Dear members and friends of the Waratahs,

As we get closer to the 2026 festive season, kick off the 2027 season I wanted to provide you with some important updates

2026 Xmas Party - Sunday 6 Dec Sydney Motorsport Park (after racing)
Our Xmas party will be the same format as 2025 where we will hold the party after racing.

We will shout the coffee and food, plus hold our annual awards. I am really looking forward to seeing who takes the awards for 2026.

For the annual points competition which runs from February to November for all entrants, we are paying out cash prizes to the Top 10 riders (open to all Clubs). Check the current standings here to see if you are close to being in the money: 2026 WMCC Points Comp

2027 Points Competition and AusCycling Events financial support
We will allocate Waratah Members 2 points where they attend an AusCycling road cycling event rather than our Club race.

The Club will continue to provide cost support for riders who attend AusCycling Events, including the cost of upgrading from a Club to Race License to compete at AusCycling State/National level events. Annual support has been increased to $400 per year with immediate effect.

Summer start time - Sydney Motorsport Park - 6:45am
Over Summer, starting 6 December, we will be starting racing at 6:45am and add 15min minutes to each Grade. A Grade will race for approx 1hr 10min and finish close to 7.55am at which time we need to clear the raceway.

This is a trial from December to February. We will then switch back to 7.00am starts in March 2027.

Looking forward to your feedback on this earlier start time over summer.

Committee changes
Tom Clayton, our IT Committee member, is stepping down after doing a tremendous job in recent years. Thanks Tom for all the efforts.

If you have IT skills and would like to contribute to the Club, then have a talk to me to discuss joining the Committee.

2027 Prepaids - Jan to Jun 2027 - $200 / Casual race entry fee - $20
The Club will continue to offer its prepaid to all people racing with the Club, and hold the fee at $200 for the upcoming 6 month block. This gets you entry to all our races and works out to $10 per race @ 20 races. Even less if you make every event.

On the day race entry fees will be held at $20

2027 Race Calendar
I am really excited to let you know that the race calendar has been put together and we have locked in dates with our venues. It is shaping up as a super nice calendar, 4 courses and 8 different finishes:

SMSP - 20 (anticlockwise, clockwise, hill top finish)
Dragway - 9 (full course clockwise)
Heffron - 9 (clockwise, anticlockwise)
Lansdowne - Lansdowne 14 (anticlockwise, clockwise hill top finish)

We will publish the racing calendar on our website towards the end of December here:
WMCC Race Calendar

Lansdowne Improvements
We have spoken with Bankstown CC, Lidcombe Auburn CC and AusCycling (Nick Hannan) and formed a working group to get Lansdowne improvements on the roadmap with government agencies. If you are interested in what we have in mind, speak to Leslie B, Richard F or myself.

The toilets are a high priority in the next 12 months.

We are going for some ambitious changes in the longer term, however if you don't ask you will get nothing. Just think about it - Lansdowne and Waratah Park (Sutherland) are the only dedicated road cycling facilities in the Sydney metro area. All the other facilities are multi-use or shared with road traffic. Lansdowne being in good condition, upgraded and made even more appealing is so important for the future health of our sport. It is bigger than the Waratah Masters.

If you have some skills and connections re: getting improvements with government agencies - I would love to have a word with you. Please don't hold back on this as this is a long process,

and your knowledge of how to move this forward in the right way would be just massive for the 3 cycling club and AusCycling.

Race management duty
We cannot run a race without officials and volunteers.

The Waratahs run a race every week and the following officials and volunteers are needed:

- Commissaire
- First aid officer
- Sign on desk officer
- Duty officer
- Duty helpers (we need two)
- Van driver

Officials and Duty Officers/Helpers for upcoming races are listed on our website here: Race Calendar.

I ask that you have a look at it and get to see when you are on for duty. If everyone does their turn then most people racing with the Waratahs will need to do **Duty 2 times per year**.

Have a look at the schedule and lock the dates in advance. If you know you cannot make a particular date, then please get in contact with our Race Managers, Leslie and Richard, at waratahmasters@gmail.com or send a message on our WhatsApp Clubhouse Group

WhatsApp Group
This is now the place to get short term updates. Here is a link to the WhatsApp Group if you would like to join: https://chat.whatsapp.com/CelyHeVR8cH4DLinTMn201

The Waratahs only allow Australian phone numbers on its WhatsApp Group and runs a strict no advertising policy.

The Club maintains 7 Groups for different reasons (eg. Commissaire Group). The only one you need is the Clubhouse. You can post messages to the Clubhouse.

Follow up questions/future topics

If you have any follow-up questions please send them to waratahmasters@gmail.com or speak to one of our Committee members.

See you at an upcoming race or our Christmas party,

Paul King
President Waratah Masters Cycling Club