

WEST AUSTRALIANS ARE AT IT AGAIN

400 KM RANDONEE

JUNE 25TH

BY PHIL GIDDINS

Riders who completed the ride:

TERRY DOWLING
PHIL GIDDINS

DAVID MIDOLO
KLEBER CLAUX

PETER STEER
JOHN MARTIN

NEIL PORTEOUS

4.30 am on a cold, wet, windy, miserable Saturday morning saw eight keen (well, fairly keen) cyclists assembled at the Martin residence at Pickering Brook for a nice days cycling.

After a brief pause to admire Neil Porteous' wet weather gear (square knickerbockers, being somewhat more than knee length from North to South, and a similar dimension fore and aft) we were on our way through Pickering Brook and the rain. Talk about cold! Even the ice was frozen. The only ones laughing were the frogs, who hadn't seen anything like this since last year.

Down around Byford, Dennis Braddon notified everyone of a large pothole by riding through it, after which his back tyre became very flat. All adjourned to the shelter (one wall and small roof) of a nearby gas station, where I watched the spectacle of seven cyclists fixing one puncture, at the same time, in the dark. You see something new every day.

On through Jarrahdale to Albany Highway, where there was the welcome sight of the Audax trailer with the billy boiling, and even two glamorous hostesses waiting to dispense hot beverages. Mum never told me Audax was like this! The effect was somewhat spoiled by having to paddle through ankle deep mud looking for a bush strong enough to lean a bike against. Another blow for W.A.'s De-afforestation Programme.

South to Boddington, where potholes were the flavour of the month. There was talk of taking some of the good ones home as trophies, but no-one had a pocket big enough. Thence through Crossman and Dwarda to Narrogin, the way enlivened by amusing incidents like some one (unnamed) taking the wrong turn, and everyone else following happily behind, over 16 km of very muddy gravel road before we got back on the right path.

The next leg, from Narrogin, via Pingelly, to Brookton, was fairly uneventful.

At Brookton, fish and chips was general. After that, the rain came down, and so did the temperature. They used to tell me at school that water freezes when the temperature gets down to zero. Ha! The only things that froze on this ride were assorted fingers and toes, the rain just got wetter.

About 10 km up the Brookton Highway, John Martin managed another puncture. As we stood, cold and wet, in the mud beside the road, there was the roar of a powerful engine, and a well-beloved white car, with a blue and white check stripe down the side, screeched to a halt, did a rapid U turn, and pulled up behind us, bathing us in the merciless glare

News from the West

Dear Linda,

Just a little article you may like to use in the next Journal.

Regards

AILEEN MARTIN

This article is to report on and welcome our newest Audax riders here in the West. On Thursday 11th August nine riders left Armadale to ride one of our two permanent 200 km courses. The weather was not the sort you dream about for cycling, it was not real nightmare conditions, but it rained lightly for most of the ride with a heavy fall and strong winds at the finish.

All nine riders finished in just under 10 hours, six of us doing brevets and three doing ride only. Four of these six brevet riders were riding their first ever Randonnee and three of them had ridden 200 km before so there was a lot of apprehension and a deal of excitement.

Maybe you are wondering what is so special about this. The oldest of the three is seventy, the middle one will be seventy in October this year, and the youngest of the three is sixty seven (quite a youngster), but the punch line is that he has a pace-maker.

Quite an achievement I think and Heartiest congratulations to you all and we hope to see you on many more rides in the future.

Those earning brevets

Dave Vance	aged 70 years
Fred Watson	aged 69 years
Henk Kapiteyn	aged 67 years
Ron Masterman	aged 69 years
Colin Farmer	
John Martin	

Those doing ride only

Rod Evans
Merv Girdlestone
Aileen Martin

COMMENTS

A comment from John Hathaway a Canadian Randonneur "Remember: all roads are flat, except some are flat upwards and some are flat downwards.

A comment from Anne on the last 400 km ride at the Nar Nar Goon check-point who had been suffering from Gastro and had been forced to stop frequently between check-points, looked wryly at her well equipped tool kit and said "I shall know next time to put in a champagne cork and a large piece of elastoplast!!"

**AUDAX
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