

Fellow Queenslanders,

TheOppy is a 24hr team time trial at least 360k (Petit Oppy 14hr > 180k). You must ride as a team (min.3 / max.5) and finish as a team. This year the Oppy will start 8am Saturday 24th March and will finish 24 hrs later. More details: <https://audaxqld.wordpress.com/queensland-oppy-finishers/>

Oppy Facts

The Oppy is short for the FOADT or the "Fleche Opperman All Day Trial" or the "Fleche Opperman" or just the "Oppy". (Sir Hubert Ferdinand Opperman will be the subject of a future email.)

Fleche is short for Flèche which means "arrow" in French. Flèche Vélocio is also a classification of riding where teams start in different places and at a certain time converge on the one spot. The Flèche Vélocio was created in 1947. After the Brevets and Paris-Brest-Paris, it is the oldest type of event organized by the Audax Club Parisien. More info: <http://www.audax-club-parisien.com/EN/351%20-%20Introduction.html>



Flèches are now held all over the world at Easter. In the UK it is called "The Easter Arrow", in Australia it is the Oppy. And since Easter is a sacred time in Australia (because of the long weekend holidays, not religion) Audax Australia is the only country that doesn't run their Flèche actually on Easter. Last year's world-wide results here: <http://www.audax-club-parisien.com/EN/434%20-%20Results.html>. For example, in 2017 Germany had 57 teams, Brazil had 26, South Korea 43 and Belarus had 1. Australia had 26 teams in 2017 of which Queensland had 2.

And so, yes, the Oppy is a big deal. It is not so much a bike ride, but more of a sacred duty within the world-wide fraternity of Randonneurs. It is a time when Audax links arms across the sea, when randonneur-ness and bikey-ness crackles in the air; when the bakeries and breweries around the world put on extra staff to gear themselves up for the onslaught.

It is great to a part of a team; but your team will also be a part of an even bigger team.



POT (Potential Oppy Teams)

The enforced team association of the last email seems to have worked well (if one includes silence and outrage as positives). I'll update you on the latest rumours that popped up at the Christmas party. I'm sure some of them are true. Clearly these are works in progress, and I'm sure a lot of backroom camel trading is happening.

Registered Team Members
Confirmed Team Members
Rumoured Teams
Jenkins, Kippers, Raffelt, Lehane(?), + Rock solid team , no need to lose sleep waiting up for these guys; they can look after themselves.
Staines, Burnett, Booth(?) + These guys are on a mission, and I hear it is 600k plus
Dover, Watson, + Skinny & wirey
McCarthy, Yap, Burns, Edwards, + When the course can be designed flat, look out for the aero advantage. The wild cards.
Horner, Latimer, + If those names don't strike fear in your hearts, you don't know them
Bennett, +friends An out and back on the BVRT represents a massive challenge, this may be the most epic and dirty Oppy ever.
Hornby, Richardson, + Could be a Chris, could be an Ant, whichever there will be hydration involved.
Matthew Locker, + Koiled friends
Peter Robertson, + Mackay cronies
Gayle Stitcher, + FNQ possibilities
McMullan, Brown, Diaz, + Last year there were 6 petit Oppy teams in FNQ, about time for another SEQ team.
There are many others in the mix that I haven't named. Get yourselves on a team! (or form another team)

Remember you need:

- 3-5 members (strictly: "3-5 bikes")
- a team name
- a nominal captain (that does the registration etc)
- a route that you design (must be at least 360km, can't ride same road twice in same direction)
- supporters (optional) (can only give support at controls)
- sleep-stop (optional, but recommended) can be hotel, ditch, someone's house,

If you have missed a previous Oppy News Email, they are saved here:

<https://audaxqld.wordpress.com/queensland-oppy-finishers/>

2018 is going to be a great year to do the Oppy!

Mark (SEQ QLD Oppy Coordinator)