DAY 8 (Saturday 3rd October)

Tinaroo to Copperload Dam and then to Cairns (~93 km, 75% dirt. See maps overleaf)

OVERVIEW
A very big day. Today we begin our travel through open woodland country and end the day travelling through the rainforest ranges and then onto the urban environment of Cairns.

PLEASE NOTE – For those of you not keen to ride the Bridle Creek Track today, we will be able to take people along the highway from Davies Creek to Clohesy River Road, and then along Clohesy River Road until you meet the end of the Bridle Creek Track.

It will be an extremely scenic day our route is tough and long. However, efforts will be rewarded with spectacular country riding. The morning will be through open woodland country, pass some mining activity, along an irrigation canal and then through the best-ever rainforest ride and terrific views. Approx. 44.4km to a lunch break.

The flatter sections gets us to Bridle Creek Road and we continue, however once we turn into Bridle Creek Road the track involves three steep climbs. These climbs can be walked and there is quite a bit of uphill riding until the edge of the escarpment arrives and Cairns appears below. For those who may find this a little difficult we have organised an alternative route along the Highway for the after lunch section. Please advise organisers if you want to take the route along the Kennedy Highway.

Once Copperlode Dam is reached the remainder of the ride will on bitumen and riders will need to make the adjustment and be aware of the dangers of vehicles. The ride ends at Cominos House which is where CAFNEC is located.

LOGISTICS
Camp Tinaroo where we are staying, have been generous to our ride and we must repay them by leaving the area immaculate. All instructions in regard to rubbish disposal must be complied with.

SAFETY ISSUES
(1) The ride from Tinaroo to Davies Creek Road is mainly on dirt roads which are used by conventional vehicles – stay left.

(2) The Davies Creek Road is also quite busy with conventional vehicles – again, stay left.

(3) Road surfaces are either fine-pebbled granite or very rocky formed-roads. Both can be quite treacherous, so take care.

(4) Extra carbs will be needed in the morning and afternoon along with plenty of water all day.

(5) At the end of the day there will be a fantastic ride down Copperload Dam Road, remember cars could be travelling up this road. Specifically watch going around the corners.

To avoid getting lost, through sometimes confusing bush tracks, we must go through in groups. Nominate a front and rear rider for the morning.

TRIP NOTES – BEFORE LUNCH (48 KM)
At 0km, ride out of Camp Tinaroo to the main road. TURN RIGHT. Head downhill into Tinaroo and continue down to the bridge crossing below the dam spillway.

TURN LEFT immediately after the bridge. Take the road through an old gate and on to Barron River Road. The road surface is granite with fine pebbles!! A big hill awaits but check out the view back to the Tablelands! Continue along this pleasant and now flatter road towards old tin diggings with numerous roads heading everywhere. Stay close. The road now is a rough rocky track.

At 9km reach Tinaroo Creek. Continue on uphill to a clearing where quarry dirt is processed. TURN LEFT here and continue on to pass an occupied miner’s house. CONTINUE STRAIGHT past the house along to lovely little Emu Creek.

At 12km (previous+3km) you come to a large gate at Emu Creek. Regroup here. No one leaves until all are accounted for. Pull up the steep hill out of Emu Creek to another locked gate.

At 14km (previous+2km) go through the gate and on to a formed dirt road which is Tinaroo Falls Road.

At 14km you come to a steep dirt range which winds down for about 3km. Again this range is technical with rocks and ruts. Be very very careful. At the bottom of the
range, stop before the small cement causeway of Douglas Creek (at 17km).

Cross the Douglas Creek causeway and continue along the rocky road with mild undulations. You soon pass a sign "Wallace Quarry” on the left. You then hit bitumen. Hurrah!! But no!!

After 900 metres of bitumen you come to a 4 –way intersection with Henry Hannan Drive (approx. 24 km).

At this intersection head down Henry Hannan Drive and along more dirt road.

IF YOU CONTINUE ON BITUMEN PAST 1KM YOU HAVE GONE TOO FAR!!!

At approx. 30 km (previous+6km) arrive at a large dam ponding area associated with the irrigation pipes you will have seen in the bush on your right. At this ponding area you will be asked to form into groups with a nominated front and rear person. This may involve a small delay but is an unavoidable safety requirement associated with riding the canals.

DO NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES SWIM, OR GO CLOSE TO THE WATER, IN THE IRRIGATION CANAL.

In groups, continue to the northern end of the ponding area and follow the canals heading north. Your bike will fit through the gate space easily. Soon the access road hits a bitumen road, Malone Road, so beware of cars but continue ahead. You soon cross Emerald Creek a little further on. Pull out of the creek and pass some large farm processing and pumping sheds. Soon the last gate is reached. Again your bike will fit through the largest space in the structure.

Some navigation will be needed at the end of the canals so please watch for flagging and/or bike-ride sign.

When the canal access road hits bitumen TURN LEFT into Kays Road and follow straight. After approx.1 km, Kays Road veers to the left. Here we must VEER RIGHT into dirt Rollinson Road and continue ahead. Canals will again appear on your right, but not for long.

At approx. 40 km (previous+10km) arrive at the main Kennedy Highway near the Davies Creek Road. Continue 300 metres along the roadside easement and TURN RIGHT into Davies Creek Rd.

At 42 km (previous+2km) near a mountain bike trail head with a sign marked “Little Transfield Entry” turn left into Bridle Creek Road.

TURN RIGHT into Bridle Creek Road, cross Davies Creek and continue now down the rocky road.

At approx. 48km there is a sign relating to the Aboriginal heritage of this area. There are large shady mango trees on your right. Lunch will be in this area before you cross Bridle Creek. It is worth taking the short walk up to the newly re-opened path to view the aboriginal art galleries.

TRIP NOTES –AFTER LUNCH (45 KM)
Continue on a narrowing track which gets more hilly and steep. Notice the change in habitat (or ecotone) as you push further towards the mountains.

Soon you are likely to be walking your bike uphill. Cross through a large steel gate .

Its onward and upward for many kilometres. You will need all you bike manoeuvring skills once again.

Stay on the main track. Don’t explore side tracks. After a number of very steep climbs, only followed by equally steep descents, you finally descend to a large steel locked gate. You should be able to see large power lines crossing this point overhead.

TURN RIGHT here and continue up our last major uphill before afternoon tea. Cross through more steel gates which mark the Cairns Water catchment boundary. At the top of the hill you can see Copperlode Dam below.

Continue down the very steep and at times tricky descent to the road across the dam wall. A volunteer will be at the gate to let you through the usually locked gates. Many locals never get the experience you have just had.

Afternoon tea and a group photo will be at Copperlode Dam. It is a very scenic spot. You have just crossed the Lambs Range. Looking west, the mountain with a big white granite outcrop near the top is Lamb’s Head.

After afternoon tea you are on bitumen.

NOW MAKE THAT MENTAL SWITCH, BACK TO SEEING CAR DANGER AT EVERY TURN.

A slog of ups and downs takes you to the edge of the escarpment. A glorious downhill for approximately 10km is in front of you. Stop at two lookout points down the range. Please watch for cars coming up.

At the bottom of the range you must get on the other side of the highway (Kamerunga Rd) to head toward town.
DON'T CROSS THE HIGHWAY but follow the bike path which takes you under it. TURN SHARP RIGHT onto the bike path and stay on the bike path. After going under the highway stay on the path and head again towards town. The path pulls you up over a very short climb followed by a steep short down.

After the steep down:
- Exit the path at the next LEFT TURN into McManus Street.
- Follow approx 1.5km straight, until Mona Street appears at 45 degrees right, at a 4 way road junction. Mona street is only short taking you up to a roundabout. Look for the exit at 90 degrees to you.

ENTERTAINMENT
CAFNEC's famous curry night is our farewell celebration starting at 6.00pm. Beer & wine available as usual.

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

| Emergency Services (police, ambulance, fire)- 112 (mobile) 000 (landline) |
| Ride Coordinator – Kay Graham – 0427 325 088 |
| Road Team Contact – Sarah Hoyal – 0488 681 916 |
| Road Team Contact – Robert Zigterman – 0428 752 487 |
| Road Team contact (rear pick-up driver) – Carol Morgan – 0400 042 570 |
| CAFNEC (Josh Coates, Director) – 0438 752 487 |