

The Audax, Eight/Six Tableland Towns in a Day (100k) report. - Gary Perkins

I expected a fun day but what I got was an absolute blast. 80 riders on the start line, about half of which tackled the 200km version. The ride toward the control point near Lotus Glen was with the wind and slightly downhill all the way so we cruised and chatted in the beautiful morning weather and quiet back roads.

After getting our Brevet Cards signed the cruise turned into a grind as we battled hills and headwinds on the return to Tolga. Once again Gayle (Ride Organiser and legend) had done an amazing job of keeping us on back roads for most of the ride.

The arrival at Control Point 2 was welcome as it was at the Tolga Woodwork Cafe so it was an easy, collective decision to have a break and coffee.

Back on the bikes we headed to Kairi then onto Yungaburra and Lake Eacham for Control Point 3. It was hilly but the break and feed had most of the group I was with riding well. Each control point was manned and stocked with a big box of bananas.

It funny but we've all driven the roads on the tablelands many times but until you do it by bike you do really 'see' them. It was gorgeous.

Left Lake Eacham and we wound our way back to Atherton. I had cramps set in at about 10km to go but manage to ride them out and felt great cruising downhill to the finish. For the final signing of the brevet card and a rest.

I can not wait for the next one on 15th May, Get High on the Tablelands which implies that I might need to get some Coperlode repeats in before then.

Get High on the Tablelands

Ride from Atherton through the central Tablelands farming areas of Tolga and Yungaburra, to the hillier southern areas of Malanda, Ravenshoe and Millaa Millaa. The ride features Queensland's highest gazetted road, spectacular views and a great downhill.

As soon as the registration page is up I'll post the link but until then check out the Audax Australia online ride calendar:

<https://www.audax.org.au/public/index.php/ridecalendar>

Great ride, met a heap of fantastic people, laughed, nearly cried, challenged myself and will be back.

Cheers

Gary