

Close to perfect

Aaron Hoette

Australia's first 400 km UAF brevet was held in Western Australia in August. This is how it went.

Early start just made it. Crisp, clear and cool weather. New route out of city being tried. Labyrinth of paths and road ways fluster some riders. Lateral rider Wayne follows wrong peleton. Gets lost.

Captain complains of sleep deprivation in ride lead up (yawn). Captain already flagging, between long bouts of chatter.

50

Route thoughtfully taken past another club's sausage sizzle. No takers.

Fresh south-south westerly tending southerly winds in the afternoon make tough going of route south.

Rider Caroline attempts to "headbutt" road surface, successful albeit with abrasions and superficial bicycle damage.

115

Pinjarra stop for various stimulants. Relaxed stop.

Suburban canal settlement provides interesting bridge obstacle for riders (think: upside down U). Lateral rider Wayne becomes more horizontal in bid for closer inspection.

150

Second visit to Pinjarra and the abandonment of the ride by riders Wayne and Caroline is revealed.

180

Travelling through the countryside toward/from Coolup control reveals isolated paddock converted to retirement village complete with caravan shopping facility.

Rider Tony alerts team to unfortunate odour now present in private toilet.

220

Preston Beach arrival with five minutes of shop time remaining. Hotplates now cold and clean. No tasty burgers tonight.

Vicious looking kangaroo attempts to stare down riders eating cold food, then employs evasion tactics in attempt to subdue.



The peloton sets off, led by a sleep-deprived Captain.

Cooler conditions settle in, Old Coast Road offers peaceful riding before Captain issues warning of large hill on Old Bunbury Road coming. Captain and rider Hari fall away in humiliating style.

Maximum speed obtained while descending hill on Old Bunbury Road.

Descent into Mandurah night activity location is without incident.

Several probationary drivers display their lack of road driving social skills, as well as several non probationary drivers.



The author takes a coffee shot

300

Arrival at rider Tony's Singleton installation to find hot food and luxurious conditions waiting. Several riders enjoy a shower with the exception of me.

Soup and mixed rice dishes thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated greatly by all.

Rider Diva departs to journey solo to Perth, retiring from ride.

Short but rejuvenating sleep.

Plentiful breakfast provision marred by lack of appetite.

Approaching the Captain who was displaying a moody disposition proved uneventful. All other riders seemed to be in fine spirits.

Crisp and clear pre dawn conditions. Sun up provides no relief from cold. Fingers suffering.

Coastal riding along extensive "roller coaster" like foot/cycle path irritates nameless rider. (But riders not called Perry find route very pleasant)

Blocked entry to path proves no obstacle to local rider Tony (don't tell the headmaster).

Rider Tony descends into sentimental ramblings on past riding in area.

Captain settles into familiar talkative condition while insisting on change of route authority and subordination to be rewarded with ride ratification withdrawal.

330

Point Peron visit, many facts on local geography go unabsorbed.

Weather becomes impressively mild and rewarding.

368

Rider Perry expresses wish to undertake bowel movement, satisfied at local recreation park facility.

Energy starting to lag on rolling hills toward Fremantle.

400

Small discrepancy in ride total kilometres traveled causes minor route modification, resulting in near perfect 400.2 km total distance at 27 hours.

Close to perfect 22.4 km/h moving average achieved.

Journalist Debbie waiting at finish zone with camera in hand to photograph riders.

A particularly pleasurable Audax Français 400 km ride is now completed.