

MAILLOTJAJJINTE ...

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Patrons: Phil Anderson - Stuart O'Grady - Brad McGee - Robbie McEwen - Cadel Evans – Baden Cooke – Simon Gerrans – Rohan Dennis – Michael Matthews – Jai Hindley

01/04/2025

Hi Fellow Members, past Members and Friends of MJ

Review of the Victorian Cycling Hall of Fame held on 28/03/2025

To sound modest this Gala Cycling Event HoF was awesome and I think that all in attendance would have to agree, it was a combination of many different things,

- Great Venue with good food and drink served by very efficient Staff.
- Great company
- Thank you to the 29 ladies who attended as it's more than a boy's night out.
- Great Inductees

Thank you to all who attended for helping make this night so special.

All of the above made for a very memorable night and what better way was there to officially welcome back Gordon Johnson one of our Clubs founders and past President, Gordon had a great time catching up with old friends.

As well as Gordon, it was great to see some members who haven't attended MJ functions before or for some time, Timo Savimaki, Jamie Kelly, Tony Branchflower, Rob Lobb, Jeff Leslie, the lovely Rhonda Browne and Footscray CC President Michael Dam and his wife Sarah to just name a few.

Our first inductee Carol Anderson Associate Member of the Victorian Cycling Hall of Fame was warmly welcomed to the dais by our MC Laurie Norris to a rousing applause from the Guests.

- Carol is a very quiet and dignified lady was very overwhelmed by all the attention being shown to her.
- Laurie outlined Carol's amazing service to the Bendigo DCC and Victorian Cycling, over 50 years of dedicated service in many official positions within the Club.
- Carol indicated her Parents were volunteers at the BDCC for many years and she just followed in their footsteps, both Carol's parents and herself are Life Members of the BDCC and now Carol has a HoF to add to it.
- Carol's Award was presented by Grace Brown, 2025 National, Olympic and duel World TT Champion plus Liege-Bastogne-Liege winner to quote a few results.
- In presenting the Award Grace was very complimentary regarding the amount dedicated and unselfish service Carol has shown Cycling for over 50 years
- Carol Anderson is truly a most worthy recipient of the Associate Membership to the Victorian Cycling Hall of Fame, Congratulations Carol.

As the night progressed and all guests enjoyed the first course and a few very nice beverages it wasn't long before our MC the illustrious Laurie Norris was warmly welcoming our next inductees Julie & Phil Godfrey to the dais also to rousing applause.

- Julie and Phil Godfrey have unselfishly supported Women's Cycling for 25 years in the form of the "Godfrey Women's Omnium"
- Julie and Phil decided 25 years ago that Women's Cycling needed to be recognized and not just the Elite but all women Cyclists.

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- Coming from Cycling Families they recognized years ago that Women Cyclists were not getting the same recognition as their male counterparts so they sort to do something about it.
- Julie and Phil were presented their Award by Maillot Jaune Executive Committee Member Dianne Townsend who spoke of the importance of supporting Female athletes.
- Like Carol, Julie and Phil truly are most worthy recipients of Associate
 Membership to the Victorian Cycling Hall of Fame, Congratulations Julie & Phil.

Mains are served and everybody was enjoying a delicious meal as well as the mandatory beverage to wash it down, but no rest for the wicked as Laurie was back at his post with Microphone at ready.

Laurie introduced our first Full Member of the Victorian Hall of Fame, the one the only the great Donald (Don) Wilson and to coin a phrase the Crowd went wild Lol. Growing up as a Sub Junior in 1964 on the Road Don was one rider that I looked up to.

- Laurie had done his homework on Dons cycling achievements and the list was long,1966 Commonwealth Games Jamaica Rep, Tour Tasmania 1st GC, 1967 a standout year Goulburn to Sydney 1st & Fastest, Grafton to Inverell 1st & Fastest, Melbourne to Colac 1st & Fastest, 1968 Mexico Olympics Rep, 1975 & 77 Australian Road Champion
- Don was very humble and emotional in his responses with the odd cheer from the guests "GO GRANDPA" Don had his whole family there including his 4 wonderful Grandchildren who were extremely proud of their Grandfather.
- Maillot Jaune President John Trevorrow made the presentation of the Award to Don and JT mentioned memorable moments from when the rode together as Team Mates and Rivals bringing a grin to all our faces.
- Donald (Don) Wilson is a truly modest and humble Champion and is well deserving of the honour of being inducted into the Victorian Cycling Hall of Fame, Congratulations Don on an outstanding 29 year Cycling Career.

We had a short break in activities to gather and collect Raffle Tickets as there were some very good Prizes on offer and to conduct an Auction to raise money for the juniors as that's what it's all about.

Our Auctioneer Scott McElroy did an outstanding job,

Auction Items

* The TdU experience: all the bells and whistles. Five nights Accommodation staying at "Peppers Waymouth Hotel". VIP access to all functions courtesy of TdU, special access to Jayco AlUla courtesy of Gerry Ryan. Bring your bike and daily rides with the stars including "Voice of Cycling" Phil Liggett. Courtesy of Accor Hotels, TdU/Stuart O'Grady, Jayco AlUla/Gerry Ryan & Phil Liggett Purchased by Damien Norris from WA for his Father Ken

*The Pullman Experience- two night's Accommodation for two people in a superior room with access to Club Lounge on the 15th Floor. Also includes \$200 dinner voucher at Il Duca Italian Restaurant, 132 Wellington Parade, East Melbourne. Courtesy of Pullman Melbourne City Centre Hotel & Dominic Bonadio Purchased by our Hall of Famers in Julie and Phil Godfrey

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*A day with Grace is a unique opportunity for your organisation to have access to a day with Australian, Olympic and dual World Champion Grace Brown. Enlightening Motivational and entertaining. Courtesy of Grace Brown Purchased by Dianne Townsend to donate to her old School

*VIP Mitchelton Experience Nagambie - 1 night Accommodation and Breakfast, Dinner for 2 @ Muse Restaurant, VIP Wine Tasting, Aboriginal Art Gallery Tour. Courtesy Mitchelton Winery & Gerry Ryan Purchased by Tony & Tracey Wilson

On the night the combination of Raffle and Auction raised over \$15,000.00 for Junior Cycling support. The Maillot Jaune wish to thank everybody for their participation in this function. Thank you to all.

As the 3rd course was being served our President JT ask Grace Brown to come up to the dais and he interviewed Grace on her outstanding cycling career, Grace was very informative discussing her 2025 season and the amazing success she had.

In question time, one question stood out as it was from Don Wilson's granddaughter she ask, did Grace ever dream of being an Olympic Athlete. Grace said that when the 2000 Games were in Sydney she started thinking about the possibility. Don's granddaughter would like to be an Olympian.

Our MC then called upon our second Full Hall of Fame Member Ian Chapman, Ian had travelled down from Newcastle with 2 of his sons for the function. Ian was greeted to the dais with the same amount of enthusiasm as our previous 3 inductees.

- Like Donald (Don) Wilson lan's Cycling CV is amazing, 1960 Rome Olympics TT 5th, 1962 Commonwealth Silver Medalist, multiple National Titles, 1965
 Launceston 6 Day 1st with the late Barry Waddell (RIP) a career spanning over 18 years.
- Through the 50's & 60's Ian and another great cyclist in Peter Bartels ruled the Kilometer TT swapping Titles from year to year and a great rivalry was formed, but more than that a lifelong friendship that is still as strong today as in 1962.
- Those who know Laurie, you know he doesn't always do the smart things Lol.
 Sorry Laurie, but in this instance he did by asking Peter Bartels to Present Peter with his Award.
- Well what happened next was just miraculous as 2 old mates for over 66 years got together and told Stories of not the Racing but the Fun they got up to in their youth after the Racing had finished for the day.
- I particularly liked the story of the Boarding House where the Vic and NSW Teams were staying in Perth during the National Titles, it appears Ian had met a young lady and he was being very amorous at the front of the Boarding House with her. Well Peter and some other Vic Team members decided to use the Buckets of Water that were meant to be for Fire fighting (1960's version of a Fire Extinguisher) and tipped the water all over the embracing couple from the Balcony above. According to Ian it didn't dampen the moment as his lady friend said just keep going.

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- I know it's the Comedy Festival in Melbourne at present, but we never knew at the beginning of the night we would get the best Comedy duo in Town entertaining us, as the award presentation turned Comedy routine.
- Peter did finally present the Award to lan, but not until they took a couple of curtain calls Lol. lan was very humbled in his acceptance again the sign of a true champion both on and off the bike.
- Ian is well deserving of the honour of being inducted into the Victorian Cycling Hall of Fame, Congratulations Ian on an outstanding Cycling Career.

After the presentations were completed JT got Ian to draw the Raffle and congratulations to Yvonne Grima for taking out 1st prize a Print of Painting by Miguel Soro of Baden Cooke and Robbie McEwen, signed by Baden Cooke.

Courtesy Miguel Soro

Well you might think the night would be over, but once the beverage service stopped a large group of guests headed up to the Roof Top Bar where we all kicked on until around 1.00 am

I would also wish to thank those Victorian Cycling Hall of Fame members who attended, Daryl Perkins, Peter Bartels, Tom Hill, Laurie Venn, John Trevorrow, Frank Zanatta, Don Allan, Gordon Johnson, Vic Browne, Alan Grindal, Peter Meehan, Ray Bowles & Laurie Norris.

Maillot Jaune also wish to thank those guests who travelled from interstate f or these awards, Ken and Damien Norris from WA, Stephen & Lachlan Chapman (naturally lan) from Newcastle Jeff and Joanna Leslie from Tasmania, it was great having you there as it was with all our guests. If I missed anyone our apologies.

Another thank you for Garry Jones for bringing Rhonda Browne back into the Maillot Jaune Family it was very special to have Rhonda back at a function and one hopes she will come to many more in the future,

From all the feedback from attending MJ members the night was very memorable one where we inducted 5 very special people into the Victorian Cycling Hall of Fame.

Congratulation once again to Carol Anderson, Julie & Phil Godfrey, Donald (Don) Wilson and Ian Chapman, all Champions of our Sport.

Most importantly the night raised much needed funds to assist in the development of Junior Cycling.

Until next time, regards and very best wishes to all.

Tom
Tom Rendall
Secretary/Treasurer
Maillot Jaune Club
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