

'Lets Elope' 400km, 300km, 200km and 100km rides 14 February 2015 by Wayne Hickman

Everyone gathered at DWP for a prompt 5am start.

The strong headwind all the way south was used as training resistance. The driving force behind half of the field was the goal of going to France in July and this was their last qualifier for PBP. It was pretty much head down, bum up all the way to Mandurah.

Wayne did point out to a car driver he was going the wrong way in a one-way car park in Mandurah! The car driver was a policeman in a police car! We are all human after all!. Wayne, Alison and Carol pushed on to The Leprechaun Cafe on Estuary Rd for coffee's, ham and cheese croissants, which were rewards for the 90km of headwind just ridden.

At the 101km mark we farewelled Carol, as she now turned back for home with the wind pushing her all the way. "Come on Al's only another 100km or so of resistance" Wayne said trying to sound upbeat!

Little bit of nice gravel on way into Yarloop and thankfully the Eckersley Rd works were all finished. We rode past Tony's turn off to Harvey and wondered how he had faired in the wind!

Just before Australind Sean and Stephen passed us on their homeward trip. Buggers had bigger smiles on their faces than kids in a candy store, as they now had the tailwind home! We stopped at the servo in Australind for ginger beer before tackling the last 16km to Bunbury. We spoke to Greg here as he was on the return trip home and remarked how nice it was to have the tail wind blowing him home, to his beloved valentine and wife Sharon.

The trip to Bunbury was uplifting as the ginger beer had kicked in and the thought of tailwinds home. In Bunbury we had a quick lunch, filled water bottles and we were off, Lets (el)ope this tailwind carries us all the way home! We saw Caroline on her way to Bunbury as we were coming out. I wondered if Alison and I had that same big smile on our faces as we had seen on Sean and Stephens some hours before.

With Australind and Yarloop behind us, it was very nice to finally get to Mandurah. We rewarded ourselves with an ice-cream, but when we set off to go I think the ice cream had brought our core temp down and I nearly stopped to put on my jacket. By the time Mandjoogoordap Drive brought us to the cycle path we were both warm.

We chatted most of the way home, but still the last 25km from Thomas Rd was like "Are we there yet!". The DWP finish was a very welcome sight, because we both needed a wee!

The ride to Bunbury took 11 hours and the return journey 8 hours. Just to give you an idea of the wind encounter on the day.

This ride and report is dedicated to the memory of Ralph Morgan who has cycled off to heaven on 2 February 2015.

Participants:		
400km (to Bunbury and Back)	300km (to Harvey and Back)	100km (to Paganoni Rd and Back)
• Wayne • Alison • Sean • Stephen • Greg • Caroline	• Tony 200km (to Southern Estuary Rd and Back) • Carol • Perry	• Patrick • Stewart