

Last weekend six Griffith Cycle Club riders travelled to Moruya on the south coast to compete in the NSW State Masters Road Championships.

The Masters championships are contested in age divisions of 5 year brackets with division 1 commencing at 30 years of age.

Saturday saw the running of the road race championships over a very tough 17km course that includes many tough climbs. The criterium championships were on Sunday. This event is a circuit race which was held on some very fast roads around an industrial estate. Criterium racing is usually very hard and fast.

Jenni Massey was once again the star of the troupe claiming a bronze medal in the criterium championship in Division 5. She put in a super performance to once again show that she is one of the best masters racers in her division in the country.

Massey also finished 8<sup>th</sup> in her road race after being in position to claim another medal but faded slightly on the tough uphill sprint to the line.

Peter Budd was the next best placed rider after his 5<sup>th</sup> place in the division 5 criterium championship. Budd put in a great ride to near the front of his bunch for the whole race and with 3 laps to go was off the front of the race with one other rider.

Unfortunately for Budd the break was chased down by the peloton and he had little time to recover in time for the sprint despite tired legs Budd put in a good sprint to claim 5<sup>th</sup> place just behind the podium riders.

Budd also put in a strong ride in his 71km road event with a 14<sup>th</sup> placing from 40 riders.

Russell Webb had a disastrous day in the road race when a mechanical problem put him out of the race after only 4 kilometres. He made up for that disappointment with a great ride in the division 3 criterium championship with a strong 11<sup>th</sup> place finish.

Competing against some very seasoned riders Webb was contesting only his second criterium race and he performed beyond all expectations. Keeping towards the front of the field is the challenge and Webb was riding like a person with much more experience. A bunch sprint finished his race and he did a great sprint to just miss out on the top 10.

Jason Minato was up for a challenging 92km road race in division 2 and he performed exceptionally well to finish in 23<sup>rd</sup> place. The race ended in a bunch finish up the grueling 600 metre climb and Minato was in contention until the gradient started to bite.

Minato also had a good ride in the criterium championship with a 15<sup>th</sup> place finish. In a very fast race Minato rode in good position near the front of the peloton. As the pace grew quicker in the closing laps it was a fight to stay on the wheels ahead. Minato put in a good sprint to finish in the top half of the field.

Kingsley Massey was contesting the division 5 races and was putting in a good ride in the road race when a savage attack saw him off the back on a long climb. Massey continued to race and chase the peloton and finished in 26<sup>th</sup> place after a courageous effort.

The criterium championships are not kind to tired legs and after his big chase the day before Massey had tired legs. Constant attacking and chasing can see the speed go from 30kph to over 50kph in a matter of seconds and for the first ten minutes of the race Massey was hanging on as best his legs would allow until there was one acceleration too many.

Jeff Stoll contested the very strong division 4 road race and his 18<sup>th</sup> place was a good result. Going in to the finale Stoll was in good position but was boxed in on the penultimate climb as riders surged forward. The final climb was at a blistering speed and Stoll improved his position as the line approached.

Stoll backed up his road performance with a 25<sup>th</sup> place finish in the criterium championship after a strong showing throughout the race.

Next year will see the championships being contested in Goulburn and it is hoped that we will see even more club riders contesting the event.