



PARIS-BREST-PARIS

TEARS OF JOY

by Dermot Avon

After recently completing Paris-Brest-Paris, I now look back and can reflect on some of the magic moments of such an epic.

Hundreds of people lining the start to cheer off the 3,500 cyclists.

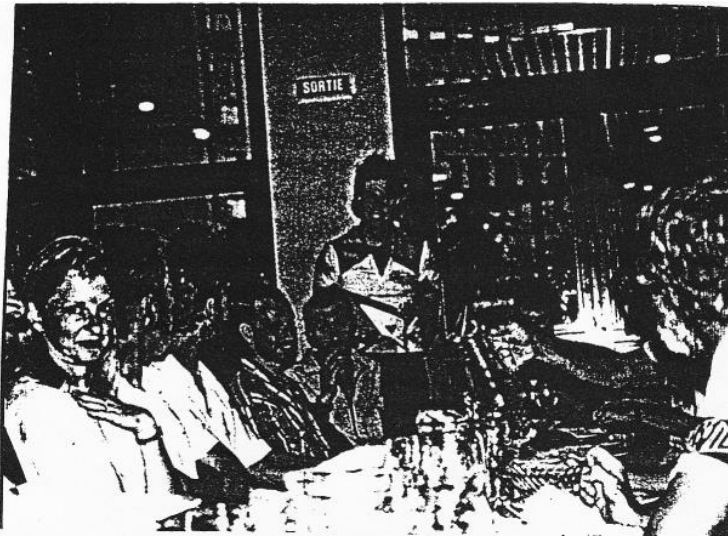
To watch an endless stream of tail lights meandering through the French countryside.

The adoring eyes of French children standing by the side of the road with hands held aloft waiting for a 'high five' hand-slap.

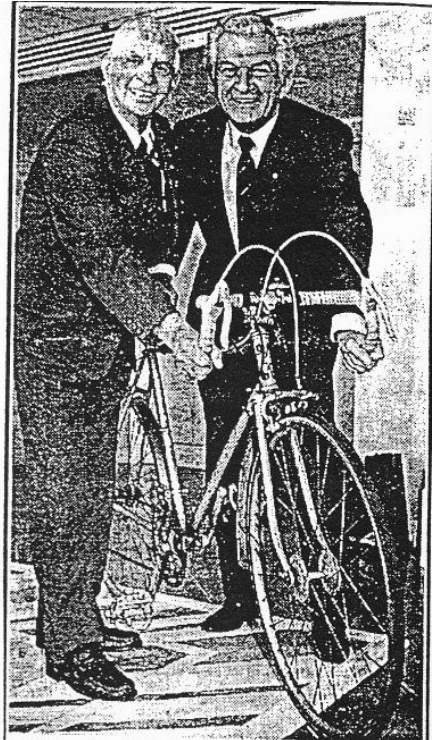
After the event, whilst seated at a Parisienne cafe, Peter Donnan astutely observed, 'the only sore muscles I have are in my right arm from patting myself on the back so much'.

For me it was the greatest personal achievement of my life. So now I wonder if other people can see why, when surrounded by my fellow Australians at the finish (with only five minutes to spare) all I could do was stand there and cry with tears of joy.

Editor's comments: I know how you feel after reading this Dermot!



Australians at Dinner prior to PBP Dermot Avon, Keith Whiteley, Mark Sorrell, Peter Morsley, Russell Moore, Jerry Tattray, Neil Irvine



● Renewing their ties . . . Sir Hubert Opperman (left) and the Prime Minister, Mr Hawke.

Mates¹⁴⁻⁸⁻⁹¹ meet to peddle politics

THE Prime Minister, Mr Hawke, and former cycling champion Sir Hubert Opperman

renewed their old friendship yesterday and recalled their great battle of 1963.

Sir Hubert was a federal minister and Liberal member for Corio when Mr Hawke challenged him at the polls.

Mr Hawke knew it would be tough to unseat a local hero who had set many Australian records and won the

1928 Bol d'Or 24-hour race and the 1931 Paris-Brest-Paris road race.

Mr Hawke lost the battle, his first bid to enter federal politics.

It was 12 years before he had another go.

"It was a good, fair fight," Mr Hawke said in Melbourne yesterday.

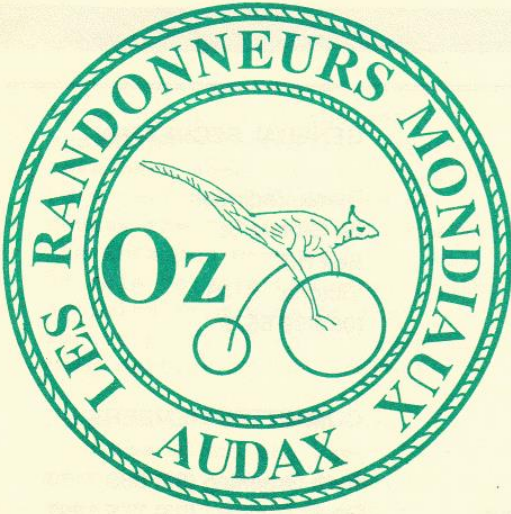
And Sir Hubert, 87, said Mr Hawke was a formidable opponent.

He said he had been worried because Mr Hawke was a Rhodes scholar.

Mr Hawke said he would remain grateful to Sir Hubert for beating him. In 1963, He waited for the right time and later took the top job.

Sir Hubert, at the invitation of the French Government, is soon to travel to France to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Paris-Brest-Paris race. Hundreds of riders from around the world are expected to take part.

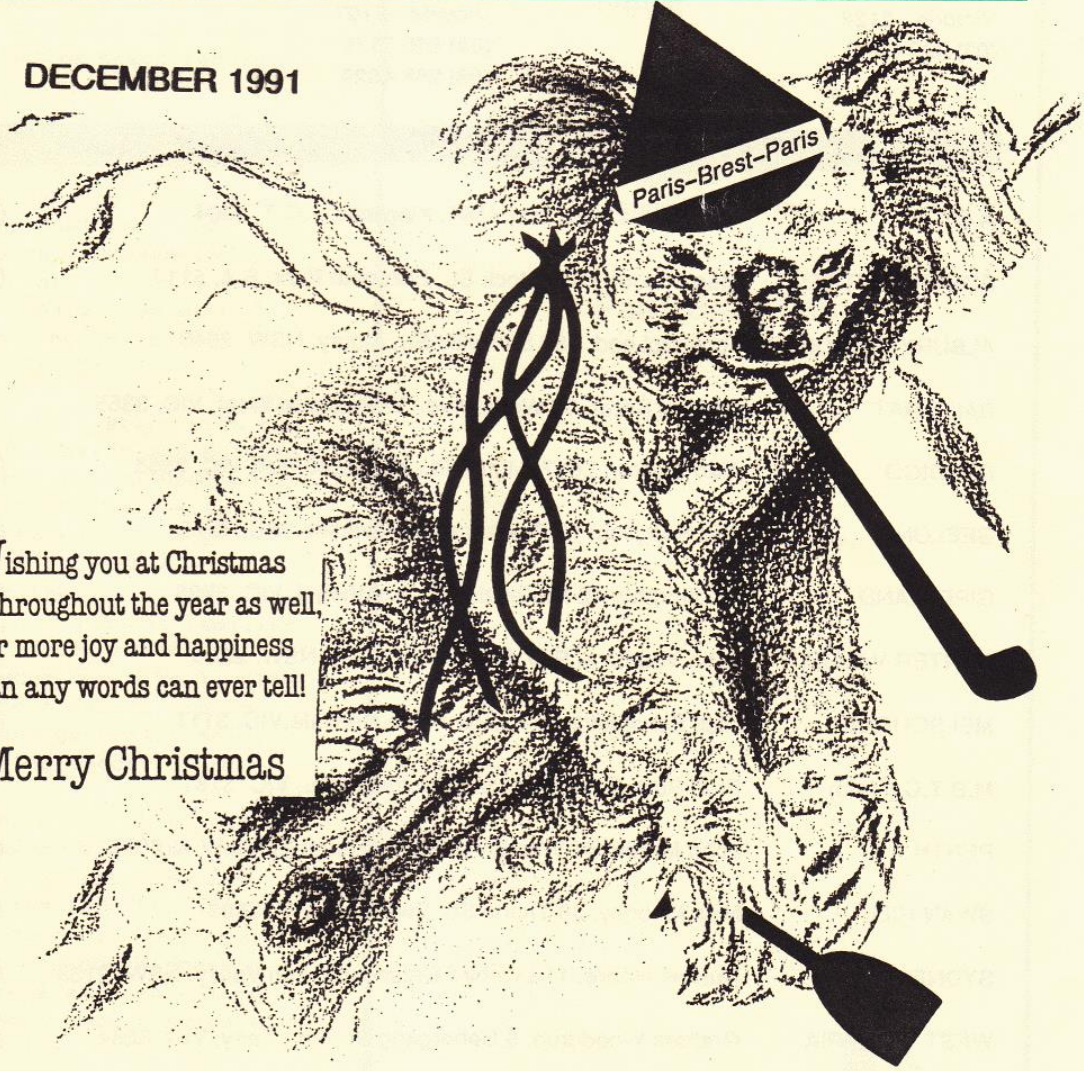
A film about Sir Hubert is being made by Melbourne company Lyons-Sinclair.



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DECEMBER 1991



Wishing you at Christmas
and throughout the year as well
Far more joy and happiness
Than any words can ever tell!

Merry Christmas

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Editor: Ruth Greening