

# Last Rites 200 km Brisbane

## August 19th

### John Gowty, Colin Carstens and Thomas Maslen

Race organizer Thomas Maslen threatened all sorts of devious and difficult routes, however settled on a course that started at Ferny Grove railway station, went through Dayboro over the testing slopes of Mt. Mee to Kilcoy and returned via Caboolture to Ferny Grove. All in all an undulating ride with 10k climb at about the 25k mark.

11 riders met at Ferny Grove on a mild spring morning with overcast conditions that would improve to sunny during the ride.

John Gowty took off for a fast ride and was soon never seen again as he disappeared out in front. David Jones, John Madigan and Colin Carstens joked that he was probably after a sub 8 hr,(and he got it, 7.46).

David, John and Colin rode together till the base of Mt Mee and agreed to meet at the checkpoint up at the top. David had done very little riding in the last 6 weeks so was not up to a fast ride. Colin was giving his trusty touring bike a good solid ride and was not interested in his usual fast riding pace John and Colin reached the first check point together,(53k), at the top of Mt Mee with Dave only a couple of minutes behind.

The next group made up of Melinda Hewitt, Tony Limpus and Dan Traves were only a few minutes behind and a decision was made to join forces for the remainder of the ride, now that Mt. Mee was conquered. John Madigan on the other hand was not so patient and headed off hoping to catch John Gowty.

The bunch of five teamed up and headed for the Mt Mee descent which was handled differently by all concerned. David rocketed down with Colin being cautious on the tourer and the remainder in no risk mode.

The bunch regrouped at the bottom of the descent and then cruised through D'Aguiar and Woodford to the Kilcoy checkpoint,(96k). This portion of the ride was over a relatively quiet back road and the group took the opportunity to get to know each other, discussed the differences between pain and fun and lent assistance when Tony got a flat.

Approaching Kilcoy, John Gowty was spotted cruising along nicely on the return trip with John Madigan only a few minutes behind him.

On the return trip from Kilcoy the bunch passed Helen Mead, Paul Holford and Steve Webster. Helen was doing her first 200k and really should have had someone with her to complete the ride as it was always Paul and Steve's intention to terminate their ride at Kilcoy. It must have been a tough ride for Helen and she must be congratulated in achieving her goal in finishing well.

The bunch made it safely to the third checkpoint at Caboolture,(150k), despite a magpie attack and Dave's bad jokes.

The last leg had more directions than the first 150k thanks to Thomas Maslen wanting to keep us off the main suburban roads and make the distance exactly 200k. However it must be said nobody admitted to getting lost In the final stages the distance told a little on those who had not done the preparation, however all riders who initially indicated they intended to ride the full distance, did so.

A great job was done in support by Thomas Maslen and David Horton being at every checkpoint, despite the large time spread in the field.

Riders names and total elapsed times:

• John Gowty	7:46
• John Madigan	8:07
• Colin Carstens	9:49
• Tony Limpus	
• Melinda Hewitt	
• David Jones	
• Dan Traves	
• Helen Mead	11:29

