



ATTA hasn't actually been here for ever but we have completed our fifteenth full year – back at the start of November – and our sweet sixteenth racing season.

March 14 this year was a certain milestone when over 300 riders rode with us in two states. But the biggest event was, undoubtedly the innovation of the "Birds in the Park" series. It was hectic; it was fun; it was amazing to see fields comprising up to 50% women. That's what we had possibly hoped for but didn't really dare to expect. We had records broken, and broken again, scads of PBs and personal goals achieved and queues the length of the car-park for the first couple of weeks until the idea of pre-registrations caught on; and a great presentations breakfast at the Zamia in Kings Park to conclude the series.

Pre-registrations continued to have their effect throughout the season: a "full field" a week before the 40km championships, which is as it should have been always, but ultimately led to only three "no-apology no-shows" in a field of just over 150 – utterly unprecedented and very gratifying. And so it went on. The Good Friday, Bibra 16 had about 90 on the start sheet before the event and just short of 150 starters; the Mark Webb had its best field ever and we had to arrange additional transport (of bikes) to Toodyay for the first time;

The basic program was pretty much unchanged; the return of the Hillclimb was well supported and enjoyed an international flavour with the title going to a young Dutchman! The number of Hilly and BAR qualifiers remained much the same as in previous years but seemed no less eager. We saw the re-emergence of Scotty McDowell to take the men's honours for the season and once again Lorraine showed the way for the girls.

Membership increased a bit as we would expect from the increase in rider numbers. Membership also was increased in Tassie, also expected but not in NSW (see Chris's report below). But rider numbers were up notably in NSW this year.

The financial situation is properly reviewed in Loraine's report but I should also point out here and acknowledge with gratitude, the increase in the sponsorship support we had from Bikewest (who continued to support our 40km Championship but also sponsored the cost of the Website hosting this year) and Healthways under their "Healthy Clubs" scheme that assisted the Earlybirds series and, generally by allowing us to acquire more safety signage and qualify several of our committee as First-Aiders. This year the growing strength of the NSW and Tassie branches meant that they were able to contribute proportionately to the cost of ATTA's necessary insurance cover.

Some people are probably aware that we have registered with the company "Paymate" for an optional online payment of membership fees. It's been available on the website for a while now but we will soon publicise this information more widely. We may extended the option to race entry fees for the Championships series. At the moment we are prepared to absorb the fees involved but, of course we are able to review that if necessary. We are probably some way off having the ability to insist on online registrations for everything (membership, race entry) as the Triathlon people have just done. Having multiple options in place does increase the workload but at this stage is necessary.

We are continuing to develop the website – it's been around for a while now too! Plans are also afoot to re-invigorate attaTime; that's now been in use for over ten years. How many software applications can boast being even functional after that time let alone still in use?

We continue to contribute our expert skills to non-ATTA events on the cycling scene in WA when they are needed. They still seem to be in demand.

I was very much in debt to Stephen Moore this season for his help as Starter throughout the "Birds" series and as timekeeper for numerous events which gave me the chance to re-engage the pedals for the occasional outing.

Thanks as always are owed to the committee and, in particular Lorraine who has become very much the "face" of ATTA, the "Front Desk" at events over the past few seasons and Stuey and Kirsten who ensure we have the courses and the marshals available to run the events; necessary and largely thankless tasks. Thanks also to committee first-timers Greg Perry and Nicole. Part of Nicole's contribution was pretty evident to all members as she was the author of the various newsletters through the season.

So, we keep pedalling ...

#### ATTA-Tas Report (John Pimm)

... Year 2 for little ATTA-Tas. Well, we learnt a lot, we are still very close to our parent(s) and we seem to be getting bigger and more independent. Typical of 'Year Twos', I guess (you can't quite take the teacher out of me).

Consolidation is a goal for most organisations over this period and I believe that this has been more than adequately achieved. With over 80 members and a very healthy event participation to substantiate ATTA-Tas has become part of the accepted racing scene here in the Hobart region.

The two main foci of this period were the Taroona time trials and the Mt Wellington Challenge:

The Summer evening series saw about the same participation levels as the first year. (In truth it would be hard to handle many more) but the flavour of the event changed somewhat with the racing fraternity getting more involved, perhaps more Bibra lake style. Nevertheless many people turned up just to have a go and to get starting with cycling competition.

The Mt Wellington Challenge, was heavily promoted and supported past it's maximum of 150 riders (160+). Much better weather, although still not that good, saw the ride manage a proper mountain top finish with the very best riders managing to beat the hour for the 23 km. The event was run in conjunction with Bike Week and a Festival of Cycling at the start at Longley. A big day for cycling in Southern Tasmania.

ATTA-Tas still tries to expand and help promote cycling in the Hobart region. We continue to have a good working relationship with the Vets and the Wheelers and run events in conjunction with these organisations. This helps with facilities and has, I believe, done much to bring the two groups together. The regular winter events at Richmond help provide for a winter "ticking over" in much the same way as Shenton Park does in WA.

The future is really to continue with the events which are now becoming "traditional" but I would like to establish a 16 km series out at Cambridge with female riders the main focus (I wonder if I can get a certain female world champ over to show how it's done) and I would like to see ATTA expand to the North, perhaps with a good 40 km event in the Midlands area.

ATTA is a great organisation and once again many, many thanks for all you do over in there and your ongoing support. Karen and I look forward to catching up

with later in the year and even flapping about Kings Park and Brookton with you.

Have a great night  
Hearty cheers  
Pimmie

**NSW report (Chris Greaves):**

Result sheets indicate a growth in attendance to ATTA T/T's – not necessarily in membership though, as most riders already have alternative membership in various clubs, the exception being those riders intending to participate in more than 3 events throughout the season.

I believe the non-membership issue is a factor in attracting riders at this stage of growth – no prerequisite license, no advance entry, value for money, good service - everybody is pleased with the organisation and planning of each event as it helps riders plan their routine/workout themselves..facilities on site are improved, so gaining acceptance of riders.

Word of mouth appears the best form of promotion, email reminders are fwd'd to more and more interested parties ...

Winter is attracting many Tri-people for training as above, and I expect numbers to keep increasing, also the annual State Series is during winter and the roadie contingent becomes more prevalent for training schedules – especially the local juniors.

I believe the relative low cost environment is attractive to those above – but, sponsorship this year from Turramurra Cycles has also contributed to an increase in the elite riders attendance to those dedicated rides and with increases in sponsorship, I think the numbers will also increase.

The increase in membership/turnover will enable further development of facilities/rewards (those medals are costing approx. \$20 ea. !!) I try and provide drinks/food for training squads on site as there is nothing else available at that time of day – where its needed. On site lap-top and printer for copy impresses – even if I struggle !! but – I'm getting better all the time (appologies to Sgt. Peppers)

Current experiments with track (failed),off-road (failed) and now a mid-city venue (in progress) indicate the difficulties with dealing with the various authorities, the Local Council & State Forestry Commission – not because of lack of interest but are cost prohibitive – it costs more to use an existing (otherwise unused) velodrome and dirt road than a public road., but "unorganised"/unofficial use is free...as is the use of a public road. Concerns with insurance not withstanding ...

I anticipate continued/increasing patronage for the future and intend upgrading the event/prizes in due course to give back the interest and incentive to those supporters.