



## WILKES RM 2017 Soup n Bun Series #3 Lansdowne Forest

June 11, 2017

Report by Ron Milbanke

Hi All

Another Sunday stunner weather-wise and the Lansdowne Forest did not disappoint as a great venue. Thanks to Nelson Forests and farmer Glen Hamilton for the privilege of access to this great property.

While we are in thank you mode, Lowri made the awesome soup and has an opportunity to apply for this permanent position, no pressure. Justin is always happy to accommodate new or experienced soup makers, so if you are able and willing for any of the remaining events on the second Sundays of July, August and September please contact Justin on 027 200 1013.

Justin and Peter set out the course on foot on Friday. It wasn't until they rode it for the first time just before the event, that they thought it might be a tad difficult on a bike. It was a technical climb made difficult by the tight turns and required momentum to successfully negotiate. Once all the hard bits were mapped in the brain, the riders were able to prepare for the next obstacle. There was also a shorter course for those without oxygen and this was enjoyed by all who chose it. There was the opportunity to mix and match courses and some took advantage of this. The attached lap times cannot differentiate which course was taken so you can hazard a guess as to which was which.

One of the more satisfying trends of these events is the growing number of young ones attending. Once again we had under 5's riding. Today's shorter course was probably a little too hard for these young guys and girls and daddy Glen has come up with a good idea to cater for them so that they are encouraged to return. He has some small cones to mark out a very short flat track that they can ride with minimal supervision, and these will be in place for the remaining rides when Glen is not working. It was great to see mums and dads out there today encouraging their wee ones to try the various obstacles including the creek crossing at the beginning and end of the course. It was also gratifying to note the more serious riders safely negotiating their way around these kids and giving them plenty of room.

We had more new names and some returning after long breaks away from the sport. Notable among these was Mr. Hughes who will be remembered affectionately by many as the eccentric science teacher from MBC. We remember him as a hard working committee member from days gone by and a noted master of successful begging letters to pub charities.

And so to the ride. As previously mentioned it was a little steep, technical and slippery so it was no surprise when Justin the course setter emerged in the lead after lap 1. Jeremy was all aggression next out of the woods before a mixture of shorter course riders confused the order. Justin clung to the lead for the second lap before Jeremy got in front on the third, never to be headed. He rode two laps more than anyone just to ensure that his podium step was secure. Justin completed six laps before supervising the soup duties, with Bailey next also on six laps. Bronwyn was leading the ladies for a lap before Alana took over on lap two. Bronwyn handed the reins over to her significant other for the last three of their six laps, so they were the first team home, we cater for everyone.

Also of note, young Sean had a rubbing tyre after two laps, so Phil handed over his bike to ensure Sean had a decent ride.

There were many highlights during the morning, and too many to recall them all here. Each rider will have their own personal satisfying moments, reward for ignoring the frosty morning and getting out there.

Next event will be on 9th July, possibly at Taylor Dam.  
Keep an eye on the website and Facebook page.

There are rumours that there are to be Tuesday night rides from Forest Park car park. Keep an eye on social media for confirmation.

O.T.R.