

Lucy's Longest Day Ever

Eleven year old Lucy Jurke shares her record breaking 2017 ride as Karapoti's youngest ever female finisher.

The first time Dad joked about the Karapoti, I was thinking "No way!" But about a month before race day, after a long holiday of a lot of biking, we went and tried it out.

We were planning to just do the first hill and come back down and still have a nice day out. We got to the top and I realised that I felt like I could go on and give it a good shot. We did it in seven hours with lots of breaks and after a few days I convinced myself into doing the race. After a few long training rides, Dad signed me up.

The 50km Karapoti Classic starts with a river crossing. Unfortunately, it was raining the day before and I got soaked up to my waist because the rivers were high. That also meant that the whole course was bogged out.

The Karapoti is legendary for its three long hills. The first one, very long and not too gentle, either. The second one, short and sharp, but far from easy and requires a lot of pushing. And the last one is a killer!

All the way you are just wishing you were on the last corner, but it just seems to go on and on and on. All of the hills are rocky, and have sharp hard bits of hill that just seem impossible to ride!

For me, it required a lot of mental toughness. I mean, being out there for over five hours, you need a lot of persistence! We were lucky with the

weather, but got stuck in the rain for the last long straight.

I ended up receiving a medal for participating and a Karapoti bike top for becoming the youngest girl ever to finish the 50km Karapoti Classic. Finishing the Karapoti, I was hugely proud of myself. I slept really well that night!

Oh, and Dad did it with me. But he got a puncture so I left him behind for a bit. Mum took off half way and beat us both to the finish.

P.S: Thanks mum and dad for your encouragement and support.

