

PeachyMee 5/4/18

A few weeks ago chatting to Brian, I told him that it was hard to find people who were happy to do a longer distance but at slower pace. He immediately offered to do a PeachyMee with me on a weekday. I couldn't say no! In two days I was signed up for it and the girls booked into vacation care so I could go and ride!

The weather hadn't been great during Easter, so I was worried we were going to cancel. I then remembered Brian rides anyway (remember Esk at Night 2017 and a massive storm?). We started from Ferny Grove train station and made our way to Samford and then Dayboro. People often ask me how I can ride that bitumen road at night and to be honest, I really like it. It has the right amount of flats and hills that just feels right. After a quick water refill in Dayboro, we made our way up Mt Mee. I was slow, my usual slow or even a bit slower, but really enjoyed the climb as there wasn't too much traffic and the views were fantastic. After Mt Mee school, Brian pointed out Campbells pocket, it was a big no from me. I think I'm still traumatised from the Roller Coaster ride last year! Down D'Aguilar was a bit wet but still a beautiful descent. The uphill bit didn't seem as hard as the first time I did it a few months ago.

We arrived at Woodford and I thought I finally could have a little rest! But no, by the time I had ordered something to eat and had been to the toilet Brian had inhaled a pie and a coke (and put a sausage roll in his packet). I sometimes have trouble eating solid food during the rides but I was advised to do exactly what Brian did so ordered a pie and a coke but skipped the sausage roll. We then rolled towards Peachester. For some reason, I thought we were going to go up Commissioners Flat rd but the route took us the steep side, but with a sweeping beautiful downhill. I was looking forward to the Peachester descent as well, but we found road works and got stuck behind a truck and some cars.

Then the hardest part of the ride started for me. Maybe because I didn't eat a sausage roll at the top of the Peachester climb? I will definitely eat one next time! I found the roads towards Elimbah dead and slow, I couldn't get any speed up and I started to worry that I wasn't going to be able to finish the ride. I asked Brian if we could stop in Elimbah for something to drink and after a cold coke I felt so much better and got ok to Morayfield. We were about 140km in and Brian reminded me that we had 4 hours to do 60km which really lifted me up.

At this point, I was hoping to get to Sandgate with no breaks but we found a headwind and I needed another break at about 30km in. I knew that once I got to Sandgate I would be fine as I had done the last 25km a few times. What I didn't think of was the Jinker Track, which was so busy that I had to ride on the gravel bit of the road and it felt like a mountain... is this ever going to finish? Was the only thing I could think of! After dodging the traffic, we had a couple of pinches left to Brian's street and he promised me (I asked him twice!) that they weren't any more hills to Ferny Grove station.

I'm very grateful for Brian offering to ride with me, and I will definitely do this ride again soon. I'm also thankful for those who wanted to come for my first 200km ride but couldn't make it due to work or family commitments.

Thanks for reading, Laura ☺