

## Oppy 2018 Team S.O.F.T

Helen Lecole

This was my first Oppy and longest ever ride. We set off from Ant's place at 7:59am according to my Strava (ok we jumped the gun) on what was to be a fun filled day and my longest ride to date. Ant got the first flat 38km in and we all had fun watching him change it on the side of the Centenary HW. We made it to Yamanto MacDonalds for our first control stop without any further incidents.

Setting off towards umm I am terrible with directions, pretty sure we went west? Next stop was unplanned with another Ant bike issue (I had fun telling him he needed to get that sorted, I may have used another word) with his hub and he basically was left not being able to freewheel for 250km but he is stubborn and didn't quit! Second stop was at Rosewood where we missed the bakery by "that much" with more disappointment for the boys finding that the local supermarket was also out of hot meat pies.

Our MacDonalds crawl, I mean Oppy, continued rolling on with our next control stop at Gatton MacDonalds, this was after going to Ma Ma Creek which, I might add, their little store has some of the best carrot cake. Now I know we passed through some wonderful countryside, trust me it was magnificent! I just can't remember the names of each town but I could tell you each time we were getting close to a cabbage or onion crop 🥬 Brasall was up next and you would think the boys would be over the Maccas food by now but you cant keep a hungry cyclist down, as Harry has told me before "any port in a storm".

I don't often take to riding at night time, mostly because I have trouble focusing properly, I may have also been reminded a few times by Harry about how me being up past 8:30pm is rare for me! Our last control point saw us rolling into Ant's place and relaxing with pizza and beer/red wine before getting some shut eye for close to 5hours. Mark Riley got the second flat before we left Ants house, must have been the long grass?

The last 30km I think was the hardest, I gotta admit my bum was sore. I really need to invest in a decent set of bibnicks for long rides 😞 A river loop finished us off at St Lucys by 7:30am and I must say, sore bum aside, I was stoked with our efforts. Mark Riley Mark Harris Anthony Richardson, thank you for making my longest ride anything but a chore. Roll on next years bakery crawl! I mean Opperman!