

Ride Report – 2018 Oppy - Koiled Crazyies

Rachel Edwards

Checkpoint	Total km	Arrival time	Control signature/stamp	Checkpoint	Total km	Arrival time	Control signature/stamp
1. Jondaryan	51			11. Dinmore	529	5:30	
2. Dalby	109 101	9:23 11:10		12. St Lucia	560 553	7:34	CN
3. Jandawae	158	12:53		7.			
4. Dalby	207 198	14:45		8.			
5. Cecil Plains	239 247	16:42		22 nd Hour	623	8pm	CN
6. Millmerran	296 286	18:27		State your position e.g. Smith Rd 28 km from Rochester	Brisbane Rd		
7. Leyburn	343 333	8:57		24 th Hour		7:34	CN
8. Clifton	378 370	10:30		State your position e.g. Rochester			
9. Gatton	447 439	1:21					
10. Fernvale	496 487	3:50					

Carry this card at all times. Enter signature or stamp & arrival time at each checkpoint. Riders may sign own cards at uncontrolled checkpoints.

22 hour rule: You must ride at least 25 km in the last 2 hours.

Koiled are a different breed - and five of our best lined up for this weekend's Fleche Opperman All Day Time Trial. A highlight of the annual Audax calendar, Opperman rides are ridden in the spirit of point to point, with riders given a finishing point and the opportunity to plan their own route, with the only requirement a minimum distance of 360km and a minimum of 3 riders must finish from a starting 5.

Every now and then a team comes along to challenge the records for the event. The Queensland Opperman record stood at 526km, set by the Flat Out Oppytunists (Nick Booth, Nick Burnett, Mark Riley, Rob Staines) in 2017.

Matt Locker took charge of route planning and carefully mapped out a course of 562km starting in Toowoomba via Jondaryan, Dalby, Millmerran, Leyburn, Clifton, Gatton, Lowood, Fernvale and into Brisbane.

The Koiled team of Matt Locker, Matt Hickey, Paul Newman, Mick Newell and Rach Edwards headed out of Toowoomba 8am Saturday to smash out some bulk kms. They were supported by a great team, Wendy, Anna, Rob and Cat taking shifts to meet riders at checkpoints with vital resupply. This was a critical part of the planning as there was not much around many of the places the team visited!



The team enjoyed a short tailwind before contending with warm conditions and tough crosswinds for the remainder of the event. The difficulty of the challenge rose as the hours and kilometres ticked by.

The oppy requires not just fitness but strict mental discipline to manage nutrition and unwavering resilience. It doesn't take much for it to become unstuck. The team lost Matt Hickey somewhere around 350km as he was unable to safely continue, struck down vomiting. The remaining four pushed on, before we unfortunately lost Paul at Gatton under similar circumstances around 3.30am as the massive effort took its toll.

The remaining three, Rach Edwards, Matt Locker and Mick Newell then had to finish for the team's effort to be recognised. Rumours of other teams going long had the team hoping to add some additional surprise kilometres as you may by the rule book - but now down to three riders, they were focused on getting home on the original route before 8am.

At 7.27am the Koiled Crazyies rolled into Saint Lucys, with 562km under their belts. As it turns out another team did plan a longer route, but lost all riders enroute except one - and didn't have the required three. Not for the fainthearted!

What a great team effort, riders and supporters included - and one for the history books at least until next year!