

VALE John Davies

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of John Davies.

John was the inaugural President of SARCC in 2012, overseeing the merging of the Adelaide Touring Cyclists and Cycling for Pleasure group. John took on the duties of President in 2013 and then again in 2017. He was Public officer in later years.

His efforts helped get the fledgling club off the ground, and steered the formulation of SARCC's constitution, laying the foundations of our very successful club.

John will be remembered as a quietly spoken man who was a pleasure to ride with. He, and his wife Chris, would often show up to a ride on their trusty tandem bicycle which, when not on a social ride, was used to give vision impaired people the experience of bicycle riding.

We are forever grateful for the friendship and service John gave to this club.

Our condolences to John's family and friends.

Quiz night and AGM

A very efficient, and well attended, AGM was held. Your new SARCC committee is;

President: Peter Boulton, **Vice President:** Ron Battista, **Secretary:** Paul Davill, **Treasurer:** Sven Holm, **Rides Coordinator:** Kevin Dronfield, **Committee Members:** Marianne Hibbert and Steve Jenkins.

The quiz night was great fun with every table winning a prize ! A huge thanks Sven for the considerable time, and effort, he put into organising the night. Very successful.

Magpie swooping season commences

When attacked on the helmet it is important not to panic but ride steadily on - making sure you keep looking at where you are going !

If intending to stop, do so in an orderly manner focussing on the stop and not the bird. This is especially important if you are riding in a group. Magpies generally only attack within 100m of their nest so leaving the area steadily should do the trick.

Zip ties and a loud distinctive horn, or buzzer, may help. Wearing eye protection is sensible. Most importantly; **don't panic** as it could lead to a fall with injuries and may impact other riders too.

If you want to know where magpies have been swooping, or you want to record a swooping magpie, go to; <https://www.magpiealert.com/>



Regular rides

Sunday Pleasure Rides:

Organiser; Helen Tetley 0466 870 177

3rd August 2025

An even number of odd creeks

Kevin D. 0411 203 893

Meet at Victoria Square for a 10am start. Heading northwest into the suburbs using quiet roads, bike paths and dirt tracks to visit a river, a reservoir and a few creeks along the way.

BYO lunch. 40-45km with 400m ascent. Not suitable for road bikes.

17th August 2025

City to Glenelg

Carolyn W 0427 797 476

Meet at Victoria Square for a 10am start. Circuit to Darlington, Glenelg and return to the city.

31st August 2025

Jilden's Memorial Kanmantoo Ride Kath 0429 191 848 Mike 0429 097 910

Depart 10am at park (with toilets) on the Kanmantoo main street (Old Princes Highway). We will cycle Jilden's classic Kanmantoo ride.

Approx 40km, mostly dirt. BYO morning tea (Monarto cemetery) and lunch (Callington).

Wednesday Rides:

Organiser; Tony McIntyre 0407 759 260

Every Wednesday

Meet at the Torrens Weir (Par 3 café) to ride at 10 am. Ride decided on the day.

6th August 2025

Seaford to Brighton via Coast

Phil 0408 841 141

Catch the 09:11 express to Seaford. Meet on the east side of the Seaford Station and ride with the breeze on our backs for the 28 km, undulating, around 1 hour 45 minutes trundle to Brighton.

30km, 2hrs. All bike types. See also <https://ridewithgps.com/events/354503-seaford-to-brighton-via-coast>

20th August 2025

Kuitpo Echunga Meadows Gold Fields

Patsy 0439 332 533

Meet in Echunga RSL carpark (main street) at 9:30am for a 10am start. Ride through Jupiter Creek gold Diggings and Kuitpo Forest. Loo stops Meadows and Kuitpo forest hut for rest. Much of it is dirt roads and tracks. Coffee at Meadows Cafe.

About 40km, Elevation: 402m Time: 2 ¼ hrs. Bike: Hybrid or mountain (wide tyres).

See also <https://ridewithgps.com/events/354482-kuitpo-echunga-meadows-gold-fields>

Thursday Rural Rides:

Organiser; Di Beltrame 0424 957 532

7th August 2025

Away Ride

Rob 0448 682 518

Start at the tennis courts Summerton at 10.00am sharp. Near corner of Greenhill Road and Tregarthen Road, Summerton.

About 45km. Various surfaces

14th August 2025

Woodside

Di 0424 957 532

Meet 10 a.m. Woodside Pool car park. Some unsealed roads.

21st August 2025

Woodside

Ros 0448 741 556

Meet 10 a.m. Woodside Pool car park. Some unsealed roads.

28th August 2025

Woodside

Steve

Meet 10 a.m. Woodside Pool car park. Some unsealed roads.

PERFECT Rides:

Organiser; Peter H. 0448 364 138

Sunday August 17th 2025 **from Kapunda**

Start at 9am Hill Street Kapunda (opposite the Ambulance Station). Ride is all bitumen 70 km with 618m of downhill. Bitumen to Eudunda for late morning tea early lunch (shelter if it is raining). Climb back out of Eudunda and take Curio Road to Marrabel Road. Return to Kapunda via Hamilton.

SARCC RWGPS event click [here](#).

Please contact Peter if you plan to attend this ride.

Coming Tours

Burra 4-day 4-ride tour.

14th to 17th of September 2025

Organiser: Peter Boulton

4th September 2025, **Pre-tour "meet and brief"**.

6pm at the Cumberland Arms Hotel, 205 Waymouth Street, Adelaide 5000. 6pm at the Bar - Drinks and eats. 7pm Upstairs - Briefing on tour logistics.

McLaren Vale Meander

22nd to 25th September 2025

Organiser: Ros Miles

Come join us for four days of springtime cycling in the picturesque wine-growing region of McLaren Vale and surrounds, staying at the McLaren Vale Lakeside Caravan Park - a beautiful bush setting.

If you happen to live south of the city, it's not far down the freeway, come down for a day.

See the SARCC website for details. [Click here](#)

Slovenia Backcountry Gravel Bike Tour

September 2026

See the SARCC website. If you are interested, email mariennehibbert@gmail.com

Great Victorian Bike Ride from 24th to the 28th of November 2025

We are planning to form a group to travel there and back, share the experience and possibly do some rides before and after the tour.

See the SARCC website for more details.

NZ North Island Tour

February 2026

There will be a tour to New Zealand to explore the North Island trails and sights. This tour is booked out.

FACEBOOK

This is becoming a major way our group communicates. So far 100 of you are following the page.

Go to the Facebook page and click join. [Click here](#)

Member profile : Peter Harrison – Explorer

"My favourite ride? The one I haven't done yet !" – Peter

From a dirt-loving solo explorer to a cornerstone of South Australia's touring scene, Peter Harrison's cycling journey is equal parts humble beginnings, adventurous spirit, and quiet leadership. If you've

ever joined one of the **PERFECT rides**, you've got Peter to thank (and perhaps curse if you're not a fan of dirt tracks).

Peter's first taste of cycling came at age nine, when his parents bought him a bike – two sizes too big. His dad, ever practical, strapped wooden blocks to the pedals so he could reach them. Growing up in the small country town of Marrabel, Peter didn't wait for mates – he simply took off alone, exploring the back roads with a few biscuits at hand and the classic sign-off: "Back before dark, Mum!"

Fast-forward to adulthood, Peter was facing health issues, including asthma. One spring, while mowing

the lawn with his heavily pregnant wife, he realised things needed to change. That moment was the nudge – and the beginning of his return to cycling. Starting with short solo efforts, Peter then joined an adult education (WEA) course (in search of basic bike maintenance) and found himself unexpectedly immersed in the world of group touring, led by the legendary Peter Pye. This eventually led him into the orbit of the South Australian Touring Cyclists Association (SATCA) and eventually, to a lifelong passion for small group rides.

Peter's adventures took him across South Australia, into New South Wales and Victoria – often hopping off a country bus, or train, in remote towns like Peterborough, or Broken Hill, and cycling his way home or to a return bus or train. Peter did some large group rides but, over time, his frustration with these overly structured bike tours (and perhaps a sighting of a semi-trailer hauling a mobile toilet block) pushed him to help form a more grassroots alternative. In 2012 SARCC was born through the merger of SATCA and the Cycling for Pleasure Group. To kick things off, he led a ride with both bitumen and dirt roads to please everyone, which, predictably, pleased no one. His response? "If I ever lead a ride again, it'll be one I enjoy."

Thus was born, the **PERFECT Ride** – "Peter's Exploratory Rides For the Enjoyment of Country Tracks." These rides, rooted in curiosity and the countryside, still define his cycling ethos today.

However, Peter still did a lot of solo rides and recalls a special pre-GPS trip being a solo ride from Blinman to the main road near Leigh Creek, navigating cross-country through unmarked station land with nothing but a paper map with contours, and a sense of adventure. The landowner warned him that the track was vague at best. But Peter made it, proving that sometimes, a bit of wild ambition goes a long way. "If I'd got lost out there... well, it would've been hard to find me."

Cycling hasn't just brought Peter joy – it's also quite literally saved his life. After suffering a heart attack, and undergoing two heart surgeries, his doctors told his wife that his recovery was down to one thing: the fitness he'd built from years on the bike.

Thinking of taking up cycling later in life? Peter's advice is simple and practical: "Don't buy a bike straight away. Hire one for a couple of weeks, or borrow one for a month or two. Figure out what kind of riding you enjoy before you spend your money." Wise words from someone who's ridden through bushland, across state lines, and deep into retirement without ever losing his sense of adventure.



Peter (centre) shares a gripping tale of a pioneer-era murder, flanked by fellow **PERFECT Ride** veterans Kevin D (right) and Kevin B (left)

Peter hasn't named a "favourite ride", as is usual for a member profile. That's because his passion lies in the unknown. For him, the perfect ride isn't one you've done – it's the one you haven't yet discovered. So, next time you're on a country track wondering where the heck Peter's taken you, remember: you're living someone else's dream ride.

Interesting stuff

Fun video from Chris Hales. An alternative to an eMountain bike.

<https://youtu.be/gRIDGJWM6nc?si=uNsO0AavvrVjsb7>

Also from Chris;

Bad news.

Two states consider bans on eBikes and eScooters on public transport.

Due to poor manufacturing overseas, and the absence of battery safety standards, there has been an increasing number of battery fires in both states, including on a train in Melbourne and at a train station in Sydney.



"We are seriously considering options including a temporary ban on trains until we are satisfied that regulations are tight enough, with public safety our highest priority".

<https://share.google/zuff6fN8Pxrl2UoHT>

Happy riding.

Cheers Brian (Smokey) Ashton 0438 088 220 ashtonba@gmail.com