

## Frank's Ride Report – 17/06/17 – Peter Watson

A good roll up for this year's event considering the weather. I had driven through a couple of showers on my way from Beenleigh. John McMullan was stand in RO as Brian was sick. At least it wasn't cold as we rode off under grey skies and wet roads. I often start at the back of the group and so it was today, with a couple of traffic lights putting me further behind. Soon we came to the first real climb, Scenic Drv. where I caught and passed a few of the slower climbers, then the nice descent into Bilambil, before the next climb, Hogans road. Along here I caught up with Justin and we caught two other riders who weren't sure of the route at Banora Point. Through Kingscliff and onto Salt. Paul and Shayne had got in before us. After a short time Justin, Shayne and I headed to Cabarita and onto Clothiers Creek Road and Cane Road. In places it looked like it would rain and the road was wet so the descents were taken slower than normal. There was a bank of heavy cloud over Tomewin. We stopped at the bakery in Murwillumbah for our second checkpoint and a feed.

So it was goodbye to Justin as he was doing the 100km course and Shayne and I continued on towards the next checkpoint. The course heads over the river then back towards Condong before turning East and South on Wardrop Valley Road, this is the quietest part of the ride though with a few hills. This road comes out onto the Tweed Valley Way and the second biggest climb of the day, Burringbar Range. After which there is a nice downhill into Burringbar and then Mooball where we turned left onto Pottsville Road and after a few more hills to Pottsville town for lunch at the bakery.



After lunch we met some other riders which we rode with down to Wooyung and around the long way back to Mooball. There was apparently a race on and I have never seen so many cyclists in Mooball. So it was just Shayne and I again. Next challenge was Burringbar Range from the South and on to the left turn to Stokers Siding, I thought this climb was easier than from the other side but I think I was just going slower.

From Stokers Siding we continued through to Uki. The rain started along here, it was fairly light but got heavier as we got closer to Uki and continued as we made our way to Murwillumbah and our last checkpoint. This road after Uki is a bit busy and the rain and with pot holes full of water made this part very tricky. We stopped at a little Cafe opposite the bakery and had some nice cakes etc. to fuel up for the last climb. I put my jacket on as it was still raining and I was starting to get cold. Of course halfway up Tomewin I was starting to cook and I had to unzip it. The rain stopped after the top but on wet roads it wasn't a day for a fast descent. Once at the bottom it was a brisk ride along the Currumbin Valley to the finish.

Thanks to Justin and Shayne for riding with me and thanks to Brian and John for organizing another great ride.