

My Glorious Mee 2015

Ten riders fronted up at Samford for Glorious Mee this year. I rode my Bike Friday. After the usual preliminaries where Andrew mentioned that he had changed the course from his original draft as you couldn't ride down a certain road. As 6.00AM came around we headed off out Mt Glorious Road. First challenge was the Goat Track then onto Mt. Glorious, the group broke into ones and twos. I caught up to Nick on this section and rode with him to the last up hill. I like this downhill so went down pretty fast. At the bottom I stopped at the park so Nick went past. The rest of the way to Somerset I rode solo. I was able to keep a good pace with a tail wind, the only other hazard was magpies.

I was forth into the Checkpoint, three more arriving soon after. We all refuelled on Andrew's rock cakes and slice. The first three riders headed off, and they must have had a good ride as we didn't see them for the rest of the ride. I headed off with the other three, Duncan, Shaun and Mark. This section around Somerset Dam is a bit narrow and winding so end up with cars stuck behind in places. Duncan and Shaun got ahead of Mark and I on this section to Kilcoy. Coming down the big hill on this section I found Shaun's Brevet on the road. Couple more magpies along here, and a few clouds appearing. Into Kilcoy to find a market in the park of the second checkpoint, Mark suggested Duncan and Shaun might be at the bakery so we went there but no bikes, so back to the park where we found them. Returned Shaun's brevet and got an egg & bacon roll for lunch.

Out of Kilcoy we felt a few spits of rain, sign of things to come. Onto Neurum Road. Andrew came past and said he would see us at Wamuran. Heading into Woodford we could see a shower off to the South which was the direction we were heading at the next turn. A short shower just before the right turn onto the D'aguilar highway then it started pouring. We rode on to D'aguilar for some shelter for a few minutes but we were pretty wet by then. Our next turn was Raaen road, Mark had the route on his Garmin so I thought this was OK, the rain had stopped and the sun reappeared. After about 5km we came to McConnell Road which had a "no through road" sign on it, never a good sign! So we rode a bit further on Raaen then went back and onto McConnell, it turned to dirt and proceeded up a steep hill and down again the road finishing at a B & B Retreat. Mark's GPS still said we were heading in the right direction so we continued on because we didn't want to go all the way back to D'aguilar. There was a track that continued on, which was extremely rough requiring more walking than riding as the track descended about 100m over a number of rock ledges. This was the track Andrew mentioned at the start so we proved him wrong. Fortunately this area was completely dry. At the bottom we came to another road and some asphalt and continued into Wamuran and the next Checkpoint. During our stop the last three riders came in as they had come the easy correct way.

Next challenge was climb Mt. Mee via Campbell Pocket Road. I had ridden down this on Mangroves to Mountains so knew it wasn't easy. I saw 17% on my Garmin a couple of times as I ground my way up in granny gear. About half way up it started to bucket down again which made it hard to stand without spinning the back wheel. Onto Mt Mee Road the rain stopped and the sun came out again. Next Checkpoint opposite the school, last refuel before home. From here you could see the next storm coming! And it was soon after Mark and I got back on the road that it started raining again which stopped before the main downhill into Dayboro fortunately.

From here we had three sections where we deviated off Mt Samson Road which was good as there was a bit of traffic but was bad in that each section had some new hills to climb. The last one was Old Mt.Samson Road where a runner beat us up the first climb! Back onto Mt. Samson Road for the run into Samford and the finish, Andrew waiting to congratulate us. I had 215km and 3800m climbing, was a great ride and thanks Andrew for the support and Mark for the companionship.

Peter Watson