

**AUDAX RIDE OF 200km's  
PICKERING BROOK - TOODYAY and return  
BY: RUSSELL TREW**

RIDERS: Samuel Burton, Susan Campbell, Rod Evans, Colin Farmer, Phil Giddins, Lin Hambleton, John Martin, David Midolo, Carl Neiryneck, Peter Steer, Russell Trew, Graeme Burton, Kit Campbell and Merv Girdlestone.

In planning my Western Australian holiday I checked the Audax Program and discovered a 600km ride scheduled during our time in Perth. A great chance to meet new people and ride new and completely different country.

I received a great welcome when I contacted Bob Stockman and eventually found that I could take part in an additional 200km ride on 5th August, organised by John Martin.

This ride commenced at John's place at a chilly, if not downright cold 7.00am, 17 Riders took part, Phil from Freo had already ridden 50km to reach the start, and Rod Evans !fresh! from his mighty 50 day round Australia ride was basically on his first ride since the big journey. We meandered through some very pretty hilly country for the first 35 - 40km via Mundaring Weir to Mundaring then on undulating country to the first check point at Chidlow. Then followed back roads to Clackline on the Great Eastern Highway, turned north and headed direct to the second checkpoint at Toodyay. This was the turnaround point for an out and back ride, however Aileen set up a secret control a few km's prior to Chidlow on the return journey.

There was a third back at Chidlow then the dreaded hills for the last leg. These hills started to have a telling effect, however although spread out a bit, all riders completed the course soon after 5pm with some being very pleased to have finished within 10 hrs.

One potential hazard on the return journey was dodging stray arrows from an Archery Park a few Km's out of Toodyay; we all survived.

This was a very pleasant day, an excellent ride, passing through orchards, forest and farmland, and I certainly enjoyed the company and hospitality shown to me. I now look forward to the 600km ride on 19th and 20th August.

Many thanks for the very welcome hot drinks and eats provided. The ride was basically unsupported, thanks again Aileen.

Any Western Australian riders who may be journeying through Colac in Victoria would be most welcome to spend some time with us, I would also be very happy, if circumstances permitted, to show off some of our country side. It's different, that's for sure.

Regards,

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**600km RANDONEE PERTH  
BY: PHIL GIDDINS**

Our 600km randonné started this year as usual in the wee-wee hours of the morning, so well-known to parents of small children.

As we sped through the night on the first leg from Armadale to Kwinana, the moon was shining brilliantly, the air was crisp and clear and the countryside was silent. We spun along the bitumen with barely a conscious effort at pedalling. 'Ah!' thought I, 'What a joy it is to ride a bicycle!'. Then it started raining. It wasn't heavy rain, more like a thick dew that stretched from the ground to the clouds, which had come up in a few minutes, but it was heavy enough for Lin to put on his hat.

At our first stop at Pinjarra, we were greeted by Geoff with hot soup ready, and the new official Audax environmentally friendly cups; which earned instant approval since they hold twice as much as the disposable ones we used to use.

From Pinjarra down to Bunbury, we rode through farming country, surrounded by fat cows, standing up to their bellies in greenery, sucking up grass as fast as they could go. That sort of dedication to the production of beef steaks seems wholly commendable, especially to a cyclist with a rapidly developing appetite.

Passing through Mandurah for the second time, we were followed out of town by a local cyclist, curious about what we were doing. On being told we were spending the weekend riding round in circles for 600 kilometres, he was ecstatic. 'Wow!' he said, 'That sounds terrific! How do I join?'. Takes all kinds, right?

The second day, through Bannister, Boddington, and Dwellingup was just like the first, only better, if that is possible. The pace might have been a little slower, but that just gave us more time to enjoy the scenery. John, Ann and Susan replaced Geoff in doing stirling work with the sag wagon and the hot soup.

Altogether, this was a most enjoyable ride , with no potholes, no gravel, just enough rain to wash the sweat from our brows, tail winds all day, and polite motorists (mostly). What more could anyone ask for?

The riders completing the course were:

P. Bombardieri, D. Briggs, D. Midolo, S., Burton, K. Claux, R. Trew, C. Farmer, P. Giddins, P. Steer, L. Hambleton, J. Martin, M. Girdlestone