

# BEST MOMENTS FROM CAIRNS TO KARUMBA BIKE RIDE

11 Aug, 15 by Fiona Harper

Billed as the Bucket List Ride of a Lifetime, the Cairns to Karumba Bike Ride is one of the most fun butt-busting ways to explore the Savannah Way and Cape York. As the mountain bikers (known as Dirty Boys – ladies don't let the name put you off, almost half the Dirty Boys are females) extract the dust from their ears and road riders (known as Rugged Roadies) anoint their calloused bottoms, please enjoy some of the best moments from this epic bike ride crossing Tropical North Queensland.

Supporting the Cairns School of Distance Education amongst other schools and organisations, the heart of the ride revolves around remote communities along the route between Cairns and Karumba. Funds raised are used to assist bush kids with their education and sporting needs – not bad for a bunch of lycra-clad lads and ladies!



Dirty Boys enjoyed plenty of dust, dirt & blue sky. Photo Travel Boating Lifestyle

Get on your bike!

While community assistance is the main reason the ride exists, for most it's about the rare opportunity to ride with a full support crew from the Coral Sea to the Gulf of Carpentaria. Few experiences can compare with seven days cycling across Cape York! A contingent of much-loved supporters and volunteers make up the rest of the convoy, keeping riders fed, watered, cleaned, medicated and entertained as the ride progresses westwards. Along the way local communities roll out the welcome mat, creating an energetic buzz as thirsty riders roll into town.



Rugged Roadies rode in fully escorted packs. Photo Cairns to Karumba Bike Ride

#### The ride in numbers

- 114 Road Riders riding 780km
- 52 Dirty Boys riding approx. 500km
- 18 Support Personnel
- 77 Volunteers
- Funds raised to date: almost \$100,000
- Youngest rider: 14 year old Samuel Carmody
- Oldest rider: 79 year old Ian Jackson (Pack 4 Leader)



The Catering Crew kept hungry riders, volunteers & supporters fed, performing culinary miracles in their mobile kitchen.. Photo Cairns to Karumba Bike Ride

Check out some of the best moments from the 2015 ride in the photos below. Are you interested in joining in next year? Keep an eye on the Cairns to Karumba Bike Ride website for registration details.

Let us know in the comments below if you've cycled in Tropical North Queensland – we'd love to hear about your experience!



Dirty Boys had plenty of close encounters with cattle as they rode through outback stations!  
Photo Travel Boating Lifestyle



Did someone say Cold Beer? The Club Hotel in Croydon knows how to satisfy thirsty riders.  
Photo Cairns to Karumba Bike Ride



Food stops were plentiful as volunteers and supporters laid out cakes, lollies and drinks throughout each day. Photo Cairns to Karumba Bike Ride



3 days down, just another 4 to go – keep pedaling fellas! Photo Cairns to Karumba Bike Ride



Dirty Boys found a novel way to clean the dust from their bikes. But they didn't stay clean for long! Photo Travel Boating Lifestyle



The Long Road ahead stretched for 780km . Photo Cairns to Karumba Bike Ride



Anthills & uphill, molehills & mountains, the Dirty Boys rode them all! Photo Travel Boating Lifestyle



Support Crew in Escort Vehicles kept riders safe. And hydrated. Dirty Boys had their own beer truck – thanks Laurie! Photo Travel Boating Lifestyle



Look Mum no hands. That's gonna end in tears! It's a good job that Paramedics love to ride bikes too. Photo Travel Boating Lifestyle



How far until the next drink stop?? Photo Cairns to Karumba Bike Ride



History lessons peppered most days rides as Dirty Boys followed historic coach trails. Photo Travel Boating Lifestyle





Rugged Roadies brought small towns to a standstill as they rode into town. Photo Cairns to Karumba Bike Ride



Despite the drought in Outback Queensland, there were a few creeks to negotiate before lunch was served. Photo Travel Boating Lifestyle



Rugged Roadies raced the Gulflander Train on the 151km leg from Croydon to Normanton with cunning tactics employed by both sides. Riders deployed their police escort to breath test the train driver at Black Bull Siding, causing a delay, while train passengers agreed to bypass 2 of 3 regular stops to give them the best chance to beat the riders. Pack 1 came in 10 mins ahead of the Gulflander and Pack 2 by 30 secs. Photo Travel Boating Lifestyle



Normanton's Kry's the Croc's mouth seemed a viable alternative for Rugged Roadies keen to ditch the bike and hitch a ride home. Photo Travel Boating Lifestyle



Cattle Stations provided plenty of pretty landscapes for Dirty Boys enjoying the flat terrain of Outback Queensland. Photo Cairns to Karumba Bike Ride



With the dairy country of the Atherton Tablelands behind them Dirty Boys went flat out, fast & furious through cattle country. Photo Cairns to Karumba Bike Ride



With the scent of salt air signalling the Gulf of Carpentaria on the horizon, Dirty Boys hitched a ride across the Norman River, enjoying the obligatory beer on the crossing. Photo [Travel Boating Lifestyle](#)



Support drivers and volunteers are the unsung heroes of the Cairns to Karumba Bike Ride – it wouldn't happen without them! Photo Travel Boating Lifestyle



After seven days and 780km, Rugged Roadies & Dirty Boys join together to ride into the finish at Sunset Point Karumba. Photo Wayne Harrison

Is there a more beautiful place to finish an EPIC ride? No, we don't think so either! Photo Cairns to Karumba Bike Ride

Fiona Harper is Cairns based travel writer. Widely travelled, highly acclaimed and much published, Fiona's articles & images are published across the globe. When she's not writing about TNQ she's probably running a marathon or exploring the world by foot, bike, kayak, camel or boat: whatever mode of transport she can get her hands on!