

The Adelaide University Cycling Club began as just a flyer on the wall of the Horace Lamb bicycle shed in July 2010 looking for expressions of interest in starting a club. The first club ride was attended by seven riders and small weekly rides were combined with a similarly small club of UniSA students. On the 10th of January 2011 a proposal was given to the University of Adelaide stating our intentions to make the club official.

Since that day the club has gone from strength to strength with member numbers slowly increasing. The winter periods have shown a significant drop in member attendance but the club has always seen a group, albeit sometimes a small group, of riders making their way out on the regular Saturday morning rides to socialise and exercise at the same time.

In November 2011 the first club uniform was approved and printed featuring the Adelaide University Lion and the feedback from members has been overwhelming. We are currently sponsored by Bar9 (a coffee shop on Glen Osmond Road) and Bicycle Express (a local bike shop in Halifax Street) and their logos feature prominently on our



*First ride in the new uniforms.*

uniforms. We will be looking for new sponsors when current contracts expire in October. The uniform is worn by all members when attending Saturday morning rides and is beginning to be recognised amongst the cycling community. During "The Big Red Ride", a charity ride for Muscular Dystrophy supported by Stuart O'Grady, a group of 8 riders all in uniform overtook O'Grady's team and were treated to a police escort back to Glenelg with several onlookers seeing "The Blacks" for the first time.

The club has also been active in many other community events with the aim of spreading awareness of the club. We have had teams in Amy's ride (in support of the Amy Gillet foundation), Ride Like Crazy (supporting police and road safety), Big Red Ride (supporting

Muscular Dystrophy), VeloAdelaide (supporting the Smith Family) and of course the big one The Tour Down Under ride. For the Tour Down Under all participants had to wear the agreed sponsors jersey of the event but custom jerseys are available for registered teams. The club had 12 riders ride the full 139km distance proudly showing Adelaide University Cycling Club on the back of the jersey.

In February the club had its first Training camp "Aussie Alps" in and around Mount Hotham. While not many members were able to go, it was a great chance to get some real hills riding done and the scenery was well worth the trip. We are planning on doing this trip again next year and will be looking to increase the number of participants now that we are more experienced at what is needed on a cycling camp.



*John Springbett checks out the scenery on camp.*

In terms of competition the club has been active in the Victoria Park Criterium series taking a second place finish only a few weeks ago. On top of that we achieved a Gold, 2 Silver and a Bronze medal in the State Track Cycling Championships at the Velodrome. Sadly due to CyclingSA restrictions we are unable to compete under the Adelaide University name but we know that the club really won those races. The club intends to push for CyclingSA affiliation once it has earned affiliation with the University.



*Natalie Redmond showing her true colours on the velodrome.*

The potholes that faced such a young club are getting smaller. We used to struggle to organise events and get people involved but over the months we have found dedicated members who are prepared to keep the club going. The committee was made up of experienced riders who were inexperienced at managing a club but together we have kept riding while the UniSA group we used to ride with has disappeared. We are about to face our first University Games as a club and although the organisation has been a little rushed and we are unaware of the strength of our competition, we still believe we have a chance of some

good results. The affiliation of the club into the Sports Association will open the door to the club being able to advertise on the Sports Association website and be found by many more new students. The popularity of cycling in South Australia is only going to grow and the committee believe the future of the club is bright.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Knight', with a horizontal line extending to the left from the start of the signature.

Christopher Knight

President

Adelaide University Cycling Club