



President's Report - 2002

What happened this year?

We said farewell to the Pimms soon after the last AGM and then Tony Regan headed off to SA soon after the Hillclimb. So we carried on with only one Vice President. The rest of the committee stayed though

We had a great winter season (which had in fact started before the last AGM) thanks to the regular presence of Hamish Johnston's Tri-training mob and that led into the early season with its Kings Park *Early Birds* which again attracted good fields. This year was again the turn of the *Hillclimb* and after early doubts, we saw a return to a decent size field keenly contesting what was a significant event. This was repeated in the other Championship events - damn near a record for the *40km*! A particularly pleasing aspect of this year's nominations was the fact that we had received the bulk of them before the closing date - people do seem to be getting the hang of web-based entries. Of course we had the usual hefty participation from the WC (Mel's) Masters. And then the 80 and 160 followed on in the same vein (the 160 field was boosted of course by the 80km option on the day).

People still seem to like riding the *Hillies* too. Is it just for the shirts? Of course if we had some generous benefactor we could make a move away from shirts possibly to something even more sought after like vests; but NOT socks!

Other courses: we tried a couple of course variations - we meant to have a new 40km course at Mundijong and had done all the preliminary work but roadworks being carried out close to the date of the 40km Championships meant we couldn't use it for that event; still, we managed to use that course for the 160km. We tried out Wandu and that certainly seems to have good prospects for distances around 16km. The Wandu Community Centre provides us with good "facilities" - parking, dunnies, pleasant bush surrounds. We tried another variation on the Bullsbrook 40km, a two-lapper: the conditions were pretty good but the expected fast times just weren't realised.

Our venture down to Bunbury this year was somewhat lacklustre and we would have to wonder about the future of that event. We first thought it would be an opportunity to ride on a good fast course but the move to back roads this year, ostensibly to avoid the potential heavy traffic on the Bussell Highway on a long weekend, effectively negated fast times.

So we are back looking for a genuinely fast 40km course particularly one that could accommodate a large field for the Championships.

We continue to develop the timing system - slowly evolving within our budget and needs. The addition of the TAG timer to interface with the laptop was a resolution to a minor limitation we had lived with for some time and gives us a little more versatility but, despite what some people believe it is really a system adequate for and tailored to our needs but not quite having the technological sophistication some believe and others have. We just make it look good!

We tested the idea of requiring members to assist with marshalling in order to qualify for both the Hillies and the BAR - there were a couple of teething difficulties but, being the first time round, that's not unexpected.

Although the cost of our Public Liability Insurance was somewhat increased as we were promised it was still "affordable" despite what we were being told of the experience of other groups. Obviously we would like it to be lower but it has been suggested that at least we probably won't continue to see rises of the order of the past couple of years. It will also be interesting to see if anything comes of the noises being made concerning a public pool of funds for small sporting groups and the like.

Once again I can report that there has been no resolution to the endless saga of our relationship with the WACF. We are still loosely affiliated and at one stage we did have some discussions organised with members of their Council but then the CEO resigned and so far we haven't pursued the matter with his replacement.

I must thank Stan (Andrew Stanley) for his help with getting out a more regular Newsletter again in both web-based and print versions; it's a bit too easy to neglect those of us who don't have their world centered around the web. Nevertheless our email list is larger than our membership list and represents something like an extended community.

Another small change we subtly introduced this year was the virtual abandonment of Summer and Winter programs as such in favour of the periodically updated version on the website. We still print versions for distribution of course but are promoting the idea that revisions are only available on the website so the printed versions must always be checked for their currency.

And, of course I owe considerable thanks to the others of the committee, in particular Lorraine who tends to get little recognition for her organisational efforts at most events (apart from her job as Treasurer) and likewise Kirsten and Stuey (making sure we have both courses and marshals available).

atta NSW Annual Report (from Peter Jenkins).

This has been a somewhat more encouraging year for us with better attendances, although these remain well short of the sort of turnout enjoyed by our WA headquarters. We now look forward to seeing about 20 riders on the first Sunday of the month. This increase is due mainly to the promotional efforts of Chris Greaves who has marketed *atta* to other riders and local triathlon clubs.

We have resurrected the annual medal series with medals for outright and age standard times, and are fortunate enough to have sufficient juniors competing to be able to award medals to them separately. We hope this will assist in maintaining their interest in future years.

We are now receiving some financial support from Turramurra Cyclery, and have invested in Kilometre markers along the course bearing the *atta* and Turramurra Cyclery names. We should achieve brand recognition, if nothing else.

We held a 25K championship event on March 31 (Easter Day) which coincided with the 5th consecutive day of heavy rain, but still managed to attract the dedicated few. We are planning a "40" for September, having regained permission to use a modified version of our 40K course which has been out of bounds for 2 years. The modification extends it to 42.5, but we are grateful to have a course available, so are not complaining.

In August we will be joined by the Waratah Veteran Cycling Club who will conduct their TT championship in conjunction with our regular event, and we are hopeful of attracting some new regulars from their ranks. Waratah is Sydney's strongest club, so they could well afford to lose a few members to *atta* once a month. A few vet's have started their competitive cycling career with *atta*, and then taken to bunch racing with the Waratahs, so we should see some old friends.

While time trialling still struggles for popularity in NSW (it's a cultural thing) we are probably more optimistic now than in previous years.