

MIXING BUSINESS WITH PLEASURE by Fred Surr 6 May 1989

On very short notice, I had to go to Perth on business for five days at the beginning of May. I knew that the business side of my trip would not occupy much time outside of normal business hours, so I dragged along the old commute bike (the funny one with the 5-speed hub gears). Seldom does so perfect an opportunity to combine business with pleasure arise.

John and Aileen Martin invited me to stay at their lovely home and I joined John for his little commute home -- a 20km uphill ride through the foothills of the Darling Ranges! John claims to no particular training for the Audax club rides; it's not hard to see why, he doesn't need to. John and I had an interesting jaunt through the hills on Saturday, giving me a chance to see first hand some popular W.A. Randonnée territory. For my fellow easterners who may never have been west of Adelaide, this countryside resembles northern Victoria, the closest resemblance being the area around Bendigo.

I was fortunate in my "selection" of weekends to visit W.A. A send off for Rod Evans on his round Australia record attempt was held at the Martins' house on the evening of Saturday 6 May. Rod Evans, a former Victorian champion, is attempting to break the current record in the Guinness Book of Records of 80 days for the 14,000 (or so?) kilometre journey, proceeding anti-clockwise starting from Perth on 14 May. The present record was set by a team of Danish riders in 1985. Funds raised from Rod's ride will go to the Asthma Foundation. Rod has asthma himself and hopes that his ride will help other asthmatics to appreciate what they can achieve despite their malady. Talking with Rod, one cannot but be impressed by the mental preparation he has done for this ride. His mind is clearly focussed on the magnitude of his goal, but the planning of every facet of the trip is already complete. By popular demand, Rod gave a brief speech in which he thanked everyone for their support, in particular Robert Min Oo and his coach Ron Masterman (one of the legendary "oldies"). Rod indicated that Ron insisted that he ride no more than about 200km per day and that he should not "let loose" until just the last few days! He also introduced Vanessa Bridge and Shawna Brown, visiting from the British Columbia Audax Club, who will provide him with support on his marathon ride. Rod invited any and all fellow riders from around the country to join him anywhere along the way for as far as you like (and that could be a very long way if you're really keen and can keep up!). On behalf of everyone, I wish Rod best of luck on his ride. I certainly hope to ride with him when he passes through Melbourne. And of course thanks to our new President John Martin and Aileen Martin for making my visit to Perth most memorable.

STOP PRESS: CONGRATULATIONS Rod Evans smashed the old record around Australia and completed his ride in 49 days. A terrific effort Rod