

Chickoppy

431km QLD record 2021

Tania Gover

Tara Partridge

Nakita Brown

De-Anne Attard

Philadelphia Holmes

Nothing never happens.....well not on a 24 hr ride . Many things will happen. Some of them are amazing, and some are not so much. All of these things though, are what attracts you to something that seems unachievable at first. The adversity IS the event. If it was easy, we wouldn't have wanted to do it. The 5 of us are normal gals. This is an extra-ordinary event and we are ordinary people... THIS sentence was the key for me .. ordinary people do extraordinary things all the time...why can't we. ...

If you want your life to be an adventure, you need to take opportunities as they arise . I always have thought this but how do you know when that is upon you?

I guess when Philadelphia asked us to be part of the team....." would you like to go for the Queensland record in the Audax Oppy?".....insert pause.....brain says (OK THIS IS ONE OF THOSE TIMES YOU SAY YOU NEED TO SAY YES TO OR YOUR LIFE MIGHT GET BORING)

YESSSSS ok I'm in. And we were in.

Coach says "Why?" answer "to see if I can" a friend said to me once that we always need a 'why'. He says the question will come up during the event. It did. I knew the answer.

Plans underway, finding the perfect route, controls and training.

Hot laps for 6 hours around a 1.1km track became our Friday night jam....hours spent training, trying NOT to expend much energy became normal.

Next minute it was race day....

To say things went perfectly would be a lie.

We definitely had perfect weather though. We are super grateful for that.

We had our incredible support crew Michael and Jordan, we could NOT have done it without them . each control stop they had our drinks, snacks and sunscreen in their hands for us. So much love for these guys.

Poor Philadelphia emotionally had to withdraw with sickness the morning of the event. This was difficult as it was originally her dream. We reluctantly rode out from UQ feeling both excited and disappointed for Phila.

Then... at 100kms, Dee had an accident and fell off her bike while Nikita ran into her and fell off too!! Aghhh. There we were...4 sitting on the side of the road, contemplating..... Dee had hit her head and had concussion so was taken home and then the hospital.

Regroup

Get your head back in the game

Nikita, (the toughest person I know) soldiered on with Tania and I. I had tears of pride as I felt us lift to the challenge of being only 3. We knew we had to finish as a 3 to qualify for the record. We still had so so far to go and we had all used a lot of emotional energy already.

There was no way we were quitting. There was too much emotion invested in this by now.

We rode into the hot northerly wind looking forward to our dinner stop so we could reset for the night. We stopped for an hour, ate, cleaned, recharged our garmins ☺ and we were excited to get going.

The night brings challenges...fatigue, shadow, hard to see potholes, tired support car drivers, sore parts of the body, extra toilet stops, ...its a lot. But I can tell you right now...the feeling when the sun came up over the bike tracks at Nudgee was THE most incredible feeling. There we were, 3 woman..skivvys, reflector vests, headlamps and ridiculous conversation.

The normal Sunday riders were starting out on their Sunday rides. Probably the same people we saw 24 hours earlier on their Saturday rides. It dawned on me at dawn.... We have been awake for 22 hours and been riding for about 17 !! haha I didn't even know my legs would go around for that long. I didn't know I could keep my eyes open for that long. I didn't know I could hold my bars with my hands for that long. I didn't know how long my stomach would keep accepting the amount of food I was force feeding it. I didn't know I could ride 430kms! I didn't know any of it...and I found out that I can. We did.

Tania has an abundance of confidence that I don't have in this area. She never thinks about the things that can go wrong, only the things that can go right. I kept mumbling to myself to think more this way, and then I realise that this was the first time I have done this. Now I can tell others that they actually CAN. You CAN ride your bike for 24 hrs and accomplish what you previously thought you couldn't. Your tenacity kicks in when you need it. Your strength kicks in when it has to. Your body will lift when you ask it to. Ask it to.....fear is the limiter.

I am forever grateful for the memories and bond I will share with my team. I am forever grateful for the experience I now own and will look back upon in my life and be proud of. None of this was achievable without the 5 of us.... Our team...always stronger together .

Instead of asking yourself why you should do something...ask yourself why not?







