

*The Audax Club of Australia Journal March 1991*

**SUCCESSFUL RIDERS:** Barbara Farmer, Maureen Murray, Jane Mield, Harry Hyde, Geoff Simpson, Greg Larkin, Brian Meads, Jerome Gallagher, Gem Harris.

This ride, organised by John & Aileen Martin, formed part of a very enjoyable weekend series of rides ranging from 1,000kms down to 200kms.

Having completed a 300km ride the day before, I was entrusted with the responsibility and care of nine intrepid riders ranging from juniors to more mature riders, many of whom were completing this distance for the first time. At 7:00am the riders were waved off with good wishes from all present (no champagne corks at this time of the morning). It was the first time I had been guardian angel/chief tea and coffee maker. So with the help of my assistant Adrian Freeman (11years), we quickly loaded the van and sped off to our first control 62kms away, at Toodyay. Upon arrival, we unloaded the van, boiled the kettle and heated the soup. All this was accomplished by approximately 8:10am so we sat down to read the paper and relax in the morning sun. This was going to be easy!

The first of the riders, a group of four arrived at 9:26am with the remaining riders 20 minutes later. The provisions were duly dispensed, all water bottles filled and brevet cards signed. The riders were again farewelled in various groups. By the time we had cleaned up, packed and driven to our next destination 51km away at Goomalling and boiled the kettle, things were not as expected. The first group started arriving again. We quickly realised that things were not going to be so easy after all. The pattern continued at our next stop, 47km at Meekering. The last riders were Maureen Murray (puncture on the way) and Geoff Simpson (who played the Good Samaritan - his excuse). They arrived 1 1/2 hours behind the leading riders. My congratulations go to all the riders who completed this 200km ride. Their spirit, comradeship and faces tell the story of why we all partake in these type of events. They also made my job a pleasurable and rewarding experience (one that all riders should try occasionally).