



Sydney Uni
Velo Club

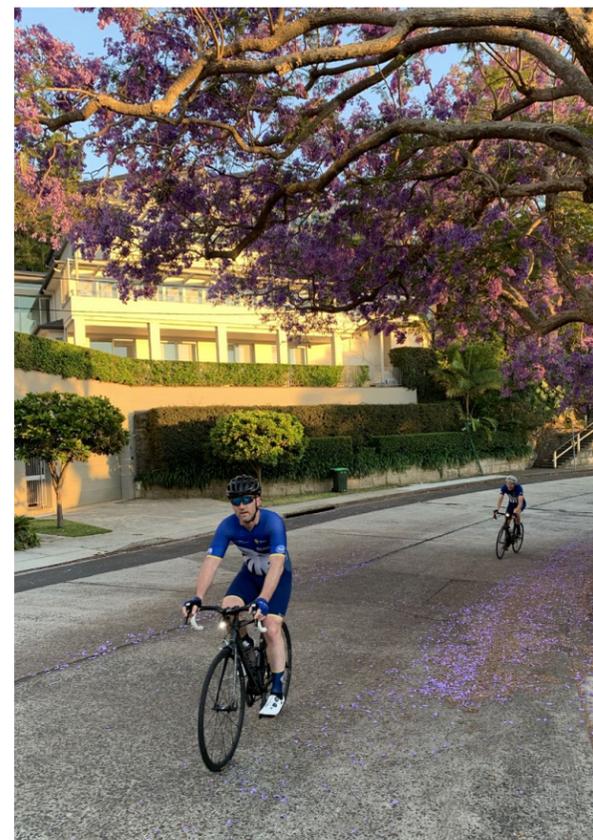
2020 Annual Report



FINAL

Welcome to the 2020 Sydney Uni Velo Club (SU Velo) Annual Report. This report provides an update of the 2020 season – from race results, to our sponsors, events, financial overview, volunteers, COVID-19, and, most importantly – our members!

We would like to thank all our members who contributed to making the club a huge success in the past 12 months. Without the dedication of those who turn up week-in-week-out to club rides, those who fly the flag around the country whilst wearing their club kit at fondos, and of course those who pin a number on (whether it be for our club, Sydney Uni Staminade Women or Nero Continental) and frequent the podium or just for the thrill of racing. You are what make SU Velo the best club in Sydney!



Contents

OUR MISSION	Page 4
SPONSORS	Page 5
COMMITTEE & VOLUNTEERS	Page 6
PRESIDENTS' REPORT	Page 8
TREASURER'S REPORT	Page 10
SECRETARY'S REPORT	Page 12
CAPTAIN'S REPORT	Page 14
EVENTS	Page 16
RACING	Page 18

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Club Patron: Mike Tomalaris

Unofficial club photographer: Victoria M McNeill

Victoria has provided the majority of images contained in this report. In addition to this, Victoria has spent numerous mornings, afternoons and evenings watching a large number of people ride around in circles – taking some truly amazing photos. Chapeau Victoria!

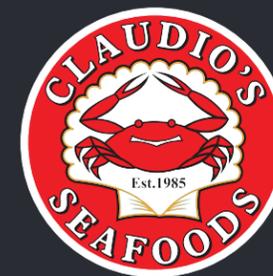
Our Mission



To focus on rider development, fostering a healthy performance culture that inspires members to strive and achieve their cycling goals whether that is for fitness, skills improvement or racing achievements, in a friendly and inclusive environment.

Sponsors

 **Wilson**
Asset Management



staminade[®]
first aid for thirst

The club would like to acknowledge and thank our sponsors for their continued involvement and generosity throughout 2020. Without their valued contributions we would not be able to host our monthly races, provide members access to training camps, contribute to the wider racing community (Sydney Uni Women's Staminade and Nero Continental) or proudly wear such an amazing kit (thank you to Cuore, our kit supplier).

Committee & Volunteers

The SUVelo committee is made up of volunteers that manage the day-to-day running of the club. We welcome all assistance from our members to support the club's operations, whether this be through helping on race day, leading bunch rides safely, or through providing feedback or ideas on what you think can make the club even better.

2020 Executive Committee

President - Nicholas Martin
Secretary - Jo Winterbottom
Treasurer - Rob Evan
University Liaison Officer - Andrew Duggan
Club Captain - Joel Lidden

2020 Committee

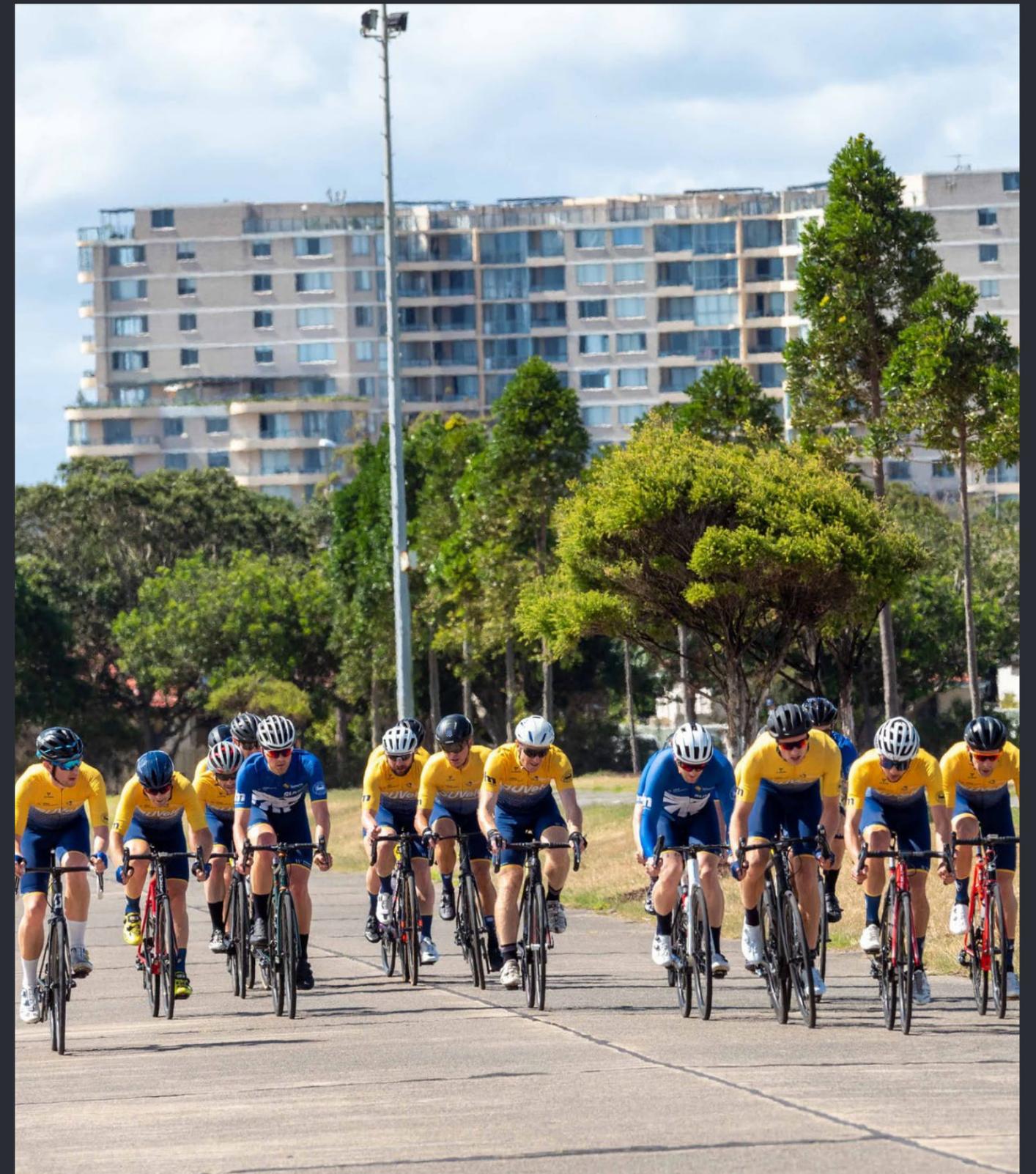
IT - John Twyman
Student Representative - Leo Yipp
Rider Development - Nic Papas
Events Manager - Aimee Armstrong
Sponsorship Manager - David Gorham
Club Kit Manager - Adam Flemming
Media Manager - Ben Pham

2020 Club Racing Committee

Club Commissaire - Barry Doosey
Race Director - Nadia Younan
Women's Club Captain - Nicole Oh
Men's Club Captain - Angus Wilson



PHOTO CREDIT
Victoria M McNeill



Presidents' Report

Virginia Woods & Nic Martin - Club Presidents

The beginning of 2020 seems so far in the past – the many trials and very few tribulations of the year makes it seem a lifetime away.

Many communities were rebuilding their towns after the disastrous bush fires ripped through so much of the country. In true Aussie spirit, Tour Down Under pulled through to bring some much needed tourist dollars to Adelaide and put on the cycling event of the year. A SUVelo crew headed for some of the finest riding, bakery stops, dinners and beers we could fit into our visit. We rode through moonscapes of ash and saw one lone house saved, and vineyards split down the middle with one side still green, the other decimated - the bravery it must have taken to draw those battle lines.

SUVelo responded to the fundraising calls and put on the Bush fire Crit, with all entry fees

Virginia Woods

President, January to August 2020



donated to Kangaroo Island recovery. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, winners received gifts purchased from businesses in regional areas. Our sponsorship funding also supported members in regional racing to encourage travel into areas affected by the fires.

Little did we know about the challenges that lay ahead. If I was to go back in time and explain 2020 to my 2019 self, I'd struggle convincing myself to stock up on toilet paper and buy an

indoor trainer. COVID took hold of our lives and from mid-March, restrictions escalated to keep the virus at bay. Bunch rides, racing and events were canceled one after the other - seemingly trivial with so much suffering on a global scale, but our community includes cafes, businesses owners, race teams, event organisers and tour operators. Indeed, two of our sponsors, Claudio's Seafoods and Haverick Meats displayed their entrepreneurial talent to remain successful despite the challenging times.

By mid-year, restrictions started to lift. Bunch rides, racing and times spent at the café catching up with friends resumed. At this point, I called half time. The President's role is a serious commitment, one that I could no longer sustain with my work commitments and recovery from a crash – I was pleased that Nic Martin stepped up to take over.

This President's report is a sum of two parts and this is where I take over and thank Gin for her drive and commitment to the Club it what was a difficult year to lead a cycling club of the size and complexity of SUVelo. This transition came about through the Club's Annual General Meeting in August where the bulk of the existing committee agreed to renominate and stay on. We did however see members step up and fill the vacant roles of President, Secretary, Club Captain and Uniform Manager.

The new committee formed with an energised focused on a return to racing, planning a training camp in Kangaroo Valley and improving our offering on the bunch ride front. The impact of COVID influenced our normal racing program so we decided to do it differently and run a combined Club Championships / Christmas party on a sunny Sunday afternoon at Heffron Park. It was a

Nic Martin

President, August to December 2020



great success and a big thank you goes out to our perennial Club Patron Mike Tomalaris for being there to present the awards in between a busy TV schedule.

An important aspect of SUVelo's success during the year was the ongoing support of our incredible sponsors Wilson Asset Management, Claudio's, Haverick and Staminade. The generosity of our sponsors not only allows the Club to give back to its members but also allows SUVelo to continue to support elite teams at the National Race Series level through Sydney Uni Staminade Women's team and Nero Continental Men's team.

It would be remiss of me the mention what was an historic end to the year in cycling terms with SUVelo voting in favour of Cycling NSW to join AusCycling thus changing our national sporting organisation and bringing all the states and territories under one cycling governing body.





The SUVelo accounts are managed, on a cash accounting basis, by Sydney Uni Sport and Fitness (SUSF) Finance. Accounts payable invoices that are processed by SUSF require approval by two club executives and SUVelo accounts are audited annually as part of the SUSF financial year end procedures.

SUVelo is in a healthy financial position and we had a closing balance of \$72,495 at 31 December 2020. This was a significant increase compared to the 2019 closing balance of \$22,700.

Despite the impact of the pandemic we were fortunate again as a club to receive generous sponsorship contributions of \$70,000. Our second largest revenue stream remains the SUSF allotment grants of \$18,540, however this was reduced by \$12,990 membership SUSF over 2020.

The club always had a strong focus on racing. Therefore we have continued our \$19,900 sponsorship of the Nero Continental and Sydney Uni Staminade teams. To also promote participation of our members in CNSW sanctioned races, we have introduced reimbursement of race entries for a selection of races. Due to cancellations this year's reimbursements were limited to \$2,892 for the NSW TTT and Ken Dinnerville entries.

Social events are important for club bonding and especially in a year with many social restrictions. We have contributed this year again to sponsoring the Christmas function (\$2,484) to give a little back to our members that make SUVelo to a great club. We not only support our members, but also donated the February criterium (\$2,043) entry fees to businesses at Kangaroo Island that were impacted by the 2019 bush fires.



Treasurer's Report

Rob Evan - Club Treasurer

Year ending 31 December 2020	2020	2019
Opening cash balance	\$22,699	\$29,658
Expenses	\$56,142	\$80,236
Income	\$105,938	\$73,276
Closing cash balance	\$72,495	\$22,699

TOTAL CASH IN 2020: \$105,938

Significant income	2020	2019
SUSF Allotment Grants	\$18,540	\$18,000
Sponsorship contribution	\$70,000*	\$30,500
Cycling Australia Fees	\$12,827	\$12,248
Christmas party ticket sales	\$1,789**	\$10,326
Online race entries BOTB	\$2,782	\$2,202

* Includes the WAM 2019 sponsorship contribution

** Ticket sales for 2019 Christmas party

TOTAL CASH OUT 2020: \$80,236

Significant expenditure	2020	2019
Sponsorship Nero Continental - UCI	\$9,900	\$9,900
Sponsorship Sydney Uni Staminade - NRS	\$10,000	\$20,000*
Uni Games entries and travel expenses	-	\$3,351
International UCI licenses	-	\$2,763
Club Member Race Entries	\$2,892	\$1,009
BOTB prize money	-	\$2,520
First Aid Course	-	\$1,900
SUSF Membership	\$12,990	\$17,480**
Cycling NSW Affiliation	\$909	\$591
Polka Dot and website	\$6,600*	\$11,880
Coaching	-	-
Donations, prizes and Bush Fire Crit	\$2,043	-
Club Championships	\$1,799	-
Other function costs	-	\$1,650
Christmas Party 2019	\$3,452**	-
Christmas Party 2020	\$2,484	-
Van registration and maintenance	-.***	\$2,973
Club racing costs (St Johns and Track Hire)	\$1,302	-
Other costs	\$1,771	\$4,219

* Reduced Polka Dot social media posts

** Invoice of 2019 Christmas Party paid in 2020

*** Van not on SUVelo books since 2020

Secretary's Report

Joe Winterbottom - Club Secretary



2020 was a challenging year for us all and we greatly appreciate the support of all the members whose ongoing commitment ensured we finished the year strongly.

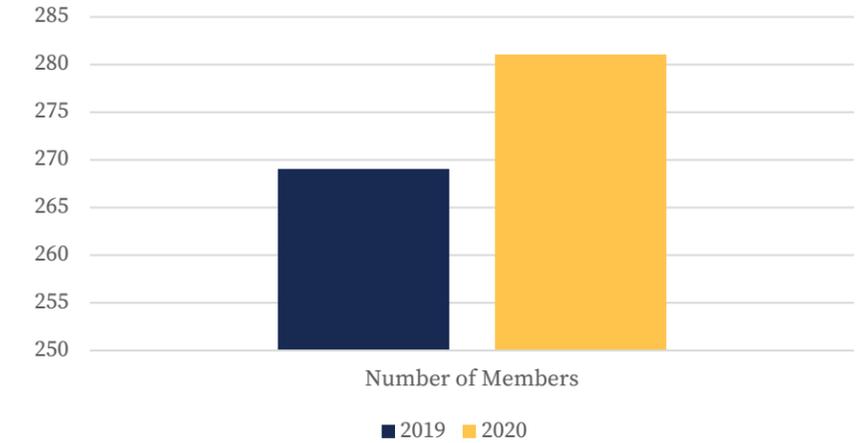
Member numbers declined significantly between February and June; which seems to correlate directly with the imposition of government restrictions preventing people to ride in groups greater than two. However, people renewed their memberships when the restrictions were lifted and the club finished the year with 280 members (+7 from 2019).

The club has maintained its strong proportion of female members in 2020, which has been steadily increasing since 2015 (15%) and currently sits at 22%. The proportion of SU Velo members who hold a race licence decreased from 70% to 60% which can also be associated with the effect of Government restrictions due to COVID and the race calendar being impacted significantly. However, with the restrictions being lifted we expect to see the proportion increase in 2021.

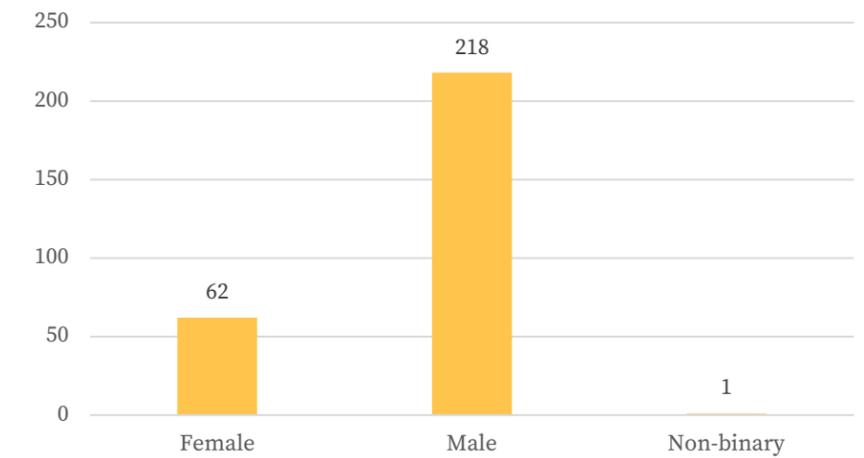
2020 also saw the club being affiliated with AusCycling, replacing the affiliations with Cycling NSW and Cycling Australia. This resulted some changes to membership types but the transition was relatively smooth as it maintained the same IT system. However, some members have reported some issues with the email reminders when their memberships expire. This is being addressed.

The on-boarding of new members has continued with a welcome email and information pack. We have aimed to make this process more efficient with the development of an automated process which makes it easier to identify a new member when they join. The TeamApp is still our primary source of member content, therefore, an automated process was also developed to maintain a "current" member list on this channel.

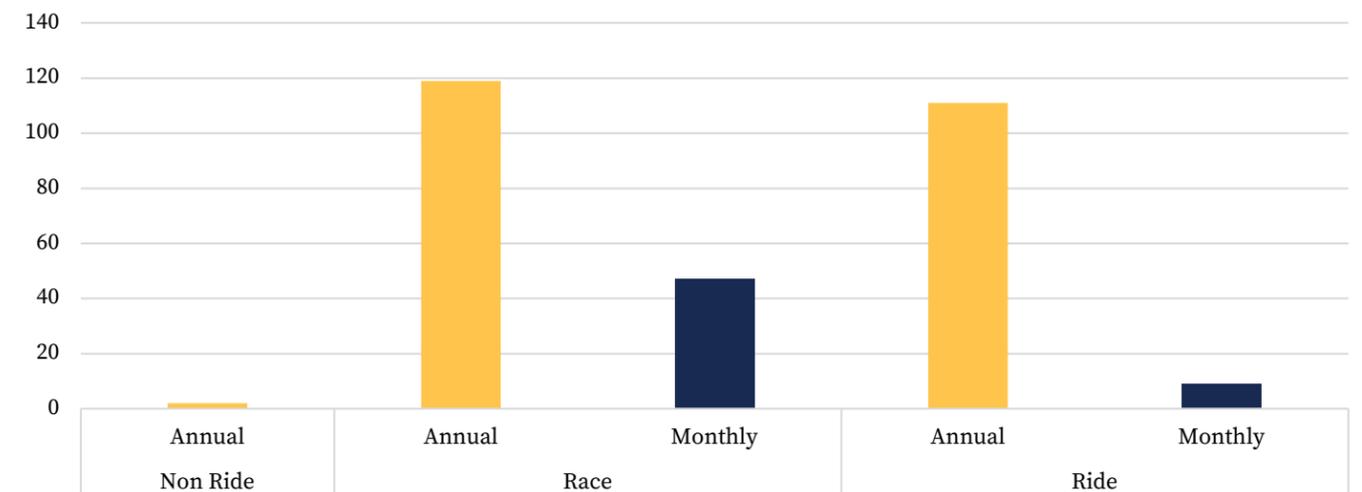
Number of Members



Gender



Membership Type





Captain's Report

Joel Lidden - Club Captain

2020 served up, undoubtedly, the most challenging year for SUVelo since inception.

The year started off fine with club members taking up the numerous club ride and racing options with enthusiasm, hazardous weather conditions bought about by bush fires notwithstanding.

By February, the murmurs around COVID-19 gained momentum. In early March, optimistically, a number of the criterium and fondo events, including Peaks Challenge and Bathurst-Bathurst, forged ahead in spite of social distancing precautions becoming more and more relevant. By mid-March, our club activities ground to an abrupt halt. Sydney went into a strictly-enforced lockdown and the committee took decisive action to discourage group activities.

Enthusiasm for outdoor activities seemed to run in a two speed manner. Some club members embraced their trainers and seemingly got fitter, stronger and ready for racing and bunch rides to resume. Others took some down time and acquainted themselves with solo riding, riding with just a friend or two, pro hours roll outs and really just enjoying the immense joy of being able to still ride bikes whilst seemingly the rest of the world could not enjoy such privileges.

What was thought to be possible a mere blip in the racing and events calendar rolled on all Autumn, with the occasional crit race being run under strict COVID guidelines.

Winter saw Sydney with lifted restrictions and bunch rides resumed, albeit gingerly. The club committee took a very cautious approach to bunch ride resumption and encouraged smaller than usual bunches to ride with post-ride park ups being appropriately small. Nonetheless, club members enjoyed being seemingly one of the luckiest groups of riders in the country and indeed the world. All forms of racing seemed to resume in earnest, with those who'd been diligently Zwifting away showing their new-found racing legs. SUVelo riders featured prominently across podiums across the city. Similarly, bunch rides resumed with some spicy sprints and very hot climb times showing up on Strava segments.

A new committee was elected in late August. The new club captain and existing ride captains determined that tentative caution was the way forward as we were in a recovery period of sorts. On the back of the SUVelo member questionnaire, it was clear that there was appetite more P2 or "less-fast" rides. Accordingly, new P2 rides were introduced on Wednesday and Saturday, giving all members an opportunity to participate in a P2 paced ride on any given club ride day. The reintroduction of a 7am Saturday roll out ride was immediately popular with a lot of founding and early club members being ably led by founding member and new ride captain, Leigh Jackson.

The weekly group ride schedule was revisited by the Captain and ride Captains in October. Numerous great ideas were summarised and put to the Committee. Specifically, the immensely popular Tuesday hills ride and the Wednesday whip ride maintaining healthy competitive tension. Thursday club rides were requiring some attention after taking a COVID-induced battering whilst the Friday coffee ride continued to roll steadily into the weekend. Saturday long haul options, both South and North, were and continue to be a weekly highlight. Sunday rides, similar to Thursday, were struggling a little off the back of COVID-19 and would be an opportunity for improvement for late 2020 and 2021.

The SUVelo North side chapter, despite the challenges of lockdowns late in 2020, continued to meet and ride, with a few south side riders making the trek across the coat hanger to see what the fuss was about.



A number of new ride captains were introduced to the numerous bunches, with the focus being on quality of rides, variety of options for all abilities and continued bunch safety.

The Christmas-New Years season was served up with a sharp lockdown across northern Sydney, which curbed enthusiasm for bunch riding being an immediate side effect. Nonetheless, our members continued to exercise sound judgment and met in smaller bunches with an acute awareness of the privilege it really was to be able to ride outside in glorious summer conditions.



Despite the immense and unprecedented challenges and conditions that 2020 presented, SUVelo riders enjoyed being amongst a small, but lucky group in the world who could enjoy the outdoors and continue to meet and enjoy riding bikes. For that, we should all be thankful.

Events

Aimee Armstrong - Events

What can we say, 2020 was certainly a year of depleted events (thanks COVID) but that didn't stop SUVelo from taking any opportunity that came our way to get on our bikes and catch up with club mates.

Restrictions lifted just in time for our annual adventure to Kangaroo Valley in November. Twenty two clubbies hit the road and got out of Sydney for the weekend. Members enjoyed some much needed riding, socialising and perhaps one too many drinks for some.

In December we kicked off a combined Club Champs and Christmas Party - I think it's safe to say it was a hit! We had a huge turnout of over 100 attendees - perhaps it was due to the attendance of our always popular Club Patron Mike Tomalaris. Dope Fusion did an amazing job serving up some delicious food from their food truck, and a special shout out to Nutie Donuts for the epic desserts table.

As always thanks to the generous support of our sponsors Havericks Meats and Claudios Seafood for donating the prizes for our annual club awards - as voted by our members.

Mike Tomalaris Plate - Aimee Armstrong



Handbag of Courage - Will Clark



Hot Tipper Award - Bronwen Thompson



2020 Awards

Female rider of the year - Eline Adrianne Smit



Male rider of the year - Leo Yip





Racing

Nadia Younan - Race Secretary



2020 was a challenging year with many races postponed or cancelled, but in the midst of all the uncertainty our racers continued to produce some outstanding results. 2020 really stamped SUVelo as the premier Club for Women racers. Our women proving to be the strongest contingent around. Our Masters also flew the flag proudly and brought home a swag of medals at both the State and National Masters Championships.

March saw the Tolland Handicap proceed just as many events started to get canceled, with Georgia Minsarow taking first female in a very strong field.

At the Erik Mather Cup, Amanda Jones took a gutsy first female, turning on a strong sprint with a bunch finish of 58 riders. Amanda is our quiet achiever from up towards the Blue Mountains, and always performs strongly in her Masters categories.

August saw a return to everyone's favourite wind-farm, Gunning, for the 63rd Ken Dinnerville handicap where Charl Van Wyk, Luke Schofield and Will Clark finished strongly in the top 20.

Uni cleaned up at the last Elite Criterium held in Heffron before the 2021 move to Broke with the ever strong Georgie Whitehouse taking it right to the line for 2nd place with Gina Ricardo rounding out the podium for 3rd and Jesse Coyle taking 2nd in the Men's Elite.

Women's participation in the Elite Road Race was significant -the Elite Women's field was bigger than the Elite Men's. It was a windy race down in Gunning (is there any other kind?!) and Emily Watts showed real grit for a brilliant 2nd place, with a super ride from Eline to bridge a gap for 3rd. Eline displaying the form and never-give-up attitude that had her selected for a NRS team in 2021, congratulations Eline!

Our women stole the show at the NSW Team Time Trial taking both Gold and Silver, continuing our tradition of performing well at this event.

Back to Singleton again for the State Masters Champs. SUV Women dominated again, Nicole Wilson had a successful campaign, taking Gold in the road race and winning the bunch sprint for Silver in the Criterium. Nicole Oh with silver in road race and your Race Secretary taking a silver in the ITT and a very (!) surprising Gold in the Criterium.

And on to the National Masters on the Gold Coast in December. After weeks of speculation as to whether the event would even go ahead (will Anastacia open the borders? Can I get fat now?) QLD was finally declared open to us germ-ridden NSW folk, and we were allowed in. The Masters opened with the ITT, and your faithful Race Secretary managed to take home the Gold. There may have been some ugly crying with that one! Charl Van Wyk took a solid top ten in the ITT, and had an absolute pearler in the Criterium. On a hot, blustery day, Charl broke clear away to take win Masters 2 National Criterium Champion with a lead of 7 seconds, from a very strong field. Beautifully executed. Nicole Oh had a cracker, winning Silver in the criterium and Silver again in the Road Race, in terrible conditions.

In the NRS, we were all so stoked to see Gina Ricardo win her first NRS race, taking Stage 5 of the Tour of Tweed. Gina out-sprinted the reduced breakaway in a perfectly timed move that had all of us cheering back home! So fantastic to see someone's hard work pay off as they move up from Club racing to the NRS.

These are only a handful of the 2020 highlights, to list everyone's achievements would have me taking up far too much real estate in the Annual Report. I would like to say a big congratulations to ALL our racers who pin a number on and make it to the start line representing the Club.

We are a Racing Club and it's been fantastic to see so many new faces out there giving it a go.



Sydney Uni

Velo Club

Sydney Uni Velo Club Incorporated (INC 9893001)

University Sports & Aquatic Centre

Building G09, University of Sydney NSW 2008

www.suvelo.com.au