

Alpine Classic Extreme 250km (ACE 250km)

After a number of years on the Audax Alpine Classic Committee suggesting that we needed to add another more challenging ride (my suggestion being to incorporate the Alpine Delight) to the suite of rides on the event I am pleased to announce that finally a new more challenging ride has been officially added to the Audax Alpine Classic to celebrate its 25th year on 24 January 2010 in Bright.

The 250km ride, with over 4000metres of climbing, also celebrates the sealing of the Bogong High Plains Road from Falls Creek to the Omeo Highway thus making the Bright-Hotham-Omeo-Falls Creek-Mt Beauty-Bright loop a reality.

Given the extreme nature of the ride in terms of the lighting requirements, climbing, high speed descents, isolation and possible climatic variations across the route it is proposed that in the first year the ride be limited in numbers and that those participating meet minimal qualification requirements such as having completed in the previous 2 years any of the following:

- ✓ Audax Alpine Classic 200km
- ✓ Lake Taupo Enduro 320km
- ✓ Fitz's Epic 207km
- ✓ Audax Super Randonneur Series - 200/300/400/600km
- ✓ 2007 Paris-Brest-Paris 1200km (to open up the possibility for International riders)
- ✓ Equivalent rides will be sought from other countries to open up the possibility for International riders through advertising the event to LRM member clubs

As part of our Risk Management, the ride will be starting in the dark at 4am, following a full light and safety vest check in-line with Audax lighting regulations, from Bright with riders warming up and spreading out on the flat to Harrieteville before 'slowly' climbing safely into daylight on the ascent of Hotham. The first checkpoint will be at Dinner Plain before the descent into Omeo. Before the ascent to Falls Creek from the Omeo Highway, a refreshment/top-up point will be established at the Blue Duck Inn (Anglers Rest). On the ascent itself a water point will be established at Raspberry Hill. The existing Falls Creek checkpoint will remain open for the ACE 250 riders. Consideration is being given to a daylight 'lightless' start for the small number of riders who have done the Alpine Classic in the previous year in sub 10 hours. It will be on the proviso that they will be pulled from the ride if subsequently they are unable to complete it within the 'cut-off' time/daylight hours.

For more information as the ride develops, keep an eye on the Audax web site.

Alan Tonkin – ACE 250 Ride Organiser.