



DAILY DIARY FROM RIDE DIRECTOR GEOFF KENNEDY

Rest Days

May 8 to 9 - Days 49 & 51 Brisbane

Great support from Woolworth's Caltex with a 22 thousand dollar donation in addition to their fuel sponsorship. The support of Australian Rotary Health was great with Chairman Terry Lees and CEO Joy Gillett flying to assist.

Stage 5

May 10 - Day 51 Brisbane to Nambour 140 km

Always difficult exiting a capital city. Some real hills around Eutlo and a late finish into Nambour showgrounds.

May 11 - Day 52 Nambour to Maryborough 121 km

Through Eumundi via some huge hills and a dead end road (thanks Google). Gonny Rundell's birthday lunch at Gympie and on to Maryborough via Tin Can Bay.

May 12 - Day 53 Maryborough to Bundaberg 139 km

A lap through Hervey Bay in the rain to Toogoom (bloody sand slide). Even time to visit my sister and perfect riding later to Bundaberg Showground.

May 13 - Day 54 Bundaberg to Miriam Vale 126 km

To the back roads, great riding through Rosedale with a small local produce market and lots of junk. Some directional issues into Miriam Vale (never trust a Queenslander to lead the way) camping at Miriam Vale Showgrounds was an experience but great atmosphere around the campfire.

May 14 - Day 55 Miriam Vale to Gladstone 68 km

Finish at Stuck Pond Park, the name says it all... Wonderful home hosting with Gladstone Clubs and a huge combined meeting with enough left overs to feed us for days.

May 15 - Day 56 Gladstone to Rockhampton 109 km

Perfect weather. Perfect driving. Flat and fast to the beef capital of Australia, dinner at the Great Western Hotel as part of the district conference while enjoying rodeo entertainment.

May 16 - Day 57 Rockhampton to Marlborough 105 km

Riders pass the 4000 km mark. Still on the Bruce Highway and into real cattle country with fantastic hosts at the Marlborough Hotel.

May 17 - Day 58 Marlborough to Carmila 130 km

Warm weather and a tail wind, party night at the Carmila Hotel.

May 18 - Day 59 Carmila to Mackay 110 km

An early breakfast at Carmila Hotel, help yourself to whatever you want. 7.00 am start through Sarina and into Mackay at 12 noon. A relaxing afternoon, time for hair cut, bike repairs, washing and an evening at the Souths Leagues Club.

May 19 - Day 60 Mackay to Proserpine 125 km

More great riding conditions, cool and very fast. Breakfast and T.V. interviews at McDonalds, morning tea at Palens and into Proserpine by 2 pm through very fertile cane farming land with a spectacular mountain backdrop. Home hosting with Proserpine and Airlie Beach clubs and donation of over \$5,500.00.

May 20 - Day 61 Proserpine to Bowen 103 km

Great support from Proserpine Rotary even the Caltex provided free fuel to Airlie Beach and out again and more sugar cane to Bowen and the big Mango. We had dinner with Bowen Rotary at the Yacht Club. The beach front villa accommodation was very nice.

May 21 - Day 62 Bowen to Ayr 120 km

Left Bowen and the very fertile vegetable growing area and then more sugar cane. Beautiful weather, pity those down south with floods and cold. Great hosts in Ayr and Home Hill Rotary Clubs with a delightful meal.

May 22 - Day 63 Ayr to Townsville 90 km

More sugar cane, more loose screws in tyres. Huge reception in Townsville, including a drive around the new V8 super car track with all the support vehicles and the Winnebago, which does not look anything like a V8 super car. The day finished with the Mayoral reception and dinner with the rotary club on the foreshore.

May 23 & 24 - Day 64 & 65 Rest Days in Townsville

Amazing weather and delightful time by the sea. Queensland riders have been great!

End of Stage 5