

A Birthday Ride

By Peter Jenkins

Ian Bailey, who lives in Esk is possibly QLD's newest Audax member and he is certainly our newest R.O.

He was a NSW Audax member in the 90's and 00's and has considerable riding experience, including a crossing of the Simpson Desert.

He recently re-joined after a lengthy hiatus but not before our Ride Calendar was completed so he has had to squeeze his rides in around other events.

His first ride was a 50KM brevet run on his birthday March 9, which coincided with The Berry Good 200.

As it happened, an afternoon commitment kept me from the Berry Good 200 but I had time to complete Ian's Birthday Ride, which started and finished at Toogoolawah.

The course consists of a 30KM loop and a 20KM out and back section, all on good surfaces and on gently rolling terrain.



and in very attractive surroundings.



The country was very dry and badly needed some good rainfall. The route crosses the Brisbane River at Barney's Rocks where signs warn of likely flooding but the river was not even flowing, consisting of a string of waterholes.

What little traffic there was slowed down for our peloton of two and even raised a finger off the steering wheel! I'm not used to that sort of friendly gesture from motorists.

My ride partner, Lloyd, lives locally and appeared to know everyone we saw so that may have had something to do with it.

The only obstacle was bovine traffic.



The ride was supported and I thoroughly enjoyed my morning out. Unusually for a 50KM ride there were two controls, one for food and fluids and the other to mark the turnaround point on the out and back section.

I've suggested to The President for Life that we hold the AGM in Toogoolawah next year so that more of us can enjoy this route.

Ian's next ride is scheduled for May 25 and will offer a choice of 35KM and 70KM from Esk on the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail. It will coincide with the Esk show and the entry fee includes Show entry and reserved parking.