

## 2015 Oppy (TrOppy) Team from Mackay

Team Cyclonic consists of four riders who ride fixed gear bikes. All four have at least two things in common. They all have a passion for riding fixed gear and they all know how to rise to a challenge.

**Peter Robertson (Robbo)** – The fearless, bearded one and the leader of the group. Peter is the Teacher/Guidance Counsellor at a local high school and father of four small children.

“I ride for fun, fitness and to save money. I also enjoy knowing that it is better for the environment than driving the car. The Oppy is one of the ultimate riding experiences as it combines the challenge of long distance riding with the connection of riding in, and for, a team. You can’t beat that. Next year the world record :-D”

**Troy Forbes (Forbesy)** The Electrician with a passion for fixed gear cycling. He builds fixies for himself and his friends, which adds fuel to his passion for riding. There is never a dull moment when Troy is riding in the bunch.

“Riding is my therapy. It gives me a sense of freedom in a controlled society. I’m riding the Oppy fixed in the company of like-minded friends and taking on the challenge for the sense of achievement.”

**Phil Burnham (Masher)** Protective Coatings Consultant and the team powerhouse! Phil has the ability to grind the big gears effortlessly and prefers the freedom and simplicity of riding fixed gear. Phil rides to stay fit.

“Staying fit affects me in so many ways; how I feel physically and mentally; my self confidence; and my relationship with others. Riding keeps me in a positive frame of mind. Without riding I don’t function to my full capacity”

**Jennifer Townley (Super Jen)** Health Service Manager for local Rescue Helicopter, Jen started riding following a shoulder injury paddling. She left the waterways for the roadways and highways and never looked back. With a passion for the extreme Jen is always up for a challenge and breaking new ground.

“Whenever I even think of riding, it makes me smile. The long endurance rides are the ones I love the most as they take me outside my comfort zone and force me to overcome adversity. It has always amazed me how much the human body can endure physically and mentally when pushed to the boundaries, and not to mention the special friendships and bonds formed during an epic ride.”

## The Route

Starting in Yaamba (just north of Rockhampton) the team will enjoy breakfast before riding 70km north on the Bruce Highway to Marlborough service station for an early lunch. Shortly after, we will make a left onto Marlborough-Sarina Rd, which is reputed to be serial killer territory by local Audax legend Peter McCallum.

One Marlborough range and 151kms later we hope to arrive in Lotus Creek – the only town on this section of the road. We are told the Roadhouse/Caravan Park is open until 8pm and are aiming to arrive in time to partake of some freshly cooked nourishment and ice cold refreshment. From there is a lazy 93km with a descent of the Sarina Range on our way into Sarina where we will wait patiently for 6am.

The last 48km in the last two hours will have us arrive in time for an 8am breakfast appointment at the Clarion Hotel overlooking the Mackay Marina filled with expensive boats. We will probably be inside enjoying the air conditioning more than the view...