



President's Report – 2007

ATTA moved along fairly steadily for another year. We turned 18 last November.

State of the Nation

This time last year the continued existence of ATTA-Tas was not assured; it died; it was resurrected briefly but now has quietly faded away. After a rather low-key Tarooma series run by the Hobart Wheelers under the ATTA banner, other events that had been scheduled were cancelled. The Wellington Challenge was held independently of ATTA.

Across the water to the north ATTA-Vic was established as a properly constituted, incorporated body affiliated to ATTA. It began with very modest numbers for the first few events but is steadily attracting a committed following.

Various structural changes that were expected in NSW still haven't happened – yet; they did begin the process of affiliating with Cycling NSW but that seems to have been shelved.

In the Saddle

At this stage of the year the number of riders per event in WA has been slightly lower than last year (5 riders/event). This was almost entirely due to a decrease in participation in the *Birds* series. The total number of women riding through that series also was lower but those committed to (ie qualified for) the series was about the same as previously. We pointed out last time that the pre-registration system was gaining acceptance. Now almost 100% of riders at events have pre-registered but this has brought its own problems: the biggest problem we faced at the *Birds* series was trying to cope with the demand for places on the start list only to find that, on the day we repeatedly had large numbers of 'no-shows' and we found the same thing repeated at all the major events. We had made a transition to an on-line membership renewal system and had intended to use it for the Championships Race Entries but registrations were already coming in before we had the chance to do that. It will be done for the next season and, hopefully should alleviate some of the 'no-show' problems. We'll also use it for the *Birds* series but pre-payment is not feasible for ordinary events because of the costs involved. So: the total number of riders in the major events may have been down a bit despite the 'sell-out' notices we posted and long reserve lists weeks ahead but this was offset slightly by a modest increase in the numbers at other events; we even had 45 line up for the final *Hilly* this year.

The Daylight Saving experiment in WA will require some adjustment to start times next season; setting up events in the dark or by torchlight is not very efficient; nor much fun!

It was great to be back at Perry Lakes for the 40km Championships and we are indebted to Wheel-Chair Sports and, particularly the CEO Gary Lees for the efforts made to bring it about. But at this stage it is unlikely to be repeated so, once again we are searching for a suitable venue.

NSW numbers have rebounded by about 5 per event this year and the numbers in Victoria are approaching their pre-season estimate.

Our full-membership numbers are remaining pretty stable at about 150.

Our Other Presence

I've already made some reference to website changes with regard to pre-registrations and on-line membership requests. Our site host has continued to serve us pretty well with only one apparent downtime incident that went largely unnoticed because it was very late at night and, apart from the *hacking* incident affecting the forum that part of site serves a valuable purpose for a sub-set of our membership plus casual readers. It's amazing who does read posts there as we have discovered on several occasions. It's nice to see that ATTA-Vic has become part of the community. NSW as a group still remains isolated.

The Results Database continues to grow of course and now holds over 31,000 records. We still haven't managed to extend backwards to our earliest recorded data but are getting there. I am not, at the moment adding to the NSW records on the remote site because of continuing problems in getting necessary rider details; the data is nevertheless being maintained locally.

Acknowledgements

As always I am very much in debt to everyone who assists in getting things done and this of course includes the people who come out to assist at events by marshalling or doing the many other necessary tasks in running events, some of which don't always get the acknowledgement they deserve because they are done so unobtrusively - like packing gear back into the trailer. It is always reassuring to see that when we put out panic calls as we get close to particular events there are always people prepared to respond. Thank you!

And "Thank You" particularly to Lorraine and Susie and Nicky who are such an intrinsic part of the system and have given so much back-up this year; and to Mark Roberts who stepped in and took over the job of getting the trailer to events when I was out of action.