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No, Madness isn't an English pop band (actually it is) , it relates more to insanity (a severe mental disorder) and folly. You don't actually have to be silly to ride the MOM but it probably does help a little.

It seems not only is there TBG but there was even a goddess (of Folly) in ancient times. Fester knew her well, her name was ATE, the goddess of delusion, rash action and reckless impulse who led men down the path to ruin. Fitted with a gear that had more teeth than himself, Fester easily won the Best on Ground medal today for his effort of staying with the leaders for the entire ride. Well done Fester - you're the most amazing, incredible, perfect, wonderful, sensational person alive!!!

So Day 31 of **le mois de folie!!** and as it was fitting that this was the first of the mountain stages with three category climbs. Our destination was Cottage Point to be followed by a loop of yaB anuka (Akuna Bay backwards).

Eighteen started and all made it to Cottage Point. Eleven did the reverse loop but we're really not sure where seven ended up. Perhaps, some sensible soul had taken up my suggestion and booked a table at the Inn. If so I reckon they're still there appreciating both the view and wine,

Even before we'd left the TMC car park, and having asked one rider if he'd ever been to Cottage Point before, Fester was heard muttering under his breath "you'll only ever do it once". Terminator and Tiger Woman led the peloton from TMC to the first of the climbs after the CP turn off. Seems that not even the wild life go down that hill, with a male lyre bird just making it across the road before the peloton took the turn off. Almost immediately the group stretched out and soon became a long string of riders from which emanated with many a cry of "Are we there yet?" and "is this THE hill?" These futile questions were suitably responded with 'no we're not' and 'no it wasn't'. UF advising us all to "Just be patient and all good things will come to those who wait - including suffering and death!"



Drastic was clearly disappointed not to be doing hill repeats this morning so instead filled a back pack with house bricks just to make a real test of it. JDS, Tiger Woman, Cathy, Green Pip and OHA all opted to stay in the lounge and officiate as to who won the 50 KOM points on offer. Terminator picked up those points followed by Drastic and Stu. Well done boys!

Once back at the turn off, most of the group then took the loop around Akuna – long and steady. UFester, James, Green Pip, Stu, Green P, Cathy, Tiger Woman, One Hill Andy, Terminator, JDS and Daniel. Having regrouped at the top of the last hill and in a ceremony somewhat reminiscent of what I remember from school Communion, the group then paid homage to the goddess of Folly by passing around a Cadel bar and even leaving a small offering of the remnant bar somewhere along McCarrs Creek road. Green Pip marked off his first time around Akuna and in the process reached the top before Green P – although he's calling for a stewards inquiry and royal commission.

So with a real month (that period related to the motion of the moon) completed today, and only a week to go it provided a brief moment to reflect on the undertaking so far. 103 bikes have been donated to NepCam which is just fantastic. At the end of the ride today, Tiger woman's bike computer says 2163 kms so far this MOM. There's only seven rides to go with the finale being Bumble Hill – 6.15 every morning at TC with normal weekend rides as per the Peloton Sports calendar.

