

KTM CANCER CHARITY RIDE

The KTM Cancer Charity ride is over for another year and once again the Club has played a significant part in providing assistance to the organisers and riders.

Despite some unavoidable withdrawals, five club members in four vehicles attended – Campbell in the patrol ute, David and Terry in the Discovery, Ron in the Mahindra (with caravan in tow) and myself in the ute. After leaving the caravan and camper at James's reserve, we headed up to Charnwood to report for duty.

This year we were split into two groups; David, Terry and Campbell were assigned the top of Golden Mount for morning duty, while Ron and I were sent across to Gardiners Lane. We were also accompanied by Heath who was in charge of the insurance cover for the event. I'm pleased to report that our morning session was quite uneventful, the biggest challenge was getting a fire going and avoiding the chilly wind. Not so apparently for the other crew who were called to assist an injured rider before they had even reached their designated post. Then, before lunch they were called to assist a lost rider after some confusion by some of the riders over the corner man system. Of course, that never happens to us 4WDers....

After lunch, Ron, Heath and I headed to our assigned position on Golden Mount, while the other crew were to set up at the White Gum Gully camping area. We soon had the obligatory fire going, checked out the great view from the lookout area and got ourselves settled nicely around the fire, when the call came through for assistance for an injured rider near the top of Police track. Hmmmm, that would be a job for the other crew who were much closer to the scene than we were, but in spite of many calls to them (DJ wouldn't even answer his mobile phone!) we got no response. Ron stayed to provide lollies and drinks to the riders and keep the fire company, while Heath and I set off to find the rider. When we located him, we found he'd aggravated an old knee injury and was having problems standing on the foot pegs, so Heath rode the bike back to camp while I ferried the rider back. On arrival at camp we organised some ice and a compression bandage until medical assistance arrived and were about to head back to Ron, when the other crew arrived with news of their adventures during the afternoon. It turned out that they didn't even get to their destination at White Gum Gully; they were called to assist an injured rider over on lightning ridge track, and were busy coordinating the recovery of both the rider and his bike. No wonder we couldn't get in contact with them!

DJ, Terry and Campbell bade us farewell and headed for home, and Ron arrived shortly after, having completed duties on the mountain, so we stayed at camp, chatting to the crew there until tea time. A lovely roast dinner was a fitting reward for our efforts for the day, and the return of a chilly breeze prompted us to retreat to the comfort of Ron's caravan back at the Reserve. A coffee and a glass of port added considerably to the level of comfort, and we talked for some time before heading off to bed for a well earned rest.

The chilly wind persisted next morning and with the accompanying drizzle patches, we paid close attention to the fire as we completed our final assignment for the weekend, thankfully without incident. The overnight attrition rate was fairly high, with only the true aficionados remaining to see the event to its conclusion.

A job well done, with Heath assuring us that our assistance was critical in securing the necessary insurance cover for the event. I haven't heard the total amount raised yet, but the charity auction held on the Saturday night raised more than \$6000 compared to \$3000 last year so I imagine the result will be very favourable.

Thanks to all for their help and assistance: a great way to contribute to the ongoing fight against cancer.