



THURSDAY NIGHT RIDES 2018

Jan 25, 2018

Report by Ron Milbanke

Greetings All

It was a tad sticky for this evenings encounter, temperature in the mid twenties and humidity causing a mushroom outbreak in the start finish chute. Warren was already dripping as he signed in after a 10 Km warmup. He and several others are preparing for the upcoming Coppermine Challenge with personal goals to achieve.

Peter W. set an interesting course with a couple of river crossings, not too technical, and a reasonably flowing track. Think he may have been checking out the fast lines as he came out of lap 1 ahead of the pack. Actually Bailey was the first past the post, but he was on his road bike and was impressively fast as he headed up Taylor Pass Road toward the dam. So another escapee got away from us, but Euan chose to return to the fold this week and put in some solid laps and some very tight u-turns at the start finish area.

Peter W. headed Sharn Jimmy and Warren after lap 1. Sharn was trying to avoid the dust as his bike had just been serviced and cleaned and was looking pristine. Jimmy was held up at the start in a deep meaningful conversation across the road. He was surprised that the field had departed and started about two minutes ago and headed off in pursuit. Didn't take him long to find the front despite Peter B. trying to distract him and missing an arrow. Didn't work so Peter B. turned his attention to the ladies and tried to annoy them for the rest of the first lap. Was good to have three ladies with Lisa joining Steph and Alana. Lisa had risked leaving dinner prep to the rest of the family for a ride this evening and seemed relieved that there was no fire siren during the ride.

So Peter W. carried on in the lead for two laps impressing all with his turn of speed. He said that he couldn't keep that pace up and succumbed to the superiority of Jimmy, Sharn and eventually Warren. Jimmy and Sharn finished lap 4 and discussed whether they would do another lap. The discussion was amicable and lasted about a microsecond before a NO verdict was reached.

So a very pleasant and social evening with a slight increase in numbers. With the school holiday coming to an end normality should be restored for next week. We will be at Conders Bend with registration from 6:30.

Thanks to all who responded to last weeks question on lack of numbers. Some valid points were raised and all comments have been forwarded to the committee for consideration. One of the replies came from Sven who is missing these rides, there is nothing similar in his new location around Napier Hastings. Sven sends his best wishes to all.

Of note from the replies was the fact that mountain biking is such a diverse sport, not only in the variations of downhill, enduro, recreational riding, but also within cross country racing/riding. There are several aspects of cross country race/riding with strengths and weaknesses in different areas. Some can climb, some like the technical stuff and others love the fast flowing and downhill sections. All this adds to the difficulty of trying to please everybody with course selection. Add to this that the course "setter outer" may have a full time job or a family demanding their time and therefore a restricted number of free hours. Most were very appreciative of these issues while others protested persistently of their pyrotechnically challenged posterior.

O.T.R.