This past weekend, Jen and I participated in the Otago Peninsula Challenge, which is a mountain bike race beginning in Dunedin and ending 43 km later at the tip of the Otago Peninsula. Along the way, riders, runners, and walkers are treated to tough terrain and views of coastline and beaches that are incomparable.

The Otago Peninsula is rugged country, primarily owned by sheep farmers, though the beaches and network of roads are public domain. Overall, the race follows single track and paved, dirt, and farm roads, through the property of some twelve individuals. Much of the ride is only open for this race once a year.

Wild weather in Australia making its way to NZ resulted in a race day that was in the mid-90's. Given that over the past two months we've rarely gotten above the mid-70's in Dunedin, the heat was hard to handle. Moreover, the course involves a ton of climbing, with 4500 feet of elevation gain.

Jen and I both did well, with Jen completing the ride in about four hours and me in about three. Both of us found it very challenging and were still feeling significant effects one day later. Still, it was good fun.