

September 2000

# TANDEM CLUB OF AUSTRALIA



NEWSLETTER No. 89



*Howard Duncan and Danya Driessen with Peter and Robyn Curtis behind them leaving the Violet Town lunch stop on Two-Up99*

## Get Ready for 2-Up!

Suffering post-Olympic depression? TV is boring again and you're facing long evenings twiddling your thumbs?

Don't despair! TwoUp 2000 is under two months away. So now's the time to whip out that entry form from under the Olympics TV program, fill it in and send it off.

As soon as possible, get in touch with the TwoUp committee if you want to put your tandem on the truck from Melbourne to Canberra, and book your hotel through Howard Duncan.

Then, start on those silly matching outfits you decided you just had to create after last year's TwoUp ... or start training for the time trial ... or call some friends from interstate to arrange a TwoUp reunion.

You could mop up some more of this spare time by perusing the enclosed order form for the club's 20th Anniversary commemorative wine .. it's only 11 weeks to Christmas, after all! Talk to your friends and family to make up a case or two, to minimise shipping costs. The bottles are going to look great, and will be a great club souvenir.

And then, of course, to prevent your excitement about the 11th and 12th November from completely overwhelming you, there's the Paralympics. It's being held in Sydney from the 18th to the 29th of

October. Tandems will be there on the road and, for only the second Paralympics, on the track (the first time was at Atlanta).

The events follow the same rules as the Olympics, with some modifications to allow for the athletes' disabilities. The official Olympic web site <[www.olympics.com](http://www.olympics.com)> explains, 'Participating athletes are categorised into three groups: athletes with cerebral palsy compete in bicycle and tricycle road events; amputees compete in individual road race and track events, and blind or visually impaired athletes compete on tandems as a team with a sighted cyclist in road race and track events.'

'Sighted cyclists, as part of the tandem cycling teams, are the only able-bodied athletes to have an opportunity to win a medal in Paralympic Games competition.'

Track events will be held from 19--23 October (Days 1--5), while the road races and time trials will be held from the 25--27 October (Days 7--9). If you want to follow the events, your best bet will be ABC-TV, which will broadcast an hour of highlights at 5.30pm and a 45-minute update at 11.15pm. Channel Seven will only be broadcasting a highlights package on its pay-TV channel.

Aussie ... Aussie ... Aussie ...

# coming events

## TwoUp 2000

November 11th - 12th

The cutoff date for TwoUp 2000 entries is 16 October. Make sure that you, your stoker/captain and your tandem are booked in for this fantastic annual event. ... it's going to be too good to miss.

There is an entry form enclosed, but you can also download one from the web site: <home.vicnet.net.au/~tandem/>.

**Contact** Charlie Farren ☎ 03-9827 4453 <farren@vicnet.net.au>

You can book accommodation through Howard Duncan <queenst@natworldtravel.com.au> ☎ 9699 2199 (BH). We've booked a heap of rooms at the Rex Hotel, but need to confirm them.

## Truck to Canberra for TwoUp

We have five teams interested in sharing a truck to carry bikes (and luggage) to Canberra from Melbourne, and the remaining five places look like filling fast.

The approximate cost will be \$100 per tandem, return. This is an excellent price, compared to the dramas of trying to get your tandem onto a plane or an interstate train. (This price applies even for a one way trip, unless you can arrange with someone who wants their bike carried in the alternate direction)

**Contact** Tony Barter ☎ 9481 5526 <barter.tony.r@edumail.vic.gov.au> or Charlie Farren <farren@vicnet.net.au> as soon as possible.

## Ride to TwoUp 2000

Kim and Derek will riding from Melbourne over 10 days (857kms) and the club is looking at starting a group from Albury, with train travel, shaving the Melbourne - Canberra journey down to 485kms.

**Contact** Derek McKean ☎ (03) 9471 4506 <derekim@netspace.net.au> for more information.

## Christmas Picnic

**Sun. Dec 10** - Meet at the barbeque pavillion in the TH Westfield Reserve, Melway 30 H12. the north end of Yarra Bend NP, near Heidelberg Rd at 11 am. for a ride to the Hawthorn Velodrome, (Melway 59 E3) where we'll have our picnic at about 12:30.

Bring picnic lunch, drinks, etc.

Fun, games and a best-costume award.

**Contact** Tony Barter ☎ 9481 5526 for further details.

## Volunteers needed at Trade Show

Volunteers needed for the BFA stand at the Trade Show in Melbourne

I would be most grateful for some assistance in setting up and looking after the Bicycle Federation stand at the forthcoming Trade Show in Melbourne.

**Dates** are: October 2000

Friday 13th, Set up in the morning 3pm - 10pm Trade only

Saturday 14th 10am - 8pm Trade only

Sunday 15th 10am - 5pm Public day

Dismantle after 5pm

**Venue** Royal Exhibition Buildings, Melbourne (Note, this is the old buildings in Carlton, not Jeff's Shed.

I will put a roster in place (two hour sessions) and try and be there as much as possible myself.

All offers of assistance would be welcome.

**Contact** me on

Email: <farren@vicnet.net.au>

Tel: (03) 9827 4453

Fax: (03) 9827 4295

Mobile: 0411 800 810

Thanks a heap!

*Charlie Farren, President  
Bicycle Federation of Australia*

## Contributions to this newsletter

Contributions to this newsletter may be made as hard copy: typed text, photographs or drawings, but electronic copy generally saves time and work at this end.

### Computer file formats

The best electronic formats are plain text (\*.TXT), for written work, TIFF for photos and Data Interchange Format (\*.DIF) for tables.

If you use Microsoft Word, please use the "save as plain text" option. If you particularly need to save formatting, save as Rich Text Format (\*.RTF). This reduces problems with different version of MS Word

Please scan your photos at 100 dpi (or a little more) and drawings or other line art at 300 dpi. Save these as TIFF, not as JPEG or any other format. These other formats can reduce the quality of the final image. Images may be LZW compressed to save space.

For tables done in a spreadsheet program, please "save as" Data Interchange Format (DIF).

This guide is meant to be helpful, not restrictive. When necessary I can read almost any format, but this may lead to considerable delays in publication when I have to search for other computers to read the files.

*John Harland, Editor*

## 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.

Submissions can be emailed to the Editor, John Harland at: <jch@sci.vu.edu.au> or they can be posted to the Club's mailbox:

PO box 12259, Melbourne 8006



## subscription form

**YES! Please send the next**

**6 issues of Cyclist to:**

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

POSTCODE

PHONE

**Make cheque/money order payable to the  
Bicycle Federation of Australia for \$25  
(6 issues/1 year)**

### Credit card payment details

Cardholders name .....

Card number .....

Expiry date .... / .... / ....  Bankcard  Mastercard

Visa

Amount \$      Date

Signature

**Post to:**

**BFA, GPO Box 765, Sydney, NSW 1043**

**Or fax (credit card only) to: (02) 9283 5246**

**Enquiries: Linda Tan on (02) 9283 5200**

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## membership report

As membership secretary I would like to officially welcome our newest members to the club.

- Don & Sue Owers, Walter & Margaret Lamond and Martin & Kartini Peck from NSW.
- Nick Payne & Ann Armstrong, Mike & Cathy Watson and Nic Gellie & Mary Fanning, all from the ACT.
- Colin Chapman & Heidi Foehn and Mark & Sue Sorrell from VIC.

And last but indeed first.

- Our first member from the NT.....Richard & Leonie Orwin.

Congratulations to one and all. Keep in mind that we would also love to actually meet you as well. So consider TwoUp, which is being held in fabulous Canberra this year.

*Kim Travers*

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**Have you booked yet for TwoUp2000? Please call Charlie Farren ☎ 03-9827 4453 <farren@vicnet.net.au> before 16 October.**

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## book review

*It's not about the bike*, by Lance Armstrong

I know this isn't a regular feature of our newsletter but I just felt I had to share a small book review with my fellow Tandemists. I have just finished reading "It's not about the bike", the story of cyclist Lance Armstrong which follows his journey, as a cyclist, from childhood through to his battle with cancer and onward to triumph in the Tour de France in 1999.

It was an intriguing history that was extremely easy to follow. Simple format with quite a few photos together in the centre of the book and chapters that were well defined in their subject. The photos and captions fill in a lot of what is left unsaid in the text and I couldn't help but be

moved by the story that is highly emotionally charged but kept in control.

Well worth the time (about three hours at most to finish). There are a lot of unresolved issues that are hinted at but not dwelt on and I couldn't help but be fascinated by the small insight into the mind of a great competitor.

For anyone who has ever had to struggle against poverty, sickness, or endure for their sport this will have familiar images.

*Kim Luise*

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**Places are filling fast on the truck to Canberra. If you want your tandem carried from Melbourne, call Tony Barter on 9481 5526.**

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## letters

Hi Sally & Peter.

I'm Paul Keen of Adelaide.(touring cyclist,commuter,'bent home builder & rider)

I'm following the journey of Bob & Claire Rogers of the USA on their epic 12-month 20,000km *tandem + BOB trailer* cycle tour of Oz. I have volunteered to manage a list bot service for them & also update a travel line on a map of Oz.

They are a very approachable couple and gain internet access whenever they can.

I'm sure they would love to hear from you guys who I believe share the same love of tandem cycling.

Cheers for now  
**Paul.**

Bob & Claire's Oz Adventure - <<http://www.HearingCommSys.com/>  
Bob-Claire/>

P.S. If you are not aware of the National Cyclist Accident (Injury) Register which I manage & initiated after my commuting accident with a car resulting in 3 crushed vertebrae.

In short I link injured cyclists with present to past injured cyclists of same injury type to discuss rehab & results into the future.

The only place I advertise is in the Australian Cyclist.

If you have a news letter I would love to write a short story of the changes in life after an accident.

Thanks again *Paul Keen*.

*Hi Paul,*

*Yes,it would be great to catch up and compare notes. We've ridden some of the country that they've done, have a tandem and BOB etc, but never tackled anything like the Plenty Highway! They'll be leather on skeletons by the time they get through there I think. Good luck to them.*

*Do you know when they plan to hit Melbourne?*

*Cheers,  
Peter.*

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## Advertisements

### Tandem for Sale

Christie Custom Built  
Reynolds 531 tubing  
20 inch front,17.5 inch back  
Sugino Triple Crossover Crankset  
15 Speed gearing  
Cantilever Brakes & Rear Drum Brake  
27 inch Mavic Rims  
EXCELLENT CONDITION  
\$ 2000 ONO. Contact Max Wilkinson: (03) 5472-5388.

### Captain needed

Keen male cyclist, in forties, living at the southern end of the Dandenongs, vision impaired, is looking for someone to accompany him on rides on trails in the Warburton area or thereabouts. Please call Liz or Wendy for details on 9801 0666 or email <[wdavey@careconnect.org.au](mailto:wdavey@careconnect.org.au)>



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## tandems in literature

We all know the words to *Daisy* (the chorus, at least), but it's not often you find tandems mentioned in popular culture. So, it was quite exciting to read about the adventures of a fresh, young tandeming couple in the very first chapter of AJ Cronin's short-story collection *Adventures of a Black Bag* (1969). The story is taken from his book *Dr Cameron and Dr Finlay*, written -- I think -- around 1940 (Cronin was alive from 1896--1981. 'Finlay's Drastic Cure' tells the story of a young storekeeper filled with wanderlust:

'Perhaps it was this romantic boldness which led to the purchase of the tandem bicycle, for though at that moment the craze for 'a bicycle built for two' was at its height, in the ordinary way Peter would never have done anything so rash.

But buy the tandem he did, a shining instrument of motion, a wicked pneumatic-tyred machine, which cost a mint of good money, and which, being uncrated, caused Retta to gasp incredulously:

"Oh, Peter!"

"Get about on it," he remarked, trying to seem nonchalant, "See places. Easy!"

It was, however, not quite so easy. There was, for instance, the difficulty of Retta's bloomers. She was a modest little woman was Retta, and it cost Peter a week of solid argument and persuasion before he could coax his wife into the light of day in these fashionable but apparently improper garments.

Peter himself wore a Norfolk jacket, the belt rather gallantly unbuckled so that, even merely wheeling the tandem, it gave him a terribly professional air. Then, being competently clothed, Peter and Retta set out to master the machine.

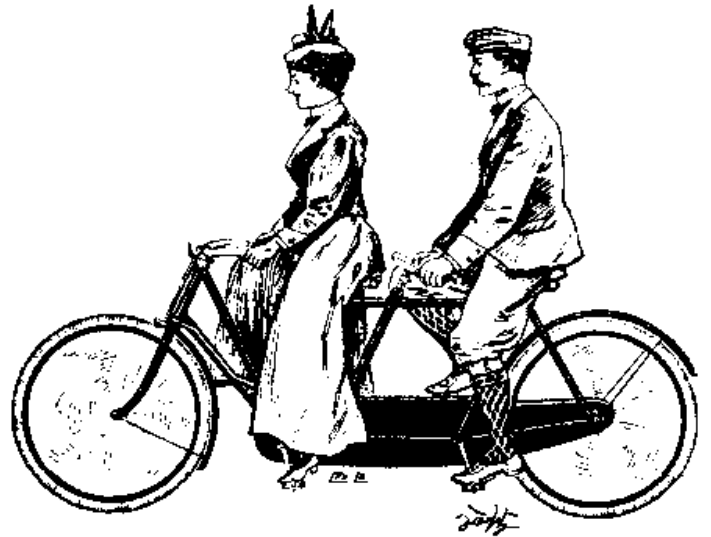
They practised shyly, towards dusk, in the quiet lanes around Barloan, and they fell off in an amusing way quite a lot.

Oh! it was great fun. Retta, in her bloomers, was extremely fetching; Peter liked to lift her up as, red-cheeked and giggling, she sprawled gracefully in the dust.

They had their courtship all over again. And when finally, defying all laws of gravitation, they spun around Barloan Toll without a single wobble, they agreed that never before had life been so thrilling for them both ...'

*Hmmm ... I can't remember any fall off a bike being graceful, but it's an interesting view. There's more to the story than this excerpt, but to find more about Peter and Retta's adventures, you'll just have to read the story yourself.*

Sally Dillon



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## tandems in the Olympics

Scott Ledbetter worked on the results team for cycling at the Atlanta Olympics and is now in Sydney. Peter Hines has been corresponding, following Scott's initial postings to the [tandem@hobbes mailing list](mailto:tandem@hobbes mailing list). He's critical of the involvement of the UCI (Union Cyclism International) in cycle competition and puts the chances very low of tandems ever getting back into the Olympics while the UCI remain in charge.

Scott is happy to have his comments published in this newsletter.

Working on the results team for cycling at Atlanta was a great experience. I worked for IBM at the time, and because of various problems they were having getting ready for Atlanta, I went down there to help out at the end of April and stayed through the end of the games.

I saw many amazing things. On the one hand, I was a little disappointed by the absolutely overwhelming commercialism that permeates every aspect of the Olympics. On the other hand, when it came right down to it, all of the Olympic cycling events were just bike races, like any other bike race. This, to me, was goodness, because being that close made me realize that Olympic athletes are just like you and me, with the difference that they are exceptionally talented and have actually found a way to use those talents. As the saying goes, they put their pants on one leg at a time, just like we do.

My Olympic experience inspired me to look for my athletic talent, and I found it to be ultra-marathon cycling. I did Team RAAM (Race Across America, 3000 miles non-stop) in 1998 and 1999, and I will do it solo in 2001.

### The Old Boys Club.

The Olympic cycling events are sanctioned and run by the UCI, just like the World championships. In fact, all Olympic events are actually

sanctioned by the individual sport's governing bodies. The IOC is a layer on top of the sport's governing bodies. If the UCI wants to add an Olympic cycling event, they go to the IOC and request it.

There have been many changes in the cycling events the last few years. On the road, the 100km team time trial (men only) was replaced by the Individual Time Trials for men and women. Ironically, this amounted to adding back the Individual Time Trial, because in early Olympics what was called the 'Road Race' was actually a time trial. On the track, the Tandem Sprint was dropped, but many events have been added.

In Sydney there are four new track events: Women's 500m TT, Keirin (men), Olympic Sprint (men) and Madison (men). For those of you hung up on equality of the sexes, don't look at track cycling. The men have Sprints, Individual Pursuit, Team Pursuit, 1km TT, Points races, Keirin, Madison and Olympic Sprint. The women have Sprints, IP, 500m TT and Points race.

The UCI is an old-school organization dominated by fat European ex-racers who wish we all still rode steel frames with Campy Nuevo Record components. An old boys' network unparalleled by anything else I have ever experienced.

Just last week they decided to 'reset' the hour record back to the distance done by Eddy Merckx in 1969, because obviously every attempt since then has been polluted by new technology. Any future attempt at 'The Hour Record' must be done using strictly controlled equipment. Kind of like making pole vaulters go back to using bamboo poles and sand pits! Don't hold your breath about any tandem events ever getting into the Olympics while the UCI is the governing body. They don't even recognize tandems as bicycles.

I worked on the results team for the cycling events at Atlanta in 1996, and that is as close to the UCI as I ever want to be. They are a real boat anchor to the advancement of cycling. Their total focus is upholding the European traditions of cycling, not advancing the sport.

Scott Ledbetter <LedbeSE@louisville.stortek.com>

# first impressions of our K'NEX Tandem

(aka Bike Friday Tandem Traveler XL Triple)



We were looking at ways of taking our two boys Oliver & Byron with us on the one bike, did a search on the Web for triple tandems and landed on the Bike Friday website <www.bikefriday.com>.

After inspecting their very interesting Web site, and corresponding with other families that had purchased a triple tandem, we took the plunge and spent the money ...

On Friday, Federal Express delivered 2 suitcases containing our new bike in many pieces. The boys were intrigued and watched through the workshop window as the pieces were unpacked and the Tandem started to take shape. Oliver thought it was like a K'NEX set for big people and christened it the K'NEX Tandem.

These are our first impressions only, after 50km in the saddle(s) and with Byron still in the trailer. So far we are very happy with it. A lot of thought has gone into its design, and it is a very flexible proposition for cycling families with a couple of young children. We think it should be good for 10 years use as a triple with our two boys, and could then be converted back into a 'normal' 2 seater tandem.

It is a long and impressive bike - the Tandem is close to 3m long, 4m with the trailer attached.

We hope to have it with us up at TwoUp (3 Up?) in Canberra in November, so look out for us then.

*Robin Dexter*

## Tandem Club of Australia (A0013906X) Membership application/renewal

(cross out whichever is inapplicable)

	<i>first name</i>	<i>family name</i>
Rider 1:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Rider 2:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Address:	<input type="text"/>	
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Telephone, home:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Telephone, work:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Fax:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E-mail:	<input type="text"/>	

- Where did you obtain your tandem? (if a bike shop, please provide name and address)

### Payment details

- TCA membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Australian Cyclist magazine \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

International Membership \$25 nett per couple

Subscription to Australian Cyclist \$25 per year to TCA members

**Total money enclosed** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

- Are you happy to be on an email list of members? yes  no
- Long lost members: are you renewing a membership after an absence of a year or more? When were you last a member? \_\_\_\_\_

## 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 Leditschke & 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

**TwoUp 2000:** Charlie Farren

(03 9827 4453 (H) <farren@vicnet.net.au>

71 Tivoli Rd, Sth Yarra 3141

## Tandem Club Committee 1999/2000

<b>President</b>	Sally Dillon	(03) 9867 7443	<sallyd@lonelyplanet.com.au>
<b>Vice President</b>	Andrew McDowall	(03) 9818 4213	<andrew.mcdowall@siemens.com.au>
<b>Secretary</b>	Janette Beeston	(03) 9386 3738	<janetteb@logicaltech.com.au>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Will Levecke	(03) 9888 6658	<williamlevecke@gatewaynet.bigpond.com>
<b>Technical Officer</b>	Derek McKean	(03) 9471 4506	<derekim@netspace.net.au>
<b>Information Officer</b>	Peter Hines	(03) 9867 7443	<Dillon_Hines@optusnet.com.au>
<b>M'ship Secretary</b>	Kim Travers	(03) 9471 4506	<traversk@anz.com>
<b>Social Secretary</b>	Tony Barter	(03) 9481 5526	<barter.tony.r@edumail.vic.gov.au>
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	John Harland	(03) 9387 4086	<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 label is highlighted it means your membership is due. To renew, fill in the form on the inside back page and send with 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**