

AUDAX Newsletter

March 2007

Perth Region

HAPPENINGS

To start on a sad note Bill Clues passed away recently, many of you will remember him as a very keen rider a few years ago. Our sympathies go to his family.

Once again Rod and Margaret Marsden made us very welcome at the Christmas barbecue. Many thanks from all of us.

Colin Farmer and Ken Ward have had a few health problems and it is very good to see them up and about again.

Bjorn Blasse, Colin Law, Nick Dale and Rod Marsden all took part in the Alpine Classic over east and finished well. 3600 meters climbing in 200ks is no mean feat.

Meanwhile in Tasmania Wayne Hickman was one of 7 starters in the 10,000 "Giro of Tasmania" he was the only finisher, fantastic effort. (took me 2 weeks to get around Tassie in a car).

At the same time Morris and Margaret Warren took part in the 9 day "Great Victorian Bike Ride", with many hundreds of other bikers/campers. A tough ride with temperatures up in the 40's.

We have no less than 6 riders confirmed for the 1200k Paris – Brest – Paris at the moment. Bjorne, Nick, Wayne, Rob Godkin, Chris Antonion and Eamonn McCloskey. We wish them all well, I think this is a record for WA.

Indeed we seem to be handing over to a new generation of enthusiastic Audax riders but remember that this year's Rooster can become next year's FEATHER duster.

We are now meeting for Saturday morning rides at 7.30am at the junction of the freeway and Farrington Road.

The national committee in its wisdom has decided (1) each region will have a feature ride each year – ours will be the Toodyay 200 on the 20th October 2007.
(2) AGM's will all be in March, starting 2008.

This year there will be awards for the most K's in a year covered by a new member and also an existing member (WA Members).

HAPPENINGS CONT...

We would be very pleased to get written contributions from members to go in the newsletter. Cut off dates from publication are May 31st, August 31st, November 30th and February 29th(2008).

Welcome to new members Ricky Ferguson, Christopher Patton, Eamonn McCloskey and Harry Goonatillake.

We hope you will enjoy many hours of cycling with us. At present we have 41 paid up members.

Could someone design a club vest with a maternity front for some of us who may have been drinking a bit too much beer?

You would think that motorists would thank us for helping to save the ozone – so why don't they.

I would like it to be known that my marathon time is 67 seconds faster than Lance (the Great) Armstrong's New York effort!

Attached to the newsletter is a copy of an article from my UK club magazine which I thought you might enjoy.

Glen Mitton is doing a grand job creating a website so that all the world will know about us.

Next year we will be having a mountain bike competition and awards.

So far this year (since Nov 06) 80 Brevets awarded and 11 250kms (not me I can assure you).

Happy cycling and take care out there.....

Ralph Morgan

Past Rides

2 December 200K	West Coast Cruise. A fine day with 3 new members.
16 December 50/100k	Freo Flyer A later start with sweltering heat made this a real endurance test for all participants. 20 riders, all finished. Good to see Ken Ward back in the saddle.
6 January 200k	Mary's Midnight. A night ride for a few hardy souls. Very warm and a full moon.
20 January 50/100k	Dog Hill Ride. No less than 22 starters and finishers, on a very pleasant day, not too hot.
10 February 300k	Out and Back. 7 starters and 6 finishers. Lovely tail wind all the way out, every one back early, which means they missed out on a rising easterly tail wind. As usual excellently supported by Ross Cussons. Good to see Graham Thornton on the road again.

24 February 200/100k	Phive Pies Pedal. A very good turn out of 17 for the two rides. A benign start in cool temperatures, but alas by mid day it was a furnace out there, and all riders great and small had a very hard time of it. Wonderful to see still more new riders turning up, in particular San-Der-Sandanin, his first ride, finished the 100 well done.
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Future Rides

10 March 400k	Long Flat One DWP 6am....Wayne Hickman 9454 3689.
24 March 200k	Lumpy One Pickering Brook 7am....Colin Law 9397 7739.
7 April 600k	Hawe's Horror Rockingham 6am....Brian Hawes 9594 2730.
14 April 100/200k	Prison Pedal DWP 7am....Stevan Monot 9527 9317.
28 April 360k	OPPERMAN 24 hours DWP 7am...At least 360k...Make up own teams and routes. Please advise Bjorn Blasse 0404 866 070.
5 May 600k	Tolcher Torture Southern River 6am...Alan Tolcher 9490 4449
19 May 400k	Lonely Road Southern River 6am...Alan Tolcher 9490 4449.
2 June 200k	Mr Marston's Meander Toodyay 7am...Rod Marston 9368 4552.
23 June 150k	Taste of the Hills Armada 7am ..Paul Robbins 9291 8939.
7 July 100/200k	WA Alpine Classic Hills 7am...Klaus Hagedorn 9409 2570.

French Magic

In mid-afternoon we came off the Polders, wet and chilly. It was an hour and a half since we had left the train that brought us across Belgium to De Panne. We'd caped up straight away and eased ourselves out across the slippery tram lines through Adinkerke into the flat lanes heading east towards Calais and the ferry home. The narrow fen-like roads had bowled us a few googlies at first but we ended up riding briskly in file eastwards along the D3 for 40 flat but soggy kilometres occasionally passing through empty villages. "This is it, Bourbourg, we'll stop here for a coffee."

Everywhere was wet and closed. It was Monday afternoon in France. On the far side of the town square a weak neon sign dimly heralded the Café des Sports through the drizzle. "Over there, try that, it might be open."

We leant our heavily panniered bikes against the front of the café. We dripped up the slippery marble steps, opened the door and squelched inside. The bright mirrored interior was simply but elegantly decorated in pale pastel tones of cream and pink. The traditional furniture was arranged in low squared booths. A thin elderly man examined us curiously over his beer from his perch atop a bar stool. From behind the bar a well-presented middle-aged lady greeted us suspiciously, "Messieurs?" We ordered three coffees and asked if she had anything to eat. She looked at the clock, her body contorted, the face shrivelled and there was a sharp intake of breath as her shoulders rose in a classical French shrug that meant "No." Rather like a plumber giving you an estimate I thought. "Certainly," she said in reply to my next enquiry, "Bring in whatever you want from the pâtisserie opposite."

The Euro was strong and five of them were exchanged for the three biggest cakes offered by the pretty girl in the bakery. Loaded with goodies I re-entered the Café des Sports alongside two mature ladies dressed in smart but matronly frocks. They squeezed into the booth alongside ours and settled themselves before two beers. Our coffees were served and we tucked into our pastries as the old girls exchanged pleasantries with the lady behind the bar. She gave a little "Tut" and came out from behind the bar leaving the counter open and unattended. Slowly she walked to the half-hidden piano and settled herself on the stool and meditated for a few moments with hands clasped in her lap.

The ample body swayed slowly and she hit the first few notes very hard. Edith Piaff's "Je ne regrette rien." Nor did our hostess regret anything, by the sound of it, as she abandoned herself to the melody. Graham Haysom in front of me started to vibrate in time with the tune and to sing along as typically French tunes pealed out one after the other. "If they tuned the piano and found someone who could play, it would be even better," remarked Mike Ormerod when he returned from the loo.

Suddenly, as if from nowhere, a serious man in an open necked starched white shirt and smart black trousers appeared and leant across our table silently inviting each of us to shake his hand. Next he embraced the two old ladies with the appropriate number of pecks on each cheek and then he shook the hands of each of the beer drinkers at the bar. His circuit of greetings completed, he assumed his place behind the bar; he was the patron. At the end of each selection of familiar tunes from the music halls, (Piaff, Aznavour, Chevalier and even Freddy Mercury) there was polite applause from the clients together with the occasional "Bravo!" and "Encore!" acknowledged by the pianist with a polite nod of her head. On one occasion she did escape back to the other side of the bar but was soon inveigled back by her fans. Our man on the stool was moved to join in with some lyrics as were the old ladies who also jiggled around on their seats from time to time in a prelude to dance! The patron looked on benignly with the occasional condescending smile of approval escaping from beneath his well-groomed drooping moustache.

A half an hour after our arrival we were fed and watered and ready again for the road. We took our leave of what seemed to be the set of a 1950's French movie. Did this sort of place really still exist? We thanked the patron, we congratulated the musical entertainer and we bade farewell to our fellow customers. The English Tommies were pulling out again. We were given directions to St Marie Kerque and resumed our ride along the Canal de Calais in pleasant sunshine on dry roads. All was well with the world after an interlude of pure French Magic.

Mick Ayliffe

Audax Australia Perth Region Rides Calendar 2006/7

2007

Nov-06	
Fri - Sun 19th Over Night Camp Rod Marston 9368 4552	
Sat 25th 0800 150k	Foothills cruise Tony Gilespie Deepwater Pt - Midland Mundijong - Deepwater Pt
Dec-06	
Sat 2nd 0600 200km	Mid West Coastal route Ken dupay Coogee - Mandurah - 94577280 Clifton - Pinjarra-Coogee
Sat 16th 0800 50/100k	Freo Flyer Colin Falmer 93304441 Deepwater Pt - Fremantle Safety Bay - Rockingham
January	
Sat 6th 2000 200k	Mary's Midnight SUPPORTED Bjorn Blasse 0404 866078 Deepwater Pt - Coolup Deepwater Pt.
Sat 20th 0700 50/100k	Dog's Leg Loop Geoff Heliwell 93375046 Deepwater Pt, Dog Hill Deepwater Pt
February	
Sat 10th 1700 300k	Out and Back 300 SUPPORTED Ross Cussons 93172588 Karragullen - Quairading Karragullen
Sat 24th 0700 100/200	Phive Pies Peddle Nicky and Pengui 94332685 Deepwater Pt - Dwellingup Mandurah - Deepwater Pt
March	
Sat 10th 0600 400k	The Flat One Wayne Hickman 94543689 Brentwood - Mandurah - Yaloo - Dardenup - Return
Sat 24th 0700 200k	The Lumpy One Colin Law 93977739 Pickering Brook - Bakers Hill Toodyay - Pickering Brook
April	
Sat 7th 0600 600k	Hawes' Horror Brian Hawes 9594 2730 Rockingham - Beverley - York Midand - Rockingham - Pinjarra Lake Clifton - Rockingham
Sat 14nd 0700 100/200k	Prison Peddle Stephan Monat 95279317 Deepwater Pt - Mundijong - Jarrahdale - Deepwater Pt
Sat 21st	Opperman ADT 360k+
Bjorn Blasse 0404 866078	
May (Qualifier Catch up)	
Sat 5th 0600 400k	Lonely Road Gosnells - Nth Dandalup Dwellingup - Pingelly Alan Tolcher 9490 4449 Beverley - Gosnells
Sat 19th 0600 600k	Tolcher Torture Alan Tolcher 9490 4449 Thornlie - Nth Ban - Dwellingu Clifton - Mandurah - Thornlie and Round again

2007 (continued)

June	
Sat 2nd 0700 200k	Mister Marstons Meander Rod Marston 93684552 Toodyay - Irishtown - Meckering - York - Spencers Brook - Toodyay
Sat 23rd 0700 150	Taste of the Hills Paul Robbins 92918939 Armada - Churchman Brook - Mundijong - Jarrahdale - Armadale
July	
Sat 7th 0700 100/200k	WA Alpine Classic?? Klaus Hagedorn 94092570 Hills and Zig Zags
Sat 21st 0700 300k	Gasman's Giro Rob Godkin 94092570 Midland - Clackline - York Brookton - Midland
August	
Sat 11th 0700 300k	The Swinging Pig Graham Thornton 92933027 Rockingham - Nt Ban - Dwellingup Mandurah - Rockingham
Sat 25th 0700 50/100k	Burkes Backyard Ken Ward 93643601 DWP - Causeway - Vines Return
September	
Sat 8th 0700 100/200k	A Little Extra Ralph Morgan 933397259 Lakes Roadhouse - York - Beverly - Brookton - Return
Sat 22rd 0700 250/400k	Midland Military Mayhem Glenn Mitton 94983888 Midland - Chidlows - Toodyay - Calingari - Bindi Bindi - Moora Gin Gin - Midland
October	
Sat 6th 0500 1000	York, York and more York York maybe subed for Spencer's Brook
Nick Dale 94983888	
Sat 20th 200	Classic TBA
November	
Camp dates to be	