



WILKES RM 2017 Soup n Bun Series #2 'HOMEBROOK' Maxwell Pass

May 14, 2017

Report by Ron Milbanke

It was a bit of an effort getting to the start of this one and Justin certainly made it an even bigger effort getting to the finish. The admin office and kitchen were situated for all day vistas at the top of the airstrip so those who rode to the sign in were well and truly warmed up by race time.

There was a track set out for juniors but some of the riders on this track were missed by the timing crew so a big apology if your efforts were not properly recorded. Some also took a short turn around the big course adding to the need for vigilance and confusing the already confused. We just hope that the ride, the setting and the soup compensated for this shortcoming.

The senior course was described as technical in places with some tough climbing in other places. There had been plenty of hard work preparing this course with Justin being ably assisted by Connor and others clearing the way. All in all though a good mountain bike test.

The usual suspects set off in front on the first climb, but by the end of lap 1 Merrick had cleared out ahead of Craig and Sven. Both Khan and Robert pulled out after one lap, Khan with a mechanical issue and Robert with fatigue. Perhaps he was wearing those two lumps of silver he picked up at the master games. Great stuff Rob, shame you had to wear lycra for one of the medals.

By the end of lap 3 Merrick had stretch his lead to around 4 minutes and thought that he was finished. But then Craig came across the line and started a fourth lap. Not to be outdone Merrick took up the cudgel and followed, then passed the consistent Craig. The winner crediting his fine form from riding many miles on the road. Hate it when that happens! Sven and Bailey were next then came Brendon putting in a couple of good laps after riding the first with Cam.

Fastest lady was newcomer Jasmin. She has an easy riding style, makes climbing look effortless and put in three consistent laps.

It was a great day for families riding together, as well as Brendon and Cam we had three generations of Richardson, and two of Timpson, Blackmore, McNabb, Washer, Inwood, Joseph and Foster. Susan Foster was also chief soup provider so many thanks Susan.

We also need to thank Graham Cooper, not only for the use of his property, but also for his help with the event. I am sure that Sarah was grateful for Grahams help and transport after injuring her wrist again.

Thanks to Steven of Wilkes Resource Management for the sponsorship of this series.

With 49 riders on the start line it is hard to keep track of all the great efforts out there and we hope that you all got great satisfaction from your efforts. One noticeable young lady showed great determination. On lap one she was coming to terms with one of the descents, hesitating and dismounting. At the end of the first lap she sat down for a rest and obviously thought about things before going out again and mastering the same piece of track four more times. Well done Sophia.

On other matters, there has been a great effort building some beaut berms on the junior track at the MTB park. Thanks to Keith and Josh on the diggers and the rest of the enduro guys for the design and testing.

Keith also tells me that after the recent floods, around 80 metres of his new Conders Bend track have been washed away by the rampant Wairau. Those who were lucky enough to ride those berms will have to rely on memory to relive those thrills. No doubt Keith will reflect and come up with a suitable alternative, we hope.