

FLECHE OPPERMAN ALL DAY TRIAL

The Organ Recyclers: A petite story

Meg Warren

We were five gals from assorted locations in Victoria and our aim was to ride a Petit Oppy: two very seasoned Audax riders, two second-time around Petit Oppy riders, and one complete newbie who had never gone further than 100 km.

In true democratic style we voted on the tactics for changing the lead in both double and single file formation two minutes before we departed. At 10.05 am we keenly rolled out of the Maryborough caravan park.

We fortunately had loops planned out from Maryborough which meant we spent 50% of the time with headwinds and 50% with tail winds. The first 50 km in the stiff head winds saw us putting our slick formations into practice again and again.

After lunch in Creswick (advice: avoid the coffee from there) we were thankfully blown towards Maldon. Fortunately we stopped in Newstead for what has to be the best ever brownie available together with good coffee.

We hardly blinked going through Maldon then gritted our teeth (and clenched our sore butts) for the final stretch home via the Audax-infamous

Baringup. By now our newbie member Anne was having a PB every time she turned her pedals.

Back in the cabins we were showered, dined, had wine and off to bed by 10 pm Ah, such is the life of a Petit Oppy-er.

Morning bought stillness, a dark start which evolved gently into a glorious day and the chatter and laughs did not stop. We were wearing our signature jerseys now, the reason behind the name The Organ Recyclers. Our team limerick was honed and immediately on arrival at the town hall committed to a paper serviette. It goes:

*There once was five girls, a bike they did ride,
To do a P Oppy they all did decide,
They rode tight formation,
To promote Organ Donation,
And chatted and chuckled despite such a sore hide!*

The Organ Recyclers-Anne, Jane, Robyn, Leah and Meg



Queensland perfect

Sandy Vigar

Five teams and perfect weather! Queensland Oppy 2012 in summary.

Four and a half Oppy teams completed the challenge:

- Keep the Pedals Turning (Roger, Christian and Andrew) rode the furthest (454 km).



Christian Killeen, Andrew Bragg and Roger Hawley rode 454 km

- Fixed Oppynions rode 367 on fixed (well Martin and Stuart rode on fixed and Tony's bike decided to join in, switching to one gear half way through).
- The five Quintessential Speed Turtles (Simon, Dino, Michael, Nick and Michael) arrived at the finish with minutes to spare and broad smiles after 369 km.
- Rupert, Alex and Matt of Team S.L.Oppy also rode 369 km and stopped to vote along the way and to visit Australia Zoo!
- Peter and Hayden kept the flag flying for Les Lanternes Rouges, completing the distance after team mates fell ill.

Riders and supporters enjoyed a hearty post-ride breakfast at Brothers Leagues Club at Ipswich and 2011 national riding awards were presented to Simon Faber, Brian Hornby (still in a sling after an "off" on the Downs and Back 600) and Martin Pearson.