

WILD RIDE

EPIC CYCLING JOURNEYS THROUGH THE HEART OF AUSTRALIA

This book tells the story of cyclists who were overcome by the need to venture into the wild on two wheels; the courageous men and women who undertook some of the most epic bicycle journeys of all time.

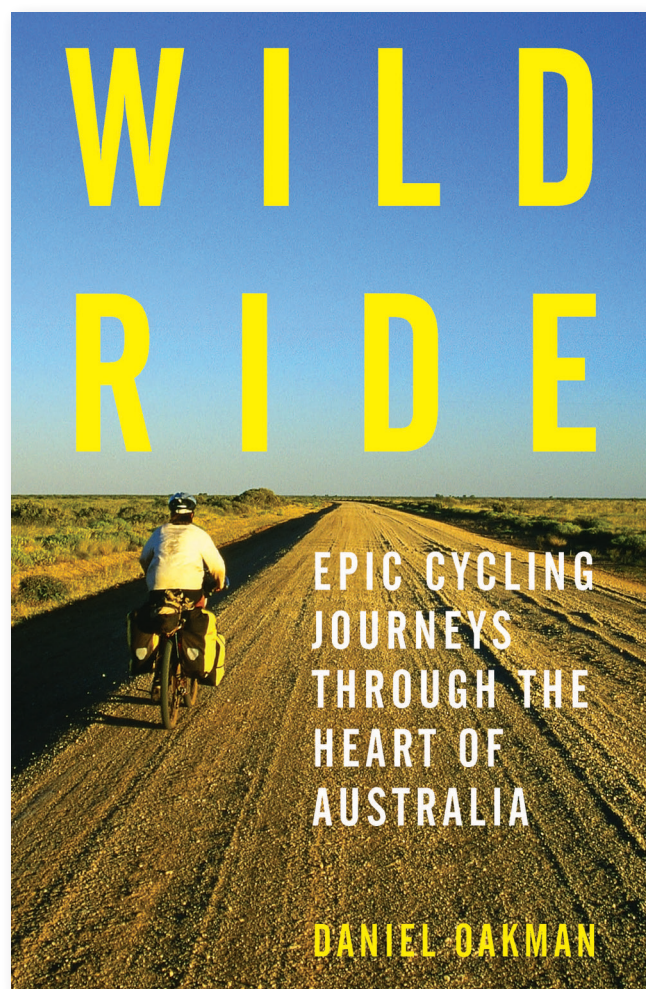
Wild Ride reminds us of a thrilling period of exploration all but forgotten in the age of the motorcar. Daniel Oakman takes us on a rich ride through 130 years of Australian cycling; from the overlanding heroes of Arthur Richardson and Francis Birtles, to the lesser known but no less amazing feats of Jerome Murif, Ted Ryko and Joe Pearson, through to modern-day bikepacking trailblazers such as Kate Leeming, Tegan Streeter and Tom Richards. Celebrity riders are here too; from the historic icons of Hubert 'Oppy' Opperman, Wendy Duncan and Shirley Law, to the more recent triumphs of actor Sam Johnson and his audacious quest to ride a unicycle 15,000 kilometres around the country.

You will be astounded by their journeys, retold here with sparkling clarity. Be inspired for your next pedal powered adventure.

Thanks to their daring and determination to ride where others had not, a plethora of bike adventures with historic significance still await today's adventurer. Today, these roads, tracks and trails allow cyclists to reconnect with their legacy. And with this great collection of ripping yarns, Dan pays tribute to Australia's 'wild riders'.

— Rupert Guinness, sports writer and author

by DANIEL OAKMAN



The Author

Daniel Oakman is a museum curator, historian and bike rider. He has curated exhibitions about bicycles, cars, cities and urban design; including *Freewheeling*, a ground-breaking travelling exhibition on cycling in Australia. As a writer, he is best known as the author of *Oppy*, the gripping biography of Australia's greatest endurance cyclist, Sir Hubert Opperman. He lives in Canberra with his partner Cecilie and a dog called Gilbert.

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top: Most Aboriginal people were curious about the white men who rode bicycles through their lands. Here, two men inspect Jerome's bike at Dalhousie Spring Station, South Australia, 1897. *Northern Territory Library, PH1139/0001.*



middle: By 1912, Francis had cycled around Australia twice and crossed the continent seven times. Here, in 1909, he stands out the front of the Perth General Post Office about to depart for Sydney. *State Library of Western Australia.*



bottom: Greg Yeoman gives way to some oversized vehicles on the Burke Development Road, heading towards Cape York. *Kate Leeming.*