



WILKES RM 2017 Soup n Bun Series #1 Pyramid Station

April 9 2017

Report by Ron Milbanke

Greetings All

It was a great party in the glorious sunshine at Pyramid Station this morning with everyone enjoying Justin's magic soup recipe. Thanks to Chris Dawkins and family for allowing us to use his pristine property situated in the picturesque Waihopai Valley Avondale Road. Chris obviously takes great pride in his farm and it is a great place to ride, even the pine trees seem to stand to attention in neat rows.

Thanks also to Steve Wilkes of Wilkes Resource Management for his generous sponsorship of the Soup and Bun series. I have it on good authority that there will be six such events in the series, one on the second Sunday of each month up until September. If this morning's turnout is any indication the soup makers are going to be busy. We started off with 46 riders and when word gets around I can see this number being equaled if not bettered in future events. We almost ran out of race numbers so it is important that these are returned after each event, please, thank you.

Lots of families enjoyed the morning, either that or we are running short of surnames. It is very reassuring to see parents bringing their young ones along to keep that continuity going in the sport. Soup and Bun is the ideal format to nurture this. Kobie was the youngest entrant at the tender age of just 5, and Keith was at the other end of the spectrum at 70+, so thanks mums and dads and wheelchair drivers for bringing our past and future along to the event.

Justin not only made the soup but also set out the two courses, one for the uninitiated and one for the more experienced rider. There was high praise for the enjoyment factor of the tracks with tight turns, moisture, off camber stuff, tree roots and a wee climb to keep everyone honest. Not sure that the climb at the end of the lap is a good idea, but I think most resisted the temptation to bale out at this point. Justin also planted a few Easter eggs around the course so we hope that all were gathered in. Would be a bad look if Mike's farm had an outbreak of chocolate bunnies hatching from the leftovers.

The attached lap times cannot conclusively distinguish between short and long laps although some suspicious times have been highlighted. The object of the exercise was for everyone to enjoy themselves and to get out of the event what they wanted to. Lap times are for the individual to see where they are at in the scheme of things, and to indicate where their fitness levels might be.

There were some interesting contests going on down the field, but it was no contest up front with Josh cleaning out from the gun. At the end of the day Jeremy was the only unlapped rider in second place. Interestingly Josh's best lap was his last, so you could surmise that he is pretty fit. Khan plugged on for third and newcomer Andrew impressed in fourth. Craig with all the cunning of a marathon runner slowly wore down Bayley, and Robert demonstrated his fitness ahead of the upcoming Masters Games. Todd turned up with no current training in his legs and defied science with some fairly quick laps, but young Josh was on his case for three laps before getting past at the end of lap 4.

Alana was best of the ladies with Kathryn next and Cheryl battled on no longer able to keep up with her kids. Get them doing chores before the race, that might slow them down.

Watching some of the younger legs getting up the finishing climb tells me that we are assured of some good riders coming through for the future. As for the older brigade, no-one seems to have written the manual on "when to give up", so they just keep going and going.

All in all a great way to spend a Sunday morning and we can only hope that the weather is as kind for the rest of the series, hope to see you all there. Will forward details as they come to hand.