

Dear Fellow Queenslanders: a long overdue Oppy News Email,

### Oppy Facts

Sir Hubert Ferdinand Opperman was Australia's most famous endurance cyclist. He was the Patron of Audax Australia until his death at 91 in 1996, while happily riding his exercise bike. The Fleche Opperman All Day Trial (The "Oppy") is named after him.



(Casually Deliberate: Thy name is Oppy)

Opperman impressed at the 1928 Tour de France, but it was his performance one month later at the Bol d'Or (Golden Bowl) — a non-stop race over 24 hours — that galvanised his reputation.

During the event, his rivals sabotaged his bicycles, filing the chains so thin that they snapped under pressure. Forced to ride a heavy touring bike while his racing machines were repaired, Oppy lost valuable distance to his opponents.

Enraged at the foul play, he cycled on, refusing to leave the track in order to relieve himself. After hours of non-stop riding, spectators saw a golden stream flowing from Oppy's wheel onto the track and into the path of his rivals. They roared in support and chanted "Oppy" all the way to his eventual victory.

Oppy had completed just over 950 km in 24 hours, but when he tried to stop at the end of the race Bruce Small (Oppy's coach & later the Mayor of the Gold Coast) convinced him to continue riding to break the 1000 km record. The crowd chanted into the night, "Allez Oppy, Allez!" In 1928 he was voted Europe's most popular sportsman.

The Bol d'Or was not quite the same as a modern day Oppy, as the 950 km ride in 24 hr was achieved in a velodrome. However, it does capture the determination and sheer craziness of the ride. Today, toilet stops are encouraged on the Oppy.

## The Facts:

The Oppy is a 24hr team time trial at least 360k (Petit Oppy 14hr > 180k). You must ride as a team of 3-5 and at least 3 must finish. This year the Oppy will start 8am Saturday 24th March and will finish 24 hrs later at University of Queensland, St Lucia. Breakfast for Teams & Supporters at **St Lucy's**.

While the ride finishes at UQ, it can start anywhere of your choosing on a route of your own design.

The definitive rules can be found on the Audax website:

<https://audax.org.au/public/images/stories/Documents/oppy%20ride%20rules%2020081101.pdf>

## Oppy Teams: (get on board!)

I'm very excited to share news about a number of enthusiastic teams. With two months before the Oppy (24/03/18) there is still plenty of time to organise a team, but now is the time to commit mentally. There will be teams going for both male (528k) & female (365k) QLD records. And then there is the record of most QLD teams entered in one year which was 5 in 2013 & 2014. So looks like we are going to break that record! Exciting times.

If you want to join one of the existing teams with < 5 members, send them an email. Or email [audaxqld@gmail.com](mailto:audaxqld@gmail.com) There are still people short of forming a team & maybes waiting in the wings.

<b>Oppy Teams 360k/24h</b>	<b>Confirmed Team Members (alphabetical)</b>
Team SLO	Peter Jenkins, Vaughan Kippers, Pat Lehane, Kym Raffelt, George Row
Flat Out Oppytunists	Nick Booth, Nick Burnett, Steve Powell, Rod Staines
Hari-Hari**	Mark Harris, Mick Haywood, Ant Richardson, Mark Riley
Newbies / Pretzels*	Ral Dover, Scott McCarthy, Peter Watson + looking for 2 more riders
Team Tara**	Tara Horner, Tracey Howley, + looking for other female riders
DoubleJ**	Jonny Ayres, Jeff Franklin, + looking for other riders
The Extremes	Mary Ann Allen, Elizabeth Bradford, Paula Castle, Jess Mills, Gayle Sticher
Cairns Strava Crew	Chris Clair, Warren Elliott, Joel Little, Keith Mole, Damien Newton
Dave's Team*	Tim Cooke, Dave Mujunen, Virve Mujunen, + others
<b>Petit Oppy 180k/14h</b>	
McOppy / Cycle-oppies / Petite Nouveau*	Ruth Brown, John McMullan, Darren Milczewski, Les O'Shea, Mark Snell
BVR Trailies**	Justin Bennett, Jeremy Drice, Tim Golding, Nick Hemming, Peter Whittle
MMI (Me Myself & I)*	Anne Latimer, + looking for other female riders
Hawaii 5-0	Drew Burgess , Deb Gillespie, Brian Kittler, Peter Kyrakides, Lloyd Stonadge
The Waiters	Bob Adams, Joe O'Dea, Mal Gillespie, Rex Hutchison, Steve Kilpatrick
Small and Dainty	Kim Christie, Mark Kerswell, Nola Kerswell

\* Placeholder name(s), Team yet to decide

\*\* Placeholder name, I made up something until the team decides.

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

Mark (SEQ Oppy Coordinator)

Links to more info: <https://audaxqld.wordpress.com/queensland-oppy-finishers/>