



THURSDAY NIGHT RIDES 2018

Jan 25, 2018

Report by Ron Milbanke

It has been a frustrating start to the new year with the MTB park seemingly a target for a plethora of different individuals with "track closed" signs. The park has been developed over many years by countless individuals donating countless hours of hard yakka to produce a facility which is a great asset and extremely popular. It seems that over recent months every man and his dog has been doing his utmost to keep the place off limits.

The club has been delegated the responsibility of looking after the park and ensuring that the tracks and users are not at risk in extreme circumstances such as very wet or very dry conditions. So it becomes annoying and frustrating when "others" assume the authority to close tracks for obscure reasons. If we add to this the frustration of the occasional pedestrian and equally intelligent sheep, sharing "our" park, the stress levels are on the rise.

Don't know if any of these factors influenced the lack of numbers for our Thursday evening ride this week. With only six riders, the ratio of admin to operations is inefficient to say the least. We would like many more riders but realise that there is life away from what we do. We would appreciate any feedback regarding Thursdays. If you could let us know what we can do to attract you to these events, we can analyse the replies to seek a better solution. Be honest and polite and we promise not to kneecap you if we don't agree with your response. We just want to make this as good as we can.

So six riders started last evenings ride. Others called in at the start but rode off in pursuit of other goals. Perhaps we need to up the prize money.

Hugo was full of enthusiasm and finished lap 1 ahead of Justin and Jimmy with Carl not too far behind. As lap 2 began Hugo succumbed to Justin breathing down his neck and from then on it was an effortless exhibition from Justin who just drew away from all in his wake. Jimmy also got past an unprepared Hugo on lap 2. Hugo has been running of late, and also late as he has yet to master his alarm clock. The seven oclock start was a bonus for Hugo. Carl also got past Hugo later on as the laps ticked over but he managed to stay ahead of Peter and Alana.

The heavens opened as we wrapped up, the brilliant rainbow giving us a heads up, but most would have had a soaking on their way home. It was a pleasant way to spend an evening and highly recommended as therapy for the frustrations illustrated above. Hope to see more of you next week. Peter is looking at a new start finish area on Taylor Pass Road next to the newest roundabout on Grigg Drive. The ride will be on the Taylor River around this area.

Please let us know if you have any ideas to attract more to our Thursdays, just reply to this email. Thanks.

O.T.R.