
AUDAX NEWSLETTER

PERTH REGION

December 2006

HAPPENINGS

- Congratulations to Tania and Andrew Jackson on the birth of their son ISAAC on the 11th November at 10lbs 7oz.....a real whopper!
- Klaus Hagedorn has had a rather nasty fall from his bike and we all wish him a quick recovery.
- Many thanks to Brian Hawes, who is standing down as president, a job very well done, but then Brian has done just about every job on Audax very well.
- Brian's email address is brianhawes@aapt.net.au.
- Brian Smith and Pat Briggs are off to the Tour de France in 2007 for 3 weeks. I tried to warn them about young ladies in Paris wearing fishnet stockings, but they don't seem to care!
- Just had my bike repainted by Milton "Spike" Jones, anyone who wants a really good paint job done can contact him on 9337 2541.
- Apparently Rolls Royce cars are so silent that at 100kph the only sound you can hear are the screams of the cyclist on the bonnet.
- Rod Marston turned up with a wonder bike you can break into 2 parts for ease of travel. I had one in 1953 that did this, only it did it on it's own at 60kph down a hill.
- Having been hit on the thigh by motor hoons with air pistols, I have a lot of sympathy for poor old rabbits now.
- Attached hereto is a copy of a ride I wrote for my UK clubs newsletter about our Audax rides.
- Watch out for snakes they are about early this year.
- A special mention to Colin Law and Wayne Hickman who started and finished just about every ride on the calendar this year, - well done!
- A very good attendance of about 35 on a rather wet weekend. A few hardy souls rode down to Pinjarra and back during a break in the rain. It was out to the vineyards and the afternoon and then a very pleasant barbecue in the evening. It was good to see Ken Jones and his wife Margaret turn up in their caravan after a stint of looking after campsites up North, his prison warden service would have stood him in good stead for that job.
- Big thank you to Margaret Tolcher, who translates and corrects my newsletters so efficiently.

Disabling

A Very Happy Christmas and a prosperous 2007 to everyone.

..... *Ralph Morgan*

Past Rides

9 September	600k	Rockingham Loop 4 valiant starters and finishers – Bjorn, Colin, Wayne and Avery McKestvine, - rain during the night and a sleep stop chez Brian Hawes.
23 September	150k	Taste of the Hills. A tough one with 9 riders in 2 groups.
7 October	1200k	Perth – Albany – Perth. A lucky window in the weather with storms before and after, gave good conditions, but unfavourable winds throughout. 18 starters and 15 finishers (14 x 1200 and 1 x 400). 2 Germans, 1 American and 4 Eastern Staters (1 on a recumbent), and John Evans who rode the whole thing on a 70inch fixed wheel (he has notched up 12 x 1200k and 2 x 2000k rides). One rider pulled out due to alarming readings on his heart monitor, only to find out later that the readings were induced by power lines along side the road. Local riders put the wind up the visitors with tales of giant Kangaroos, Tiger snakes and the dreaded phantom Nannup Tiger. A great back up by many club members.
21 October	200k	New Classic. Only 5 Riders and all finished. Carol, Alan Tolcher, Wayne, Chris Antoniou and Andrew Candy. (CTC). A really hard day with head winds all the way round except for the lovely Chittering Valley.

Future Rides

9 December	200k	Mid West Coastal Cruise. 7am Coogee. Ken Dupuy 9457 7280. Flat costal ride.
16 December	100k	Freo Flyer 7am DWP Colin Farmer 9330 4441. Flat costal ride.
6 January	200k	Prison Pedal. 20:00 Brentwood Graham Thornton 9293 3027. Up to the hills, night ride.
20 January	50/100k	Dogs Leg Loop. 7am DWP Geoff Helliwell 9337 5046. Flat and scenic.
10 February	300k	Out and Back 17:00 Karragullen Ross Cussons 9317 2588. Night ride supported.
24 February	100/200k	Phive Pies Pedal 7am DWP Nicky Armstrong & Penguin 94332685 Hills
7 March	400k	Long Flat One 6am Brentwood Wayne Hickman 9454 3689. Flat!!!!
24 March	200k	The Lumpy One 7am Pickering Brook Colin Law 93977739. A toughie.....
7 April	600k	Hawes Horror 6am Rockingham Brian Hawes 9594 2730 Not for the faint hearted.

.....Safe and happy riding to everyone.

Ralph Morgan

The Tortoise and the Hares

West Australian 200kms Audax ride – 25th March 2006 – a ride down the coastal plain from Perth with a minimum of hills by Ralph Morgan.

I (The Tortoise) looked at the start sheet and realized all my 22kph mates were obviously hiding under their blankets in bed. I was only too well aware that a ride in such illustrious company (The Hares) would be an exercise in humiliation and aversion therapy for me. Tortoise, on his knees, duly requested and was graciously granted leave to start half an hour ahead of the Hares.

The Hares as usual were 15 minutes late leaving (Tortoise 45mins ahead.) Hares have mechanical problems, and puncture, one of our best riders has a bike that is a rolling disaster. (Hare 1 hour ahead.) Tortoise has a 5-minute stop in Mandurah after rain (thank you very much God) to pick up a revolting sausage roll. Young saleslady could not believe that old tortoise could have ridden from Perth by 9 a.m. Tempted to tell her my life's story but must press on. The Hares stop here for half an hour. Traffic is very heavy going to the southwest for the weekend. Since the new railway construction Mandurah has changed from a sleepy seaside town where you went to eat crabs, to a haven for Perth commuters, the nouveau riche and retirement villages.

Continuing on the main road (has the next car behind me got my name on it's bumper?) and following the coastal ribbon developments I reach Lake Clifton. Future Shock! Where has the cosy road-house gone? Now just a deserted wreck.

At last, half way and off the main road to head back north with a raising tail wind, through delightful, quiet, country roads beside an irrigation system built by Italian PoWs in WWII. Suddenly there is a spectacular descent that would do "The Falcon" Savoldelli credit. But what is this? Half way up a long hard drag there's a man with a flag. If this is a surprise Audax check I am ready to berate him, but no, it's just a road team warning me of repairs ahead.

A slight detour to Coolup, a village of 4 houses where they still have a hitching post to park your horse outside the tiny store. (I have a 200kms ride to Coolup each year to celebrate our arrival in Western Australia.) On to Pinjarra Bakery where tortoise purchases their last excellent Cornish Pasty, which I consume on the move with a coke, which I usually prefer with rum. The hares get to Pinjarra one hour later to find the bakery closed (Oh dear, what a shame) but nonetheless they stop for half an hour anyway.

Next comes a 22 kms long flat straight road through very pleasant pastoral land known as The Dreaded Hopelands Road. It's a Mecca fro the local time-trial lads but a real trial if you get a headwind. I must be getting tired because I foolishly ride straight across in front of a speeding car.

As Mick Ayliffe's Dad used to say, I began to smell the stable door as I made my way as quickly as possible along roads that used to have paddocks of kangaroos, horses, emus and alpacas – alas no more, all seem to have become part of suburbia.

I arrive back 1 hour in front of the hares, some of whom are suspicious as to whether the tortoise actually did the ride or just hid in the bushes.

Bloody 225 kms, not 200kms, in 10 hours; the speed of light for a tortoise!

Ralph Morgan (now back in his shell.)