

Presidents Report to Annual General Meeting 18 Feb 2014

Welcome once again everyone and thank you for attending our Audax Victoria Annual General Meeting. It has been a very good year for Audax Victoria and I have been privileged to once again be President and present my report for 2013.

While it has been an extraordinarily hard year personally, I've once again been gifted with a Victorian committee that has been intelligent, supportive and enthusiastic for all things Audax. I've learned over the last few years what an amazing bunch of people we have as Victorian members; so many people constantly go above and beyond to ensure we have a calendar full to the brim of interesting and varied rides to suit all abilities across our state, volunteer to support our riders, and spend time doing all the administrative things needed to make our club great.

I'd like to mention a few highlights of our last year:

Alpine Classic

Last year the Victorian Region committed to work with national to rewrite the proposed regulations around the Alpine Classic. This we have done. The regulations are no longer specific to the Alpine Classic; they are a governance framework around all major rides that all states can benefit from. The regulations now specifically say that the ride and finances continue to belong to the state that the ride is run in, and also outline specifically what the additional governance is and why it is in place. The rewritten regulations were offered twice to members for comment – comments were only received the first time, and those comments were incorporated into the final document. After no comments were received the second time offered, the document was tabled at the national committee 28 Nov 2013 and is now in effect as a national committee document.

After a difficult but rewarding 2013 Alpine Classic, our 2014 running was relatively seamless. The 2013 running of the Hotham Classic had to be cancelled due to the same fire that threatened the 2013 AAC, but for the 2014 AAC our volunteers again stepped up, the weather was favourable and Phil Bellette headed a seasoned committee that ensured all riders had an enjoyable day. Thank you to the army of volunteers that make this the premiere event on the Audax calendar. We are hoping for good conditions for this year's 2014 Hotham Classic!

Rides and riders

This past year we celebrated the 20th running of the Wandong Winter Wander, which was ridden by nearly 100 members. We also had significant numbers attending perennial favourites such as the Warburton Lake Mountain Classic, Salute to Irene Plowman, Blackgate Saunter and Bound for Baw Baw.

The number of calendar ride entries this past year was almost identical to last year at nearly 1300 riders. The most popular rides continue to be the 100km (466 riders) and 200km (409 riders) with an increase in 1200km riders thanks to another successful running of the SM1200. More BA rides were ridden than BRM rides but BRM numbers remain strong.

There was strength and growth in the numbers taking advantage of our Permanent rides as they increased from last year (209) to 376 riders with again the 100km (144 riders) and 200km (200 riders) being the most popular, and 600km being the longest attempted.

The proportion of members to non members entering rides remains steady at about 77%, and 18% of our riders were female. Only 100 riders did more than 3 rides with Kevin Ware (68), George Judkins (60), Greg Martin (59) and Chris Rogers (57) being the most prolific.

This year, we offer 116 separate rides: 32 x 50 km, 69 x 100 km, 15 x 150 km, 69 x 200 km, 19 x 300 km, 8 x 400 km 5 x 600 km, 2 x 1,000 km, 2 x 1200 km; as well there are two complete dirt series available; there is an increase in the offering of Shared Path rides, and Mixed Terrain rides; there is at least one Audax ride every weekend of the year, and some

midweek; the Victorian calendar is made up of rides offered by 39 individuals or teams. All these statistics show an increase from those of last year and our challenge for the future is to increase the number of Ride Organisers to continue to introduce new rides to the Calendar.

Membership numbers remain stable, and we expect the number of riders and members to increase in the coming year as we head towards PBP 2015. I'd like to personally thank each and every individual who has spent time planning, organising and volunteering on rides so that the rest of us can enjoy ourselves.

Awards

This year we have an amazing 7 members for the 10,000km AAA award, 2 members for 50,000km Australian Randonneur Award, and our own calendar coordinator Chris Rogers with only the 2nd ever 100,000km Australian Randonneur Award.

At the AGM in Bright this year the Victorian region recognised three outstanding members for their contribution at both a state and national level: Trevor Gosbell, Helen Lew Ton and Gareth Evans.

And again Audax Australia has won the prestigious ACP Club Award (for the most BRM brevets issued by an individual club) thanks to the increased attendance from Victorian region rides, but of course, mainly thanks to the Alpine Classic.

Financial

It was with great regret this year that we said farewell to the incomparable Maxine Riggs, who faithfully served as Victorian Region treasurer for 9 years. Maxine has done an outstanding job of keeping our region fiscally secure, and we were incredibly lucky to find a talent such as Myra Morgan as her replacement.

Victoria region finances continue to be in a first-class state with a good margin, however the Committee this year recognised that we have a substantial amount in available funds, and have been seeking ways to spend this money for the benefit of members (without being frivolous of course!). It was decided to gradually deplete funds on capital, sustainable and recurrent expenditure over a number of years, down to a set reserve of \$50,000. Suggestions from members were sought in the newsletters resulting in a number of expenditures initiated by the committee including:

- Upgrade of outdated First Aid kits
- Upgrade of outdated Ride Kits, including purchase of new air pots
- Purchase of a new notebook computer and software for the Treasurer
- Donation of a signed Opperman book to the Opperman Museum in Rochester (refer Ride Calendar 1st June 2014)
- 7 subsidised Club Nights including the very successful Tour Divide night and free EOY BBQ at the finish of the SM1200
- Free Ride Organisers dinner
- Continuing to reward Ride Organisers via the ride voucher system
- Subsidising key rides including the Oppy, the 20th anniversary Wandong Winter Wander and extending the free entry to Bound for Baw Baw to key ride volunteers from all significant events
- Offering a limited number of ride vouchers for Victoria rides to Tasmania region to help increase their membership

The Future

Our own, home-grown Peter Matthews has once again been elected as our National President. Peter's views on increasing membership, the club becoming more accessible to younger and also female members, and ensuring our ride types continue to offer a variety across all geographic and socio-economic families is a strong reflection of my own views. I hope that Victoria continues to be strong supporter of the national direction in the future.

This is my last year as President. Due to personal reason I'm unable to commit to spending time on Audax, but I leave knowing that our committee has achieved a lot of good things for Victoria and Audax - leaving the club a better place is something we all strive for.

Peter Donnan, who convinced me to become president, also leaves his role as Secretary this year and I can honestly say I would never have been able to do my job if it weren't for his patience, knowledge, kindness and help throughout the past two years. Chris Rogers is also retiring as Calendar Coordinator, having produced one of the best, most balanced calendars of rides that I think we've seen to date. Chris has been a joy to have on the committee and I'm so glad to have worked with both these great men.

Thank you

And finally, thank you. Thank you to riders, organisers, volunteers, committee members for making this such a great club, and to partners, husbands, wives, children, family, friends and pets for understanding our passion. Thank you to my own partner David, who always greets me after a ride with a cup of tea and patiently listens to tales of my exploits.

Thank you to all Victorian members for allowing me the honour of being Audax Victoria president for the last two years. It's been challenging but with some moments I would not have missed for anything.

Michelle Hendrie

February 2014