

Simon rides out the storm in 24-hour slog for cancer

NICK KOSSATCH | 26th Oct 2015 6:56 AM



Simon Ackling cut a determined figure in the Great Cycle Challenge. Paul Braven

WHILE everyone else was at home watching the storms roll through Gladstone, Simon Ackling was out on his bike.

For 24 hours he rode the 6.67km circuit around Gladstone Marina and Spinnaker Park, stopping at 1pm Saturday.

It was gruelling, but he had a good reason for the challenge.

"My aunty passed away several years ago from cancer and I wanted to do something to raise funds for childhood cancer research," the 26-year-old electrician said.

"I started at 1pm on Friday afternoon and it was pretty much non-stop except when I had to fill my water bottles."

A thunderstorm swept through in the early hours of the morning but it didn't stop him.

"I was a bit cold and wet and was getting pretty dirty, but it was worth it," Ackling said.

"I was very sore and my brain began to shut down and the legs did not want to do any more than 20kph."

He raised \$2070. You can also chip in by logging onto the Great Cycle Challenge [Facebook page](#).