

The CSU Regional Archives is currently extending its opening hours to include the first Saturday of every month. On these days the Archives will be open from 10am to 3pm. The next Saturday opening will occur on April 2, 2011. This trial initiative has been put in place to cater for those researchers who are unable to visit the Archives on weekdays during normal business hours. It is hoped that enough researchers and visitors will avail themselves of this service to warrant it becoming a permanent occurrence.

## what you need to know

■ The CSU Regional Archives are open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, and the first Saturday of every month from 10am to 3pm. Located in the Blakemore Building on south campus of the university, access can be gained via College Avenue or Hely Avenue. Members of the public are welcome to visit the search room where professional archival staff can assist with enquiries. For those people unable to visit the archives in person, staff can provide a research service for straight forward enquiries for a fee of \$55 per hour including copying and postage. For further information please phone 02 6925 3666, email [archive@csu.edu.au](mailto:archive@csu.edu.au), or visit our website at [www.csu.edu.au/rsearch/archives](http://www.csu.edu.au/rsearch/archives) for a full listing of holdings and more detailed information.



Track riders training at Wagga Cricket Ground, by Tom Lennon; c.1960s.

# From bone-shaking origins



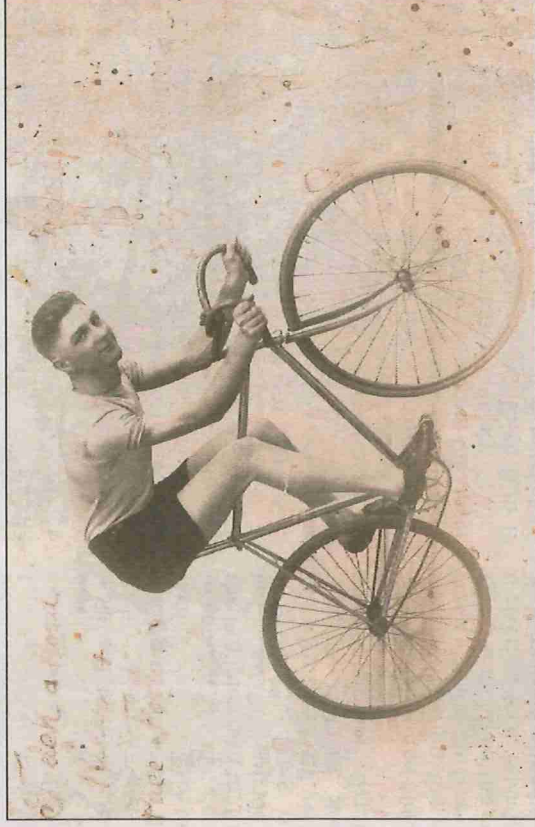
at the archives  
Wayne Doubleday



Wagga has been known for its participation in leisure sports ever since the early communities formed the first clubs in their chosen sport. The Wagga Bicycle/Cycle Club has a long history and could claim to be among the oldest clubs in Australia. The first club was formed in September 1882 with the mayor, AT Bolton as president with ED Leyshon as captain. Initially there were 21 members, however due to lack of interest the club disbanded.

**Boneshakers**  
THE first bicycle was invented in France, but in 1839 a blacksmith, Kirkpatrick MacMillan, from Dumfriesshire, Scotland was the first person to invent a cycle practical enough to be ridden. Many people contributed their ideas to bring the machine from the "Dandy Horse of 1816" through to the sophisticated special purpose cycles of today. The wooden-wheeled iron-tired "boneshakers", followed by a very large high-wheeled cycle which was nicknamed the "man killer", first made their appearance in Wagga in the 1880s.

Joseph Gormly was the first person to bring a pneumatic-tired cycle to Wagga in about 1885. A great deal of interest surrounded the unpacking of his bicycle. The "safety" bicycle was introduced in the 1890s and was



An "action" shot of Dick Mutton, a well-known track and road rider, c.1926

ridden by prominent citizens including WS Chauncey (a solicitor), Mr Stokes (an engineer working on the Hampden Bridge), and Charles Lyne.

## The Wagga Amateur Cycle Club

ON NOVEMBER 29, 1887 at a meeting chaired by A. Faunce and attended by G. Evans, J. Boyd, P. Hayes, C. Douglas and J. Gormly a second bicycle club was formed. Following a second meeting held on December 5, 1887 it was decided that Wagga Club would join the Bicyclists Union of NSW.

Joseph Gormly was secretary, treasurer and G. Evans was captain. The uniform of the club was a navy blue suit and white straw hat with a navy blue band. Regular races were held at the cricket ground often in conjunction with foot races. At the annual meeting of the Wagga Amateur Cycle Club held on January 23, 1890, good progress and increased membership was reported. The three race meetings during the year had been so well patronised

Dave Tucker, Rex McCarthy, Herb Longhurst and Merv Barnsley of Wagga club competed at carnivals in northern Victoria over the Christmas holidays in 1955 and the impressed Victorian League Officials predicted Wagga could become the strongest club in NSW.

## The Wagga Cycle Club

THE club went into recess during the early 1960s, however on July 31, 1975 the Wagga and district Police Citizens Boys' Cycling Club held its inaugural meeting where discussions took place regarding the formation of an official cycling club.

An organising committee of 11 members was formed to investigate the possibility of track cycling returning to Wagga Cricket Ground. Barry O'Hagan was elected president and with hard-working committee members cycle racing was returned to the sporting calendar.

In August 1976, a ladies auxiliary was formed with Roslyn Tilden as president, and Dianne Poole as secretary. Jan Lloyd and Shirley Tucker were in charge of records. The funds raised by the hard working committee were greatly appreciated by the members.

A very successful year with a good number of pro-am carnivals as well as road races was reported by the president in his annual report in November 1978.

Today the Wagga Cycle Club is a breeding ground of champions and has a huge calendar of events each year. The Club prides itself on providing a friendly and fun environment for cyclists of all ages to enjoy their cycling.

Compiled by June Dietrich  
References: *Wagga, a History*, by Sherry Morris; *Sydney Morning Herald* - 23 Jan 1890, Jan 22, 1926; *The Gormly Index* - CSURA; *The Daily Advertiser* - 23 June 1939, 6 Jan, 1956; Wagga and district Police Citizens Boys' Club - minute book, 1975-78 [RW17/13 - CSURAJ]; <http://www.waggacyclingclub.com>.