## Discover Chris' thrilling adventure and uncover the remarkable story of where he stumbled upon the 100-year-old bike

This is the bike I’m training on while I restore the 100-year old one.

It’s relatively new—from the mid-40’s.

It’s a Webster Brothers bike, from Bendigo. I drove down to Canberra to pick it up, through some of the most terrible weather I’ve ever seen. I then drove home through even worse weather. I suspect the bike is cursed.

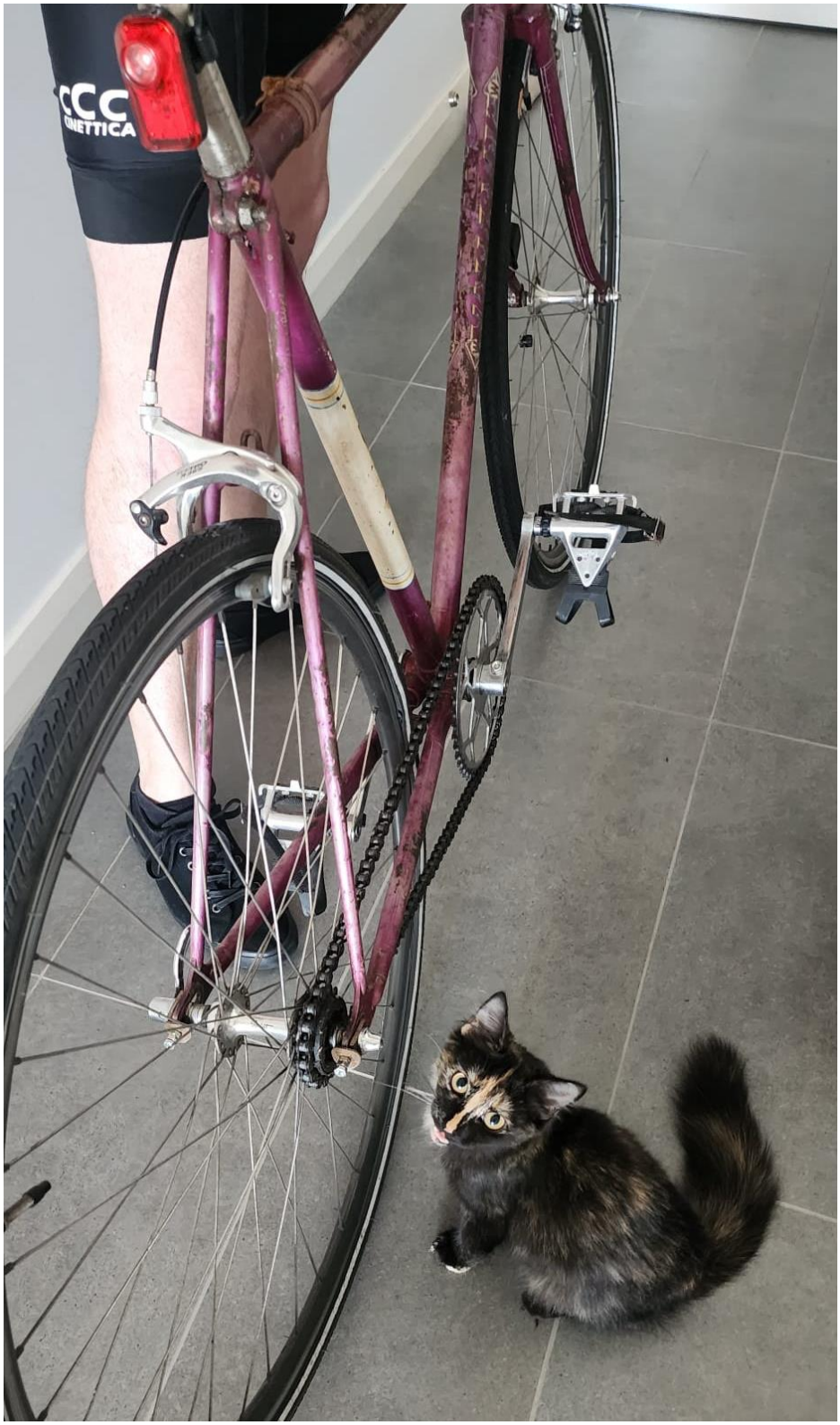
I did a light restoration on the Webster. The original handlebars were badly bent, and it was missing the original seat, wheels, and pedals. It had clearly been crashed then hung up in a shed somewhere for 40-odd years.

The previous owner had thrown on a new wheelset and done a nice job on some new handlebars, but hadn't done a comprehensive tear-down or even cleaned it particularly well.

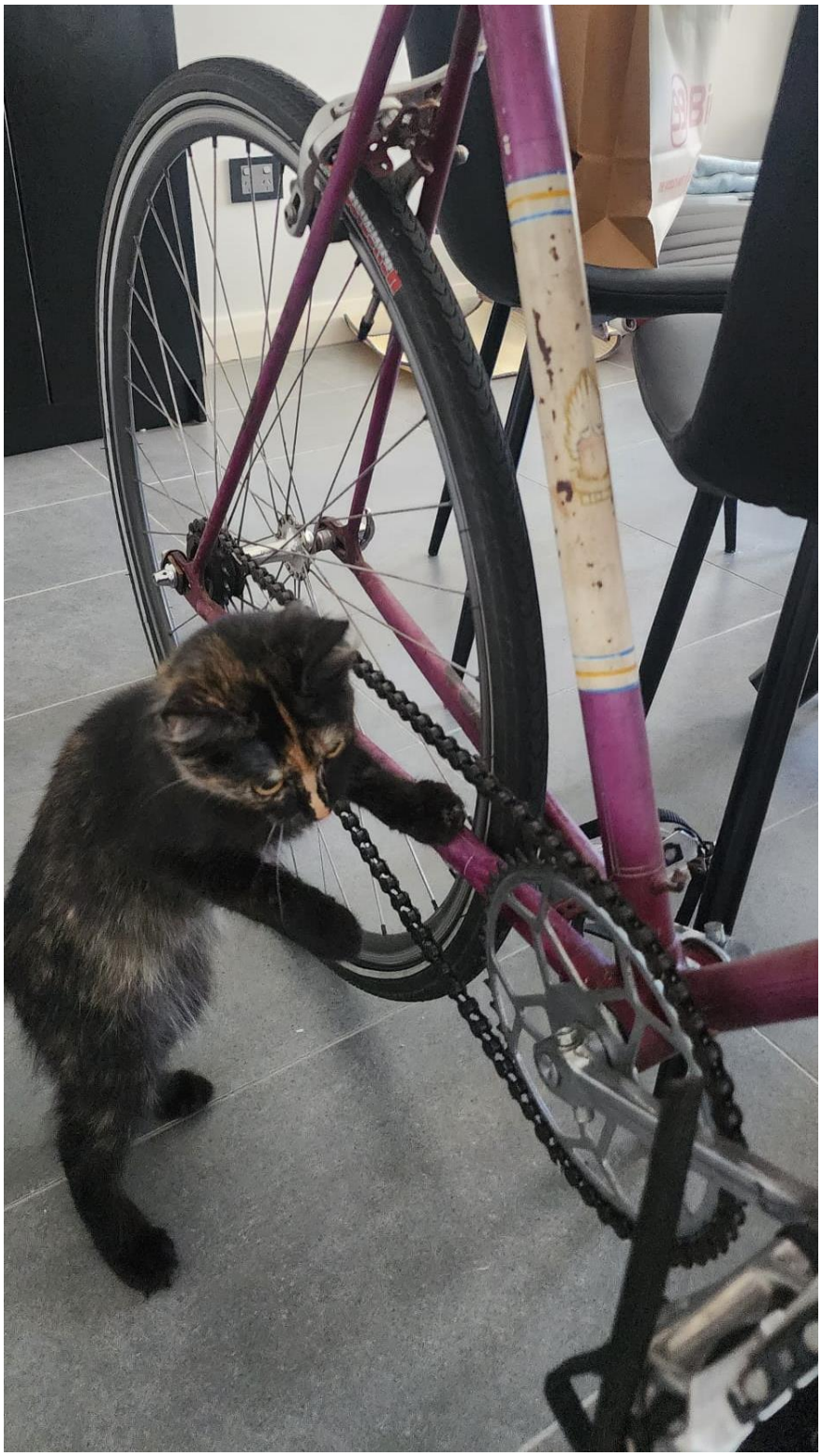
Given I'm pretty sure it's been crashed, it needed to be stripped down, inspected, and rebuilt. So that's what I did.

I also didn't know how to do those things, so I needed the practice before potentially having to do it again on the really old bike.

This is my partner’s cat, Black Bean, meeting my bike after I’d rebuilt it.



While initially appearing unimpressed, Black Bean approved the bike for use following a thorough safety inspection and a light scratching.

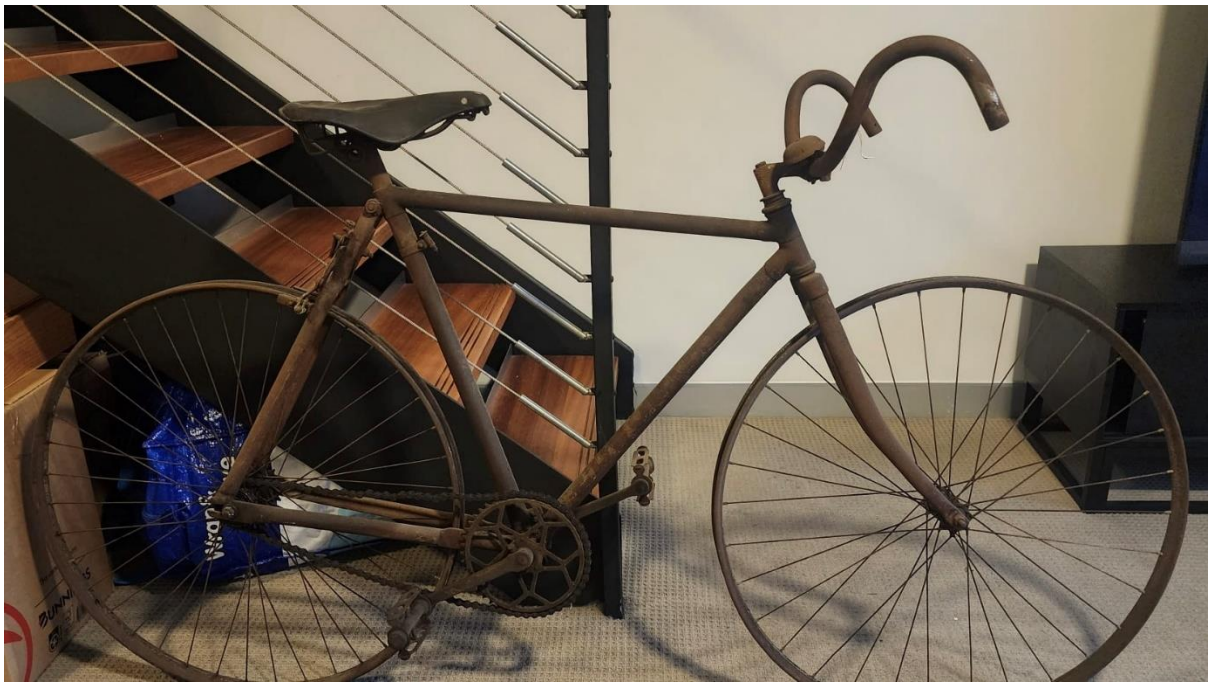


I promise I don’t stop to look at creeks every time I train.

This is Ed. He’s over 100 years old.

He was hanging out in Alexandria when I met him.

He was built by a company called Edworthy, based in Leichhardt and operating between the late 1880’s up until about the 40’s. Miraculously, he still had most of his original parts.



Edworthy were a small bicycle and motorcycle manufacturer who specialised in bespoke bicycles for road and track racing. They also made tiny bikes for monkeys at Taronga Zoo, but I guess it was a different time back then.

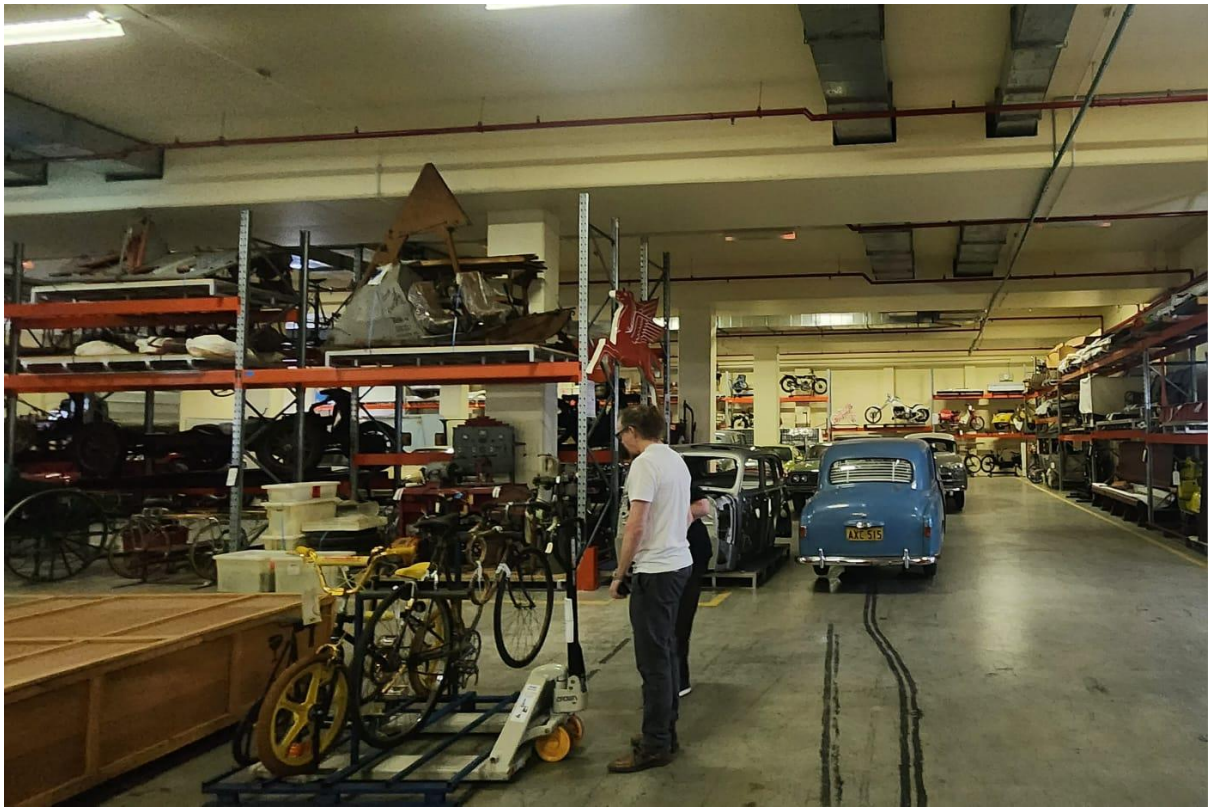
On at least one occasion, they visited Manly:

Unfortunately, you can’t buy those pants anymore…

To find out more about Edworthy, I went to the powerhouse museum warehouse.

That’s me in the distance.

This is a terrible photo of me meeting the only other Edworthy bicycle that seems to still exist.



This is what Ed might have looked like back in the day. Although in colour, of course.

I think I looked a little like that guy when I was 9; pretty sure I had the same haircut.

Ed is getting on a bit, and while you might not know it to look at him now, he lived a wild life in his youth. He was built for a sport called motor-pacing. This is where cyclists ride in the slip-stream behind a motorbike, and even back in the day would hit speeds of 70kph and above. The bikes were built light, the speeds were insane for the early days of cycling, there were no brakes, and the riders didn't wear helmets. At some point, he it seems he was crashed, and retired from racing.

While he will never return to his full former glory, with some TLC and some rehab, little bits of his younger self are starting to show back up from underneath the years of grime and rust.

And he's still got some of his biker tattoos:

Ed should be back on the road at some point in March or early April.