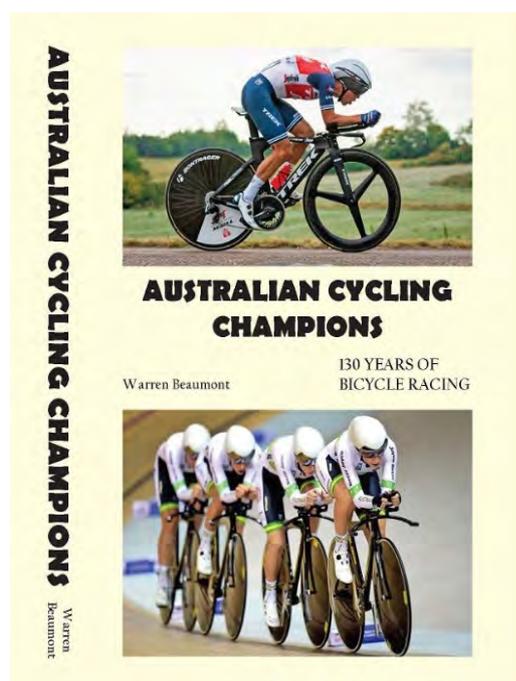


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## Australian Cycling Champions 130 years of bicycle racing



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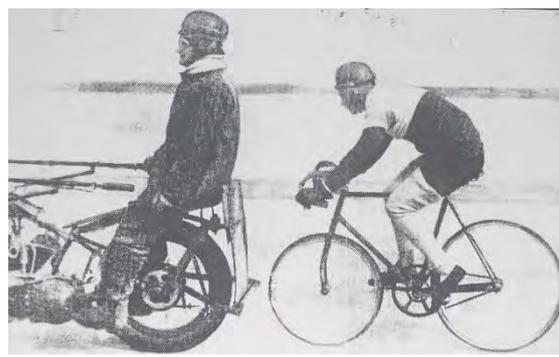
Australian Cycling Champions 130 years of bicycle racing is one of the most comprehensive books published that covers the early history of Australian bicycle racing and the performances of our top track and road cycling champions. The paperback book includes over 60 colour and black and white photographs. The book charts the early history of Australia's track and road cycling and its champions from the 1890s to the 1990s, when amateur and professional cycling became 'open', through to 2020 when our cyclists were ranked in the top 4-5 cycling nations.

Featuring comments from newspapers, magazines and historians, and from some of our top cyclists, the book highlights the best performances of over 170 of our top road and track cycling champions, including at the national road and track championships,

Cycling is our third most successful sport at the Olympic and Commonwealth Games for medals won, while Australia is ranked in the top 4-5 cycling nations at the UCI world road and track cycling championships.

Launched in May 2021, Australian Cycling Champions 130 years of bicycle racing, highlights the achievements of our cycling champions at home and internationally. The book is now available for \$23.99 from the publisher's website:

<https://www.plateaupublishing.com.au>



**Hubert Opperman during his 1,000 miles motor-paced world record, the Melbourne Motordrome, 1932.**

Olympic and Commonwealth Games, UCI world championships, six-day racing, classic road races, and major Australian and European tours including the Tour de France.

**Boom days of track cycling**, the book's second chapter, covers the beginnings of the sport from the 1880s when track cycling was an amateur sport to around 1900. The introduction of professional 'cash cycling' led to the big divide between amateur and professional cycling when the Austral Wheel and the Sydney Thousand were the richest track cycling races in the world.

**Track aces conquer America.** From 1905 our top track cycling champions such as Jackie Clarke, Alf Goulet, Alf Grenda, Bob Spears, and Cecil Walker were based in New Jersey and won USA track cycling championships.

**Bob Spears world champion.** Spears won the world track sprint championship in 1920 and was Europe's best track cyclist in the early 1920s.

**Classic road races & champions.** From around 1900 road races such as the Warrnambool to Melbourne handicap race and the Goulburn to Sydney became true classics of the sport. Record setting champions in the road classics include Hubert Opperman, Snowy Munro (the rider who beat the train), Richard 'Fatty' Lamb, and Ern Milliken.

**Opperman long distance hero** features the record-breaking long-distance feats of Hubert Opperman. In 1931 he beat Europe's big cycling teams in the 1200-mile non-stop Paris-Brest-Paris road classic.



**H.K. Smith & R.W. 'Fatty' Lamb, professional and amateur winners of the 1926 Warrnambool to Melbourne road race classic, with Malvern Star's Bruce Small.**

**Track superstars to 1990s.** Dunc Gray was our first Olympic gold medallist in the 1920s and cycling legend Russell Mockridge won two Olympic track golds. World and Commonwealth Games champions included Sid Patterson, John Nicholson, Gordon Johnson, Danny Clark, and Dean Woods.

**Kings of six-day racing** highlights six-day track cycling champions and focuses on Australia's record-breaking six-day team of Roger Arnold and Alf Strom.

**Speed & Power men's track.** Our track cyclists continued Australia's great track cycling legacy through to 2020, winning gold medals at the UCI world track championships, the Olympic and Commonwealth Games. Among the top champions are Shane Kelly, Darryn Hill, Ryan Bayley, Brad McGee, Michael Hepburn, Cameron Meyer, Luke Roberts, Peter Dawson, Leigh Howard and Sam Welsford.



**Roger Arnold and Alf Strom, Australia's greatest 6-day track cycling team, at the Wembley Six, 1952.**

**Dynamic women of the track.** Our women track champions re-emerged in the 1980s. Great speed and endurance track champions include Julie Speight, Kathy Watt, and Anna Meares, winner of 12 world track championship medals, while more recent speed and endurance champions include Kaarle McCulloch, Stephanie Morton, Amy Cure, Annette Edmondson, and Ashlee Ankudinoff.

**Women record breakers.** Women set long-distance road cycling records in the 1890s riding the new safety bicycle, when the 'rational dress' was seen as scandalous. One of the trailblazing long-distance cyclistes was Sarah (Mrs E. A.) Maddock, the first woman to ride from Sydney to Brisbane, and from Sydney to Melbourne in 1894.

**Road men's trailblazers.** From the 1950s Jack Hoobin was our first world road champion, Clyde Sefton claimed our first Olympic road cycling medal, while Phil Anderson won major tours and road classics and became the first Australian and non-European to wear the leader's Yellow Jersey at the Tour de France.

**Big wheels of the road.** Our road cycling champions from the 2000s include Cadel Evans, our first Tour de France winner in 2011; Robbie McEwen our best grand tour road sprinter; world time trial champions Michael Rogers and Rohan Dennis; and Ritchie Porte, our Tour Down Under hero and 2020 Tour de France third place winner.



**Caleb Ewan locks on to the wheel of Dylan Groenewegen, before Ewan won the sprint and the stage at Toulouse, 2019 Tour de France. W. Beaumont photo.**

**Road women in top echelon.** Our champion women's road cyclists Anna Wilson and Liz Hepple were ranked in the best in the world, while Kathy Watt and Sarah Carrigan won Olympic gold. Oneone Wood, Katrin Garfoot, Chloe Hosking and Amanda Spratt won major races or world medals competing against the might of European women's cycling.



**Amanda Spratt on the last steep ramp during her solo ride at the 2019 La Course by the Tour de France at Pau, before she was caught by the chasing bunch. W. Beaumont photo.**

The book, *Australian Cycling Champions 130 years of bicycle racing*, was researched and written by Blue Mountains NSW-based Warren Beaumont, who wrote for Australian cycling magazines such as *National Cycling* and *Freewheeling* and sports trade magazines in the 1980s to the early 1990s. He has worked as a journalist and editor for business magazines and newspapers for over 30 years.

The book can be ordered from bookstores or the Plateau Publishing website for \$23.99 (shipping of \$10.00 and GST included). Books will be shipped within 4-5 days. For more information contact:

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