

Audax Yeronga Medley 110km 19/08/17 – Laura Diaz

If you have ridden with me, you know I'm horrible at directions. I wasn't too worried about the distance or the elevation but not getting lost was going to be my major challenge. So on Friday evening, we had dinner (spicy prawns), got my support crew to bed, set up the bike and started getting the maps organised for the following day. I thought I would be ok with a cue sheet only but there were so many turns I thought it would take me all day if I had to stop and check at every turn. I then decided to set up a Garmin map which worked great in another ride. Turn the lights off and tried to sleep. Nope, it wasn't happening. I was so worried that the Garmin file wasn't going to work that I decided to use [#ridewithgps](#) so I paid for the 3 day subscription AND set up a file in Google maps. I should be fine now, don't you think?

I woke up and uh oh the spicy prawns wanted to make a reappearance, not once but twice so I was running very late. (Pro tip: don't have spicy prawns before a long ride!!!). The ride started in a common cycling route so I was ok until I got to the end of the bike path about 25km in. I went left in lots of traffic and the Garmin starts beeping OFF COURSE, I look at [#riewithgps](#) and there's me, a red dot, away from the blue line so I decided to use normal Google navigation. I get my cue sheet out of the back pocket and it has become mush so I could just make out where I was supposed to be. I got to an intersection and I had no idea where I was supposed to be going but then coming out of the bike path I saw my savior the Fluro Audax Angel on a recumbent bike so I followed him.

I have been told a few times that Audax rides always present a challenge and today the wind was the winner. I stopped to eat something and saw Tracey and Tara flying past me, followed by my Fluro Audax Angel and John. I get to Centenary Highway and OMG the wind. I was holding onto the bike so tight because it felt as if I was going to be blown away! The 20km to the Yamanto check point took me over an hour. At some point, I was doing 18kmh, on a downhill!!!

John and I had breakfast at the checkpoint and I was so thankful we rode together out of Ipswich. There was a lot of traffic and a few right turns that I could've probably been uncomfortable by myself. We are 70km in and we saw Kylie and Shaun having something to eat. We say hi and keep riding and meet them again later on. At about 75km in, my support crew surprised me with a 5 minute chat. I felt a bit stalked lol but it was great to see them.

A few months ago, I went for a ride with my friend Belinda and we rode this hill (well she rode it; I walked it) so now that I had company, wasn't going to get lost and we were a bit more sheltered from the wind, I remembered this hill. So for the next 25km that was the only thing I could think of. But guess what? It wasn't really as bad as I remembered!! I rode it and I told a couple of pro looking cyclists that I didn't have to walk it. They were happy for me, I think.

And then, I got lost again. I knew where I was (I do this course every week!) but got confused and turn left instead of right. [#ridewithgps](#) told me to go right at a roundabout that would take me a hill so I just did a U-turn there. In total, I 'only' did 4km more than anyone else doing the 110km but hey I'm happy with that! Brevet card signed, mail boxed, support crew was waiting for me and a chat with John and then my first solo(ish) 110km(ish) adventure was done and dusted.

