

Munda Biddi



Rod Marston has booked six 2 bedroom chalets [with full kitchen, trmf, bed linen and single bathrooms] at **Dwellingup Chalet & Caravan Park on Del Park Road, 1km north from town centre, for the Annual Club Camp for the nights of Friday 21st November and Saturday 22 nd November 2008.** For 4 adults occupying each chalet costs \$130 per night. The Club needs to send a deposit by the end of August, so indications of interest would be appreciated by Rod on 0413984771, SMS preferred. This venue proved popular last year and so we are keeping to a camp close to Perth (1.5 hour drive) with great mountain bike trails (the Munda Biddi and Waterous Loop trails) and road rides to Waroona, Pinjarra or Boddington for the very keen! Any caravanners lurking in the ranks may like to book their own site at the park, ring 08 9538 1157 and speak to Barbara. Ken Jones and Brian Hughes did this one year: it would be great to see you again.



The recommended MTB trails are (1) some 35km from Nanga Mill (drive 15km on sealed Nanga Road, south from Dwellingup) on a loop from Waterous Loop Trail, then on gravel Nanga Road, and then back on the Munda Biddi down the superb Murray Valley on a beautifully graded, smooth old timber railway formation trail, or (2) 70km from Nanga Mill on the entire Waterous Loop and back on the Munda Biddi from Hoffman Road to Nanga Mill. Both routes tried and tested by the Colin, Mike, Rod and Fiona recce team a few weeks ago. The team can also vouch for the quality of the counter meals at the pub! The café opposite the general store is still good for lunches and hot bevviess. For the less energetic there are great forest walks, the Forest Heritage Centre, the Hotham Valley Railway trips, the Marrinup POW Camp-disused(!), canoeing at Baden Powell Reserve on the Murray, and South Dandalup Dam, and a few trinket shops, all close to town.

**PHOTO
OF THE
MONTH**



**DO YOU HAVE
A PHOTO FOR THE
NEXT NEWSLETTER?**

These are all true stories. Only the facts have been changed to make them more interesting.

Five Dams 13/04/08 200km
Four riders on a fine warm day in the hills, with moderate winds.

Dirty Dell 03/05/08 35km dirt ride
First of three dirt rides, held on a perfect autumn day. 13 riders including eight newcomers (thanks to Nick Dale). Great fun had by all tackling sand, rocks and hills. Wayne Hickman sporting his wife's hybrid bike with road tyres. Mike Kaworski did a great job as ride leader.

Two Rocks Turn Around 04/05/08 100km
Another very fine day with light winds on a fresh route north of the river. Traffic built up on the way home from Two Rocks Café. 11 riders.

Jelly Legs 17/05/08 100km dirt ride
Second dirt ride on another perfect day after a very cold start. Four regular riders plus newcomers Graham Hird and Andrew Bragg. All finished, well done. A good hard ride and everyone stuffed at the end, but rewarded with a delicious pint at the Jarrahdale Tavern.

Mint Sauce 25/05/08 70km dirt ride
A very muddy ride after a week of heavy rain, centered on Pickering Brook. Neill O'Leary decided to take a spectacular dive into the mud, much to everyone's merriment. 11 starters and finishers.

10,000 in 8 01/06/08 100km
A brute of a hilly route on a terrible day with torrential rain and gail force winds. Eight starters and four valiant finishers (Ross Stevens, Colin Law, Nick Dale and Andrew Bragg)

Bunno or Bust 08/06/08 200km
Cancelled

Pie Shop Heaven 15/06/08 200km
11 Starters and eight of our hardmen finishers in very wet conditions. Graham Hird Brad Woodbrook turned up riding recliner bikes.

Rod Masterman Memorial 06/07/08 100km
Four starters and finishers on a very cold morning. A revised course via Singleton and Dog Hill. A very pleasant ride, made even more pleasant by a stop at Tony Gillespie's home for coffee and cakes.

SUMMARY HISTORY OF PERTH REGION AUDAX AUSTRALIA

Compiled by Rod Marston from the Perth Audax Club records

Beginnings with the CTA of WA: 1985-89

John Martin and his wife Aileen were inspired by the challenges offered by Audax riding in an account of the 1983 PBP (Paris-Brest-Paris) 1200km event in France by Russell Moore. They then proceeded to organise Audax-style rides in WA (under the aegis of the Cycle Touring Association {CTA} of WA, founded in 1974), with the first 200km ride being conducted on 28 July 1985 (with 18 riders), followed by a 300km ride and then a 600km ride in October 1985. John had previously corresponded with Terry Gross, then Secretary of "The Audax Club of Australia", based in Victoria, to get information on how Audax rides should be conducted.

John and Aileen did indeed go on to complete the 1987 PBP, along with Stewart Stockdale. Aileen became the first Australian woman to complete the PBP. Aileen Martin was the first Australian woman to complete a PBP in 1987. She was reported in the "West Australian" newspaper at the time as being the first woman to win the prestigious Paris-Brest-Paris bicycle race in France, which is not strictly correct. Aileen and John were touring in Ireland about 10 days before the PBP when Aileen was accidentally knocked down by a road worker, suffering a break to her pelvis at the base of her spine. She rode PBP with a cracked hip even though John had to lift her on and off her bike. Once she was in the saddle, she could pedal all right.

Evidently, John and Aileen Martin were clearly the founders of Audax in Perth and John remained Chairman for many years. This was recognised when Don Briggs, with the National Committee's approval, conferred life membership of Audax on John on 12th December 1998, at the annual Christmas dinner.

The formal inception of Audax-style riding in WA was on Sunday 2 February 1986, when John Martin called a special meeting at Mussell Pool of the CTA seeking "volunteers to form a sub-committee of the CTA to run Audax events in 1986". The energetic sub-committee so formed consisted of Robert Stockman (Chairman), John Martin (Secretary), Robert Min Oo (Treasurer), Neil Porteous, and Ron Masterman. This sub-committee was able to tap into the pool of organised cycling expertise built up over the previous decade by CTA riders and ride organisers. Much effort went into exploring the area around Perth and hinterland to devise 200, 300 and 400km ride routes accurate to the fine tolerances required by Audax Club Parisien ("ACP": the "parent" organisation).

The 1986 ride programme suggested comprised 2 x 200km events (CTA course and Kelmscott-Coolup & return), 1 x 300km (Midland-Brookton return), 1 x 400km (Guildford-Bindoon-Toodyay-York-Dale-Karragullen-Kalamunda-Guildford), 1 x 300/600km (CTA course), and 1 x 1000km events. No rides were conducted in summer: the season being from April to September.

As Phil Giddins recalls, the 1986 1000km ride started and finished in Armadale. There were a large number of starters, and one finisher, John Martin, who covered the final 40 km in an even 60 minutes. In April 1988, John organized a second 1000 km ride, starting and finishing at his house in Pickering Brook. There were about a dozen starters, and John governed the ride with an iron hand, requiring everyone to ride together, help each other and all finish. And, in fact, I think everyone did finish. Ron Masterman rode the first day with a boil on his bottom, which prevented him from sitting down. We stopped at sunset at Brookton for fish and chips. While we were sitting on the grass eating, Ron stood in front of us with one hand down the back of his knicks, giving us a blow by blow account, in real time, of his boil bursting. When we rode on, Ron was much more comfortable, and the rest of us had indigestion.

The "CTAWA Inc/Audax Australia Sub-Committee" met a further 26 times after that inaugural meeting in early 1986, at monthly to tri-monthly intervals. Audax ride rules and ride fees were implemented in 1986, and a similar rides calendar to 1986 was set for 1987 to 1990, with the addition of more 200km rides, including the hard Pickering Brook - Toodyay course. A support vehicle trailer was bought in May 1987 in conjunction with the CTA, who still used it until a few years ago: we still have it!

Terry Gross of the National Committee invited WA to run an Opperman All Day Trial to be held on 16/17th October 1988, which was accepted. There were 30 riders participating in 8 teams, and the event finished at the Midland Racing Track. Sir Hubert Opperman was personally signing certificates in those days and he even made a donation to enable the Midland track to be hired. Key members of ACP, Robert and Suzanne Lepertel, visited WA in late 1988 and congratulated Audax Perth on the success of their first Opperman ride. John Martin took the opportunity to speak to Bob Lepertel of the difficulties WA was experiencing in corresponding with the ACP because Victoria was very slow in processing our documentation. On return to France Bob pursued this matter further and Perth was given permission to correspond directly with the ACP. John Martin then became our **Correspondent**, and because all communication had to be in French, he enlisted the help of René Smeets who helped for many years as our translator.

John Martin's wife Aileen became Treasurer in early 1988. During 1988 Kleber Claux was playing a key role in the Sub-Committee on behalf of the CTA, as he still does with the CTA today. He reported that in 1988 a total of 91 riders covered an aggregate of 31,400km on Audax rides, and that John Martin earned what was then known as a "Super Randonneur 5000km" medal, one of the first Australians to win this prestigious award.

Audax WA is officially born

In 1989, a momentous year for Audax WA, 108 brevets were recorded for 36,600km aggregate, and five Opperman teams completed distances of 636km, 438km, 430km, 372km, and 372km: stirring stuff! John Martin had also been elected to the National Audax President's position in 1989, in the absence of any interest from Melbourne. Colin Farmer was also mentioned as a consistent performer that year and again in 1990.

It was time for a change and at an AGM of the CTA sub-Committee on 9th December 1989, chaired by John Martin, it was decided to make a name and structural change: Audax WA would remain affiliated with the CTA but would operate under the rules of Audax Australia. A new bank account was opened in the name of "Audax Australia WA" with the R & I Bank (now BankWest), with membership fees for Audax WA members being deposited to this account.

On January 12th 1990 the first "Audax Australia WA Committee" meeting was held, with the officers recorded as John Martin (President), Rod Evans (Secretary), Sue Campbell (Treasurer), Peter Steer (Rides Co-ordinator role), and Brian Hawes (who had been involved a year earlier, coming from an Australian Time Trials Association [ATTA] background). Brian remained a key member of Audax Perth for over 15 years, serving as regional President on several occasions.

Mother-In-laws' Revenge High Wycombe 8.00am	Sun 27 th July Contact Wayne Hickman	100km 9454 3689
One Dam Armadale 8.00am	Sun 03/08/08 Contact Colin Farmer	50/100km 9330 4441
Gasman's Giro Midland 7.00am	Sat 09/08/08 Contact Rob Godkin	300km 9386 1588
Skydive Express York 8.00am	Sat 23/08/08 Contact Nick Dale	300km 9285 0083
Garden of Eden Kalamunda 8.00am	Sun 07/09/08 Contact John Eden	50/100km 9291 9849
Dambusters Kalamunda 8.00am	Sun 14/09/08 Contact John Eden	50km/100mile 9291 9849
Webmaster's Wander Midland 7.00am	Sat 20/09/08 Contact Glen Mitton	300km 9498 3888
More Midland Madness Midland 7.00am	Sat 04/10/08 Contact Ross Stevens	300km 93875957
Spinal Fusion Fremantle 7.00am	Sat 18/10/08 Eamonn McClosky	300km 9370 5991
The Classic Bullsbrook 8.00am	Sat 25/10/08 Adrian Giacci	200km (Supported ride) 9328 8808
AUDAX ANNUAL CAMP (see info above) Friday 21/11/08 & Saturday 22/11/08		Choice of rides to suit all comers Contact Rod Marston 0413984771 (SMS preferred)