

A Murrumbidgee Meander - 12-14 June 2004 - Bruce Hackett

Nine intrepid Wagga cyclists assembled in Leeton on Saturday of the June long weekend for the inaugural Leeton Audax Weekend, superbly organized by Peter Stoneman, Leeton cyclists and our own President Greg. Four Wagga riders joined the group from Leeton and Sydney to complete the Audax 100 kilometre while others rode a more leisurely 30-kilometre route to view the new concrete bridge over the Murrumbidgee, calling at the Lillypilly Estate on the return journey to check out the Bumhammer Tomato Relish, Fortified Shiraz and other delicacies. Then it was back along the Yanco Cycleway to settle in to our accommodation and prepare for the Pasta and Pizza Night at the generous and friendly M.I.A. Club.

On Sunday Gordon magnanimously decided to withdraw from the Audax 200 to give us the benefit of his scintillating company on the 60-kilometre ride to Golgeldrie Weir and Whitton. The weir surrounds were closed on our arrival, but four adventurers bush-bashed around the fence to view the weir anyway. Peter and Glen set a blistering pace against the wind to the village of Witton, where we were treated to a delectable soup and chicken sit down lunch at the Courthouse Museum, inspiring memories of another courthouse museum where some of us were well treated on an earlier ride. Among the exhibits were a copy of the Bryce Courtney novel *Jessica*, the action of which was set locally, and some photographs and memorabilia concerning John Whitton, Engineer in Chief of the NSW Railways 1857 to 1889, during which time 2071 miles of track were constructed. This evening we partook of another sumptuous dinner, this time at the Leeton Soldiers' Club.

On Monday after another hearty breakfast we assembled for the Audax 50-kilometre ride. This proved to be something of an orienteering as well as a cycling exercise, and without Marion's help I for one would have become hopelessly lost. But almost in spite of the winding route, some headwinds and the lead riders again setting a blistering pace, everyone completed what became a very enjoyable 50-kilometre ride, and indeed, another delightful weekend.