

SARCC "PERFECT RIDE" Palmer & Mannum February 26, 2023 70km 850m Elevation

9.00am Sky is clear. Temp 15C a southerly wind. 8 riders assemble to commence the ride.

Riders – Bruno, Don, Greg, Jo, Kevin, Peter, Ros, Sven (Leader)

We depart Palmer and head north climbing along gravel based Davenport Road. After about 6km we turn right onto Gap Road which takes us east and through "The Gap", a very pretty access from west to east with steep rocky hills to either side. Exiting the gap the landscape opens up into sheep grazing country and the road whilst rough is very nice to cycle along. We had some lovely long downhill runs.

At the 27km mark we reach Lenger Reserve, a delightful lush small ecosystem which in winter could be almost impassable. Climbing out of Lenger Reserve and cresting some hills we get our first glimpses of the Murray River.



Lenger Reserve Showing Creek and Pathway (18km North East of Mannum)



Flood waters near Mannum

Cycling down Pruning Road we begin to see the effects of the floods, but also the first signs of repair occurring. We chanced it through several closed road areas. (Council advised that they are trying to



allow many roads to dry out beneath the ground before they allow heavier vehicles to use the roads.) Approaching Mannum main street we can see the massive levy banks that were built and the damage caused to the Caravan Park and also to many shops in Mannum main street. Travelling south into the head wind we climb out of Mannum and get great views of the river system and the very significant amounts of water still present.



Mannum Region in Flood 7Jan2022 and Main Street showing Levy Wall which is now removed. (We were able to ride through the main street but many shops were damaged and are yet to reopen)

We now head in a generally north westerly direction and encounter roads with soft sand to add to the climbing challenge. Looking back from our elevated positions we are rewarded with expansive views of the Murray system. The town of Palmer is in view for quite some time and almost teases us as it seems to take a long time to actually get there! We reach Palmer and debrief in the Beer Garden of the Palmer Hotel. A lovely ride, great weather, favourable wind, interesting sights and challenging also.



Palmer Surrounds