

This is the first year that we had Facebook to advertise to interested people, communicate with the RO, and keep the conversation going. This gave us a sense of where and how the other teams were travelling. I also noticed a few armchair voyeurs reading posts and staying connected with the event.

The day turned out very hot and humid with temperatures in the mid-30s, so hydration was very important. All handled the conditions well but a couple of us faded after lunch for a couple of hours. Bakeries can force you to eat too much sometimes, Especially the Fernvale one (yum). All riders were feeling strong when we arrived at the sleep control (Chris R couldn't finish his second beer, but in his defence was recovering from the flu).

Next morning saw us all back on the road around 4.30 am (some with an extra boost on their bike). Chris was certainly ready to go (see photo on previous page).

Chris R had a flat early due to what he thought was an impact so didn't check the tyre. This turned out to be his downfall as 25 km later when a softened tyre caused him to crash on a roundabout. We fixed the flat tyre (finding glass in the tyre) only to discover the rear derailleur broke off when changing down for the next hill.

We continued on to finish within time after leaving Chris to catch a taxi to Brothers. We had plenty of feedback on Facebook that we should have converted the bike to a single speed and continue. We all lacked the knowledge and skills to do this and as it turned out the cracked frame could have been unrepairable if he had continued.

The team was exhilarated by their achievement and have indicated they wish to try for something more challenging next year.

Brian Hornby

Facebook transcript for The President's Men:

- 10.23 am The President's Men are traveling well. 60 km done at 10.20 am
- 12.02 pm The President's Men are having lunch at Fernvale bakery. 90 km done.
- 4.20 pm The President's Men are having a sandwich at Ma Ma Creek. 178 km. Shop closing on Monday. Going to become a back packers.
- 7.15 pm 7.10 pm. The President's Men are at Fernvale. 236 km, 60 km to sleep stop.
- 10.45 pm The President's Men arrived at sleep control at 10.25. 60 km in the morning.
- 5.03 am The President's Men are on the road. First flat of the day. 50 km to go at 5 am.
- 6.08 am The President's Men are at Camira at 6 am. 35 km to go.
- 7.53 am The President's Men finished at 7.50 am

Doctors and Nurses

WHAT WOULD be considered by most nurses as a nightmare (spending 24 hours in the company of doctors) turned out to be a great 24 hours of riding with friends. Our team of five was made up of Rosie Goodwin, Vaughan Kippers, Mark Riley, Martin Pearson (doctors) and myself Anne Latimer (RN).

We set out from Lowood heading towards Toogoolawah. The highlight being the rolling hills of Mt Beppo road. On our return to Esk we were entertained by the antics of a mob of kangaroos. The heat of the day was starting to make its presence felt as we rolled into Atkinsons Dam with empty water bottles. After refuelling we headed off towards Mia Mia creek.

It wasn't until we had reached Gatton that the temperature started to drop. It was a relief to see the shadows lengthening across the road. We pulled out of Mia Mia creek with lights and reflective jackets on. The next two kilometres certainly posed a challenge for me as we rode over a loose gravel road which included a steep descent. However thanks to the encouragement of the team I managed to get through it.

There was now only one obstacle that stood between us and Mulgowie, our next checkpoint—the annual Gatton street burn-outs. However all was in hand as we detoured around this activity. The pace picked up after Mulgowie. We were pacelining into Laidley at average speed of 32 km/h. With only five kilometres to go before sleep we encountered a lot of glass on

the road which resulted in a puncture of my back wheel. Once again thanks to a team effort of bike and light holding we were back on the road heading towards our sleep stop at Sandy and Martin's place in Lowood.

After food, shower and sleep we were back on our bikes by 4.30 am as we started the final 68 km run into Ipswich. After conquering Tallegalla hill our last climb, spirits lifted. The downhill run into Brothers Leagues Club was simply amazing as we pulled in around 7.30 am.

Lastly on behalf of the team I would like to sincerely thank Sandy for her awesome unfailing support. Truly a unsung hero of the 2014 Fleche Opperman All Day Trial.

Anne Latimer