On Thursday the 22nd July a new look committee stepped in to take the Warragul Cycling Club into what is hoped to be one of its most successful years yet.

A new committee with a mixture of fresh faces and some experienced heads was appointed to run the Warragul Cycling Club. High on the agenda for new president Justen O’Connor, club secretary Karin Jones and race director Phil Gallagher is to re-establish the racing calendar for the members, no easy task given the risk management documentation required for permits to be issued (police permits are also now a requirement for races containing more than 30 riders and these can take two months to obtain).

Thomas Sandner will look to re-energise the junior program and a sub-committee will form to address major issues. Glenda de Blauw has thankfully stayed on as treasurer and many new faces have presented for a committee position (details shortly). Despite some initial hurdles to jump, this committee should serve to strengthen all aspects of the member experience.

Well it’s been an exciting few weeks for the WCC and the sport of cycling in general. I am enthusiastic to be part of the new committee and together we hope to achieve some great goals for the club. I would like to thank the outgoing committee members for their contribution to the club over the past 4 seasons. We are in great shape financially, our sponsors have been fantastic and the membership is huge. We have been confronted with a big but not insurmountable challenge that should see the club come out stronger than ever. This is the challenge of ensuring the club acts in a responsible and safe manner so that we can continue to support cycling into the future.

Several risk management concerns were raised and drastic alterations to the club calendar have occurred. Circuits that have previously involved a stop sign are now excluded (both Cloverlea circuits and the large Jindivick loop) whilst Lillico requires a Vic Roads permit. Without a Commissaire in the near future there will be no racing at all, so the search is on. Signage is being purchased so the club can hold events with appropriate coverage. If anyone has any signs please return them ASAP. Risk management plans are being drawn up for all circuits and these are required prior to council, police and VicRoads granting approval for permits. Marshals will be required at races and they must wear correct safety gear. All cyclists must obey the Marshals, Road Rules and the Commissaire with no exceptions. You will be expected to know the appropriate hand signals and the code of conduct. The upshot of this is more volunteers and committee representatives are required if the club is to maintain its on road racing format. Whilst this is a challenge the committee remain confident that all members will pull together, put their hands up and move forward to create a better racing environment.
What is risk management?
There is nothing mystical about risk management and at its simplest level requires no specialist skills or knowledge.

People in sporting organisations intuitively deal with risk every day. It is important not to assume risks only take the form of physical loss or injury. This is only one component of risk management.

Applying risk management means adopting a systematic approach to how we view the WCC environment. Risk management helps us identify which risks are important and allows us to apply resources to these areas.

What is an Event Management Plan (EMP)?
An event management plan is essentially a Risk Management Plan with some extra considerations. It is used to help ensure the safety of those involved, along with the impact of the event on the community and club. Essentially it involves a summary of the event (including course location and suitability), control of the event (including), an evaluation as to the benefit of the event (club, sponsors, community), and general issues associated with hosting an event. A copy of all of the club’s risk management documents can be found on the WCC Web Page. Please take the time to read these.

What requires an EMP?
Because all events sanctioned by the WCC pose some level of risk to the criteria listed above, all WCC hosted events (from club endorsed training/social rides to annual carnivals) require an EMP. The detail and depth of each EMP will vary according to where it is hosted, the number of people involved and the context in which it is held. Assessment and management of risks involving the completion of a Risk Management Assessment Form is a requirement of the EMP.

Why have we been racing at Shady Creek only?
This is the only circuit that the local council has approved for the WCC to use as a race circuit, utilising Risk Management plans.

Will Shady Creek be used forever?
No. Risk assessments are currently being sought for other courses. This process however can take up to a month for final approval.

Why can’t we race Cloverlea or Jindivick?
Both these courses have stop signs at certain intersections. Council will not approve a course which passes through a stop sign.

Near misses?
Have you been involved in a near miss circumstance during your racing or training rides? If yes please contact anyone on the committee who will record this information for future planning. This is another form of risk management in action.

Club Information Column

Cycling comes to town: Tattersall’s Cup - cycling series
The Tattersall’s Cup - Australia’s premier road cycling series - will take on a quality international flavour when the 2004 competition begins in Werribee on Wednesday, July 28.

Race 4 of the Tattersall’s series will be the Tour of Baw Baw and will be conducted in WCC Junior sub-committee
The Junior sub-committee is looking for interested persons to help with fostering junior development. If interested contact Thomas Sandner or meet on the 5 August 2004, 7.30pm at the courthouse.

Training Rides
Tuesday and Thursday rides are leaving Bike Land in Queen St at 6:00am SHARP. Sunday rides leave at 8:00am sharp (50km) from Bike Land to finish with coffee around 9:45am. Don’t forget your LIGHTS on the 6am rides.

Next committee meeting
When? 12 August 2004
Time? 7.30pm.
Items can be emailed to Karin Jones for the agenda at least 1 week prior to meeting.

Presentation Night
When? Saturday 28 August 2004
Where? WCC Clubrooms
Time? 6pm (first door prize drawn at 6.30pm)

Points Table as of 30/7/04
A-Grade
Thomas Sandner 30
Wayne Chester 23
Geoff Thomson 14

B-Grade
Chris Beales 24
Luke Hanley 18
Steve Sandner 18

C-Grade
Daniel Dilger 24
Monique Hanley 18
Brendan Pridmore 15

D-Grade
Rod Atkinson 14
Trent Brown 10
Roger Bell 10

Can anyone help in the short term?
As part of WCC EMP we need marshals and participants to help putting out signs for races. It is everyone’s responsibility. Potentially if we do not have signs/marshals there is a likelihood of NO RACE. Contact Karin Jones

Can I race in the future?
One important component of racing is the fact that you are a registered rider. As part of the WCC EMP it will be a requirement that all riders produce their race licence prior to racing. This initiative will begin soon. Stay tuned!

Stay informed
Check out the WCC website at: www.warragulcyclingclub.org.au
For the latest cycling news, log onto:
www.cyclingnews.com