new stokers who were all sight-impaired.

Upon arrival at the velodrome, we were all treated to a magnificent example of tandem mastery on the track; a couple in great form simply flogging it around the track. It got the blood stirring and what most didn't realise, 'til they stopped, was the female stoker was sight-impaired. They were in training for a paralympic event.

Allan and Roslyn organised the day and provided three of the tandems (how many do they own I wonder?). When the captains arrived, many preparations were already underway (strapping cord between pedals, seat adjustment, etc). Allan graciously forfeited riding as this made an even six teams to set out.

There was a great feeling of accomplishment as all practised and succeeded in mounting, stopping and dismounting without a single mishap. My personal trial was actually captaining one of Ros's tandems and worrying about keeping it steady at slow speeds on gravel. I sweated a lot more than I should have. My partner was just terrific and we communicated constantly with a lot of patter between bikes as well.

A beautiful warm day that left everyone in incredible spirits. Thanks to all the captains who volunteered and to Allan and Ros for a great day.

Kim Travers

Tandem Club of Australia (A0013906X)

Membership Application/Renewal

(cross out whichever is inapplicable)

Rider 1: _____

Rider 2: _____

Address: _____

Telephone, home: _____

Telephone, work: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

• Would you like to be included on a TCA email distribution list? yes no

• Where did you purchase your tandem (if a bike shop, please provide name and address).

• Are you renewing a membership after an absence of a year or more? yes no

If yes, When were you last a member? _____

Payment Details

Membership: \$10 per couple (or portion thereof*)

International Membership: \$15 *nett* per couple

\$ _____ enclosed

Please return form and cheque or postal order to:
The Membership Secretary, Tandem Club of Australia,
PO Box 12259, Melbourne 8006

* The TCA is switching to a common annual renewal date on 1 October 2000. Until then, members should pay proportional fees (ie, \$6 in April, \$5 in May, \$4 in June, \$3 in July etc).

State and Event Organisers

ACT: Stewart & Judy Durrant

☎ 02-6251 1363 , fax 02-6251 4122 <sdurrant@ozemail.com.au>
76 Banambila St, Aranda 2614

NSW: Matthew Leditschky & Linda Barnes

☎ 02-8904 9520 <ledbar@pobox.com>

Qld: Jaimie Cook

☎ 07-5483 3990 <cookies@spiderweb.com.au>
GPO Box 725, Gympie 4570

SA: Margaret Day

☎ 08 8271 5824 <mday@picknowl.com.au>
9 Church Rd, Mitcham 5062

Tas: Wayne Kelly

☎ 03 6229 7902 (H) <wayne.kelly@utas.edu.au>
3 Auburn Rd, Kingston Tas 7050

Two-Up 2000: Charlie Farren

☎ 03 9827 4453 (H) <farren@vicnet.net.au>
71 Tivoli Rd, Sth Yarra 3141

Tandem Club Committee 1999/2000

President	Sally Dillon	(03)98677443	<sallyd@lonelyplanet.com.au>
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Newsletter Editor	John Harland	(03)93874086	<jch@sci.vu.edu.au>

Web page: <<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~tandem/>>

Members are welcome at Committee meetings, on the second Tuesday of odd months. Contact the Secretary for details.

Membership Renewal If your address labels is highlighted it means your membership is due. To renew, send a cheque to the Membership Secretary, TCA, PO Box 12259, Melbourne 8006

Tandem Club of Australia Inc.

Association No A0013906X

PO Box 12259

Melbourne 8006