

Out of Our Depth

OUR TEAM met at Park Rd, Milton. As this was the first time some of the guys had met, we got to know each other and also some team strategy.

By the time we got to our second checkpoint at Jacobs Well at around the 120 km mark, the enormity of what we were undertaking was starting to sink in. Scheduled food and drink stops were becoming more of a focus and goal. Turns on the front were being well rotated and shared between the group.

Getting to Coolangatta at around 4.30 pm presented us with an unexpected problem: most cafes and bakeries were closed and/or closing and most other places were restaurants setting up for the night trade. We spent around 30 minutes looking for somewhere to grab some food as our next stop was at Coomera, some 60 km away. So we found what could be best described as the dodgiest carvery in all

Coolangatta. Bevan's Carvery will not be forgotten. All were surprised that serious illness was avoided.

The next part was to navigate the traffic on the Gold Coast especially from Broadbeach to Southport. A near miss with a taxi was the only altercation and while hair-raising for Simon, we felt this was fairly well negotiated.

Once at Coomera at the service station near Dreamworld, we enjoyed some pasta from Shaun's wife, Lucy. Even this wasn't without incident with the shop keeper getting upset at us using his bench seats without buying anything inside. We informed him that this was a bit hard to do when his doors were locked. We moved on quickly after he turned the lights off on us.

Coomera to Brisbane was our main part of night riding. We got a few cheers from a restaurant near the strawberry farm. We also crossed the other Audax team

on the same route. At East Brisbane, we rested, showered and refuelled with Megan dishing out some great food.

The next morning we were off at 5 am to Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary, our last checkpoint before finishing. Here we scoffed down some of Kim's quiche before heading out to the finish line.

When Brothers Leagues Club came into view, it was hard to believe that we had done it. It seemed so far away when we were at Park Rd.

At the finish line, I think everyone was pretty impressed with themselves. And even though we didn't know everyone when we started, I think we all had a pretty good bond by the end.

Thanks again for organising everything and we look forward to the next Audax challenge.

Brett Kerwick

The President's Men

THIS YEAR was my first as an Oppy Team Captain. A team of four formed after discussions on an Audax ride late last year. I wasn't in the mood for an all-night ride and none of the other riders had more than 300 km under their belt and one hadn't done more than 200 km (albeit one was a UAF on a mountain bike).

The team was finalised: Brian Hornby, Chris Richardson, Anthony Richardson, Chris Groves with Chris Ellis confirmed in the month leading up to Oppy.

As the course developer, I had to develop a course of 300 km, a sleep control, with 60–65 km in the morning. Beer had also been mentioned in the brief. The route was mapped and agreed having minimal controls, but Chris G still stipulated we stop every 50 km to eat and drench ourselves with water (as hot weather was predicted). I agreed to any concession to keep the team enthusiastic and on-board.

Basic route: Start at Brothers, go south past Peak Crossing, head north to



Coominya, southwest to Ma Ma Creek, east to Fernvale, then to Middle Park for a sleep via Ipswich, out around the Centennial Highway back to Brothers.