

JULY 1988

the SYDNEY CYCLIST

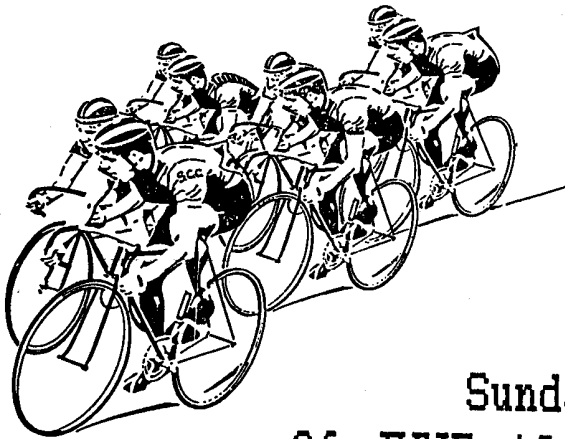
Newsletter of the Sydney Cycling Club and the Sydney Cyclist's Club

Sydney Criterium

The general organisation of the Event is well established, and the various areas of responsibility have been allocated. The Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust have been gracious in letting us use the Lady Macquarie's Road circuit again this year, but we are being charged \$200 for the privilege. In addition, a performance bond of \$500 has had to be posted to assure there will be no breaches of the Trust's conditions of use. These 'conditions' aren't completely clear, but it is imperative that no one rides bicycles on lawns or within the Botanic Gardens!!!

Members wishing to assist on the day of the event should contact Bob Greig (569-1736) to arrange their work responsibilities. If you're driving, it will be necessary to be at the venue by 6:15am at the latest to get a parking spot in the grounds. Remember, the first race begins at 7:45 and we must be up and ready to go by that time, so be early on the day...

SYDNEY CITY CYCLE RACE



Sunday
26 JUNE 1988

Mrs Macquaries Road
Royal Botanic Gardens



FOOD STALL

The Food Stall has proved to be a perennial money spinner, and will once again be organised by Janine Greig and ably assisted by Carmel Griffith, Judy Sibilia and others. Anyone wishing to exercise their culinary skills in baking cakes, cookies, etc will be welcomed. Contact Janine (569-1736) if you can assist.

WORKERS PICNIC

Following the event, there will be a picnic held at Lady Macquaire's Chair, weather permitting. Participants should bring their own food, and the Club will be supplying champagne and beer. If the weather is inclement, we will go to Cleveland Street for Lebanese...

* be there early!!! *

**Remember your picnic hamper... **

I AM thinking of forming the Motorists' Liberation Front, or MLF. The basic aims of the MLF would be to make the public aware of just whose registration money and petrol taxes pay for the roads around the city, and to point out that car owners are the most taxed and put-upon members of society.

If our demands are not met, we may be forced to take militant action to liberate the roads from the interlopers who have, of late, taken them over.

It's almost impossible to drive around the eastern suburbs these days. The streets are full of loony joggers looking at their watches and refusing to pause and let cars pass because the delay would reduce their heart rate to below 300 beats a minute.

These people run all over the place like headless chooks, leaving drivers to make their own arrangements. Many are now wearing Walkmans turned up above the threshold of pain, dispensing with one of the sensory attributes needed to stay alive on busy roads — hearing.

The joggers have been joined by silly or aggressive walkers who stride around the streets like members of the Third Reich.

Now it's people on bloody push bikes. Sorry, that should read "10-speed, Kevlar-framed two-wheelers."

I have come to study this fitness plague as I wander around the lakes and bushland in Centennial Park at 6 am. The Cattle Dog is scouting for a

Santa Gertrudis, the sulphur-crested cockatoos screech, the ducks wake and waddle along the water's edge, the late-rising ibis still hang from the trees like Christmas decorations, and the sun comes up over the buildings at Bondi Junction.

You feel like saying to all the exercising people: "Isn't this beautiful?" But you're wasting your breath because they can't hear you.

The joggers and striders are to be pitied, but the cyclists are a pain.

Like water skiers, people on push bikes seem to think they have a God-given right to cause as much chaos and annoyance as possible. To cyclists, cars are the work of the devil, traffic lights are things to cross against, and peak hour traffic is something to hold up.

Now I don't know whether I nodded off a while ago, but somewhere along the line, it seems to me, the roads were given over to recreational users only.

This means the push bikers can infest the streets in large numbers and hold you up as you're trying to go about your business. They can become quite abusive if you suggest, either by insolently revving your engine or — horror of horrors — honking your horn, that perhaps other people may like to use the road.

In the turbulent '60s, as a sometime demo attendee, I can remember the boys in blue threatening me with arrest if I didn't stop holding up the traffic and preventing people from going about their business.

Nowadays, if you dress up like an escapee from the Tour de France and climb aboard something worth \$500 or more, and join 30 or so of your friends similarly attired, you can hold up traffic all over Sydney without a worry. Indeed, you often find these people getting a police escort.

If you can't get past these mobile road blocks you have to sit contemplating their Lycra-clad behinds and all the other silly clothing with brand names all over it and wonder about the endless ability of people to part with their cash in the pursuit of what someone,



FINELY TUNED

Alan Kennedy

Road worriers in the slow lane

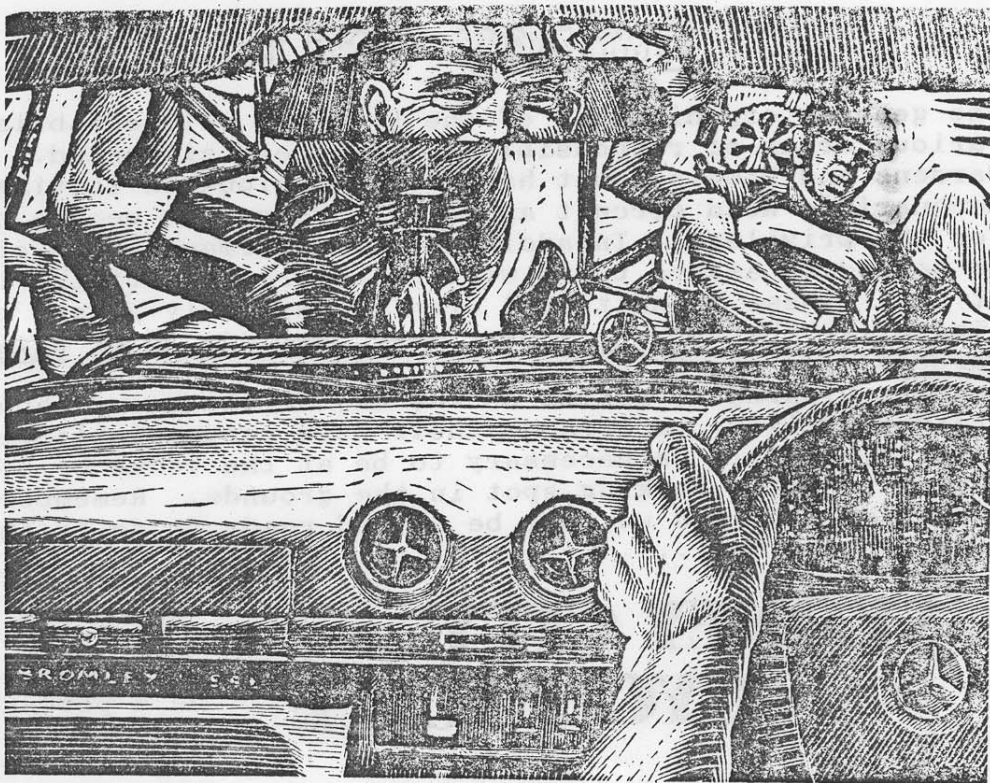


Illustration by DAVID BROMLEY

somewhere, has decreed is fashionable.

If you turned up on the Speedwell wearing blue stubbies and the Drink More Beer T-shirt, you'd be run out of Centennial Park, which seems to be the headquarters of the trendy bikers, and from where they embark on their road-blocking duties.

Recently, while in a queue behind some sweaty little bike people, I began compiling a list of demands the MLF might make, and a list of those road offences which should attract capital punishment.

Obviously, at that time riding a push bike was pretty high on the list — but not at the top.

The worst thing anyone can do on the road is to pull up at traffic lights, wait until the cars have formed an orderly queue behind and then, as the light goes green, indicate that they are going to do a right turn.

I have a colleague who was so enraged when someone did this that he

engaged first gear and pushed the person across the intersection.

Next is the person who persists in allowing small children to roam about a car, or holds them on his or her lap in the front seat, thus ensuring that if the child isn't crushed by the person holding them it will have its face ripped to ribbons on its way through the windscreen, or suffer brain damage on the dashboard.

Skateboard riders are on a par with push bikers. You haven't lived until you've motored down Bondi Road in the middle of the night and come across a skateboard on the big sweeper leading to the Astra Hotel. Wandering from lane to lane and blocking the overtaking lane on freeways are heinous offences which should be dealt with severely, but aren't.

Then there's the driver who wants to make a citizen's arrest and waves his or her arms about as you pass — then sits behind you with his lights on high beam

because he believes you have committed some driving offence.

The person or persons who designed the street signs leading from Wattle Street to the Harbour Bridge should be transported. It's three months since I first found my way through the maze of signs and countersigns, and I still get confused.

Another item on my list: the Department of Main Roads, which puts up "Slow — Roadworks Ahead" signs and then doesn't provide one stating that roadworks have finished. Those same people leave the signs out at night, forcing you to crawl at a snail's pace past imaginary holes in the road being tended by equally imaginary workers. (Come to think of it, many of those imaginary workers are there during the day as well).

My list of demands is long, but unless motorists act soon they'll be swamped by bureaucrats and arm-waving pressure groups. The time to act is now.

A person could be excused for getting the impression that Mr. Kennedy (a SMH feature writer, like Leo) believes that he is the only person suited for use of the public roads.....

I rather thought that most cyclists and joggers were also motorists!

***Remember, the Club Dinner on 9 August,.....**

calendar

the SYDNEY CYCLIST

The Committee got together earlier this month to map out the Calendar of Events for the remainder of the year. As you will see, there is something for everyone, and you should mark the dates in your personal calendar to remind you to participate.

NOTE: Some dates have been changed, as the early race dates were taken from a 'preliminary' Federation programme! Check your green Cycling Programme...

1988

June 19 Eastern Suburbs Criterium (CF)
25 Metropolitan Championships (CF)[5/6]
26 SYDNEY CRITERIUM (CF)[5/6] and Club Picnic

July 2 Sundowner Race (CF)
3 Gunnedah to Tamworth Race (CF)
~~4 [REDACTED]~~
9 Mattara Criterium (CF)[19/6]
10 Mattara Open Race (CF)[19/6]
16 Panthers 2 day Tour (CF)[26/6]
23 NSW Vet Championships - Newcastle (CF)3/7]
30 N.S.W.A.C.F. Premierships [TTT]

August 7 Penrith Panthers Open (CF)[17/7]
9 CLUB WINTER DINNER
20 Muswellbrook-Tamworth (CF)[31/7]
21 Penrith - Albion Park ONE DAY RIDE
28 Goulburn-Liverpool (CF)[7/8]

September 11 Gosford-Calga Race (CF)[21/8]
18/24 National Vets Championships - Forster [1/9]

October 2 Southern Hemisphere Cup - Vets
8 Grafton-Inverell (CF)[18/9]
16 Green Valley Twin Century - Audax
16/29 Commonwealth Bank Cycle Classic
29/30 HALLOWEEN TABLELANDS TOUR - Sofala or Rockley

November 1 Annual General Meeting
5 N.S.W. Cycling Federation Dinner
10 Fisher's Ghost Criterium (CF)
19 CLUB TIME TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
23or29 CLUB ANNUAL DINNER

December 11 Club Picnic and Time Trial

(BINSW) = Bicycle Institute of NSW function
(CF) = NSW Cycling Federation event
[15/5] = Race entry closing date - Entries to:
NSWCF, P.O.Box 2343,
North Parramatta 2151

NOTE

RACE ROUTE

October

Sunday 16	Prologue — Surfers Paradise	4
Monday 17	Byron Bay to Grafton	199
Tuesday 18	Grafton Criterium	30
	Grafton to Coffs Harbour	91
Wednesday 19	Coffs Harbour to Port Macquarie	170
Thursday 20	Port Macquarie to Forster	127
Friday 21	Forster to Maitland	169
Saturday 22	Maitland to Gosford	132
	Sydney Criterium	30
Sunday 23	Wollongong Criterium	50
Monday 24	Wollongong to Goulburn	138
Tuesday 25	(Rest Day) Canberra	
Wednesday 26	Yass to Wagga Wagga	200
Thursday 27	Albury Criterium	30
	Albury to Wangaratta	80
Friday 28	Shepparton Criterium	30
	Shepparton to Bendigo	134
Saturday 29	Bendigo to Melton	140
	Melbourne (St Kilda) Criterium	30

1784km



Freewheelin'

Marjorie and I had to miss the Southern Highlands Fling, however we understand that it was a pleasant weekend. The Caravan Park at Mittagong proved to be a big success and will certainly feature in future events.

I beleive that Michael Griffith owes his neck to a train guard on the XPT... Just how do you get one of the 'family' sets of keys back to your spouse in Sydney, when you are in Mittagong??? Carmel and Sam also missed out on the fun weekend.

You may have heard the term 'bust a gut laughing', well Juel Briggs has proved that it can be done. A recent cross-country ski group dinner proved too much for her, and the mirth created by her comrades led to her going to hospital to have her stomach put back together. Understand she is fit and well once again, but didn't hear if the surgeons put in a zipper...

Word has it that Helen Marcus and recently born Oliver Bruce are doing well. The whole club wish Helen, Gary and Ollie all the very best for the future, and a membership application has already been sent to attempt to snag Ollie for Sydney, rather than Eastern Suburbs! *

Rosmarie Peerenboom was sent off in style for her travels around the world. Juel hosted a great send-off where their many friends wished Rosmarie well for travels through Africa, England, the Netherlands and on to Austria for some skiing. Juel has a list of 'Poste Restante' addresses for Rosmarie which reads like the itenerary for "Gulliver's Travels", and anyone wishing to keep in touch should contact Juel.

Missing a salad bowl, or a set of 2 forks? Juel Briggs has some spare following Rosmarie's send-off...

Malindi, Kenya 30/5

Dear Juel,

Here's a note from a weary traveller! JUMBO-as the locals say. Hope all is well, Australia seems like a long time ago, rather than 6 days! A lot has happened. When I arrived in Nairobi, I was threatened with deportation/quarantine 'cause my yello fever injection wasn't valid! Luckily they let me go when I burst into tears, only to find... Air India had lost my luggage. It turned up two days later. I went to Malindi Island, where I sit on my verandah of thatched hut on edge of beach, watching waves break off the reef, and palms swaying in breeze while eating mangoes and other tropical delights. The African East Coast is a true tropical paradise - if you ignore the mozzies...

On the train to Mombassa, I was gazing out the window and saw giraffes and antelope, only 1/2 hour from Nairobi. Next week am in game parks Masai Mara and Serengeti which is meant to be fantastic.

Went snorkelling here, with fish every colour of rainbow, and then some. Snorkelling is a blast and look forward to doing same on Great Barrier Reef.

Major discovery so far is, TUSKER PREMIUM BEER, great stuff and definitely habit forming! To be truthful, I haven't missed cycling one bit, but I do miss the people. I still have to pinch myself and check that I am really here. Quite accidentl I've picked a good time to come to Africa, just following wet season. Weather is not too hot, and had rained for 3 months before my arrival! Well that's about it kiddo, please write some-time, because whilst I've met a lot of people, I'm finding travelling is really quite a lonely occupation. Have I bitten off more than I can chew? Love Rosemarie

Word has it that the Commissaire at the Eastern Suburbs race last Sunday wasn't too impressed with certain riders competing with rear view mirrors on their bikes, nor with the wearing of pink socks!!!

On the other hand, it's good to see the Sydney colours being represented in competition. Suggest that you get a copy of the competition rules from the Federation Steve and Bruce...

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* P.S. I saw Helen at the ES criterium and she remarked kindly on the many cards and other salutations received. She and Gary send their thanks to all.....

11 Equipped Racers