

Trip Reports:

Cancer Charity Ride 2013

Burkey and I went to Charnwood on the Friday night to drop off the motorbike trailer which Burkey and two work colleagues had volunteered time and skills to build for the ride and to see if we could assist with anything that may have been needed. Everything was pretty much under control and flowing well. After picking up our supplies of water and nourishment we decided to go to our rest stop point at Golden Mountain to check out the area and find out what repeaters were available to use for radio contact.

Arriving at our destination we noticed a camp fire that was blazing away with lots of sparks blowing down into the valley due to the high winds. We went to let the owners of this fire know how dangerous it was only to find there was nobody there. We were horrified that such a large fire (approx 3ft x 3ft) was left unattended with the windy conditions. Burkey immediately grabbed the shovel and spent the next few minutes shovelling dirt over the fire, putting it out. Had that fire caught down in the valley it could have been very tragic for the people camping at Charnwood.

Next day we met up with Toby, Graeme and Helene at Swanpool at 8.30am. After getting a nice warm cuppa from the Swanpool store (I spat my first cuppa out – who the hell mixes coffee and tea together?), we drove to our destination and set up the marquee and supplies. It was windy and brisk at first but the day turned out nice and the views were amazing. No complaints from anyone there. Pretty soon the first lot of riders came through, refuelled with water and nourishment and after a short rest they continued on their way. There were four more groups of riders that passed through at various intervals, stopping for refreshments and admiring the views also. (See Photo...right)

That night we were invited to eat at Charnwood and the food was varied and delicious. Toby had already left to attend a previous engagement. Helene and I were given raffle tickets to sell with Burkey's trailer being the prize. Burkey helped later in his inebriated fashion which was quite effective. We sold over \$2,000 worth of raffle tickets. Just a fair effort I would say. Congratulations Burkey for a great trailer. We also attended the auction which had lots of different items donated by sponsors. The auctioneer was fabulous and extremely funny and the night was successful with thousands of dollars being donated towards a good cause. Steve Fuller, Tim Meek, and Tom and Zoe turned up. After explaining that the second day was going to be a lot quieter and that we had all the people we needed, they decided to go and get some dinner. They never returned.



On Sunday, from our campsite within Charnwood, we awoke to a beautiful crisp morning and had some breakfast. Toby and Alyce turned up and we had more breakfast at Charnwood which couldn't be turned down with all that was on offer. Feeling full we headed off to our destination at Moonee Moonee Track. Graeme and Helene stayed at the bottom of the gate to guard it whilst Burkey, I and Toby and Alyce drove to the other end of the track to open the seasonal gate.

(Photo: Burkey/Graeme...Helping)



On our way we found a tree partially blocking the track so Burkey grabbed the chainsaw and handed it to me. Yes, little me trimmed the tree back. It was fun! Only a few riders came through and it wasn't long before we headed back to Charnwood to help with the cleaning and packing up. Lunch was also served there with plenty of leftovers for everyone before we left to go home.



(Photo: Our Refreshment Tent...)

It was a great weekend with lovely weather and no rain which resulted in very little bike incidents. Only one bike had to be 'rescued' by Burkey due to mechanical issues and one rider had a small injury. All the catering volunteers put on a magnificent feast and the atmosphere and camaraderie over the whole weekend had to be experienced. The trailer was won by a young fellow who didn't have a trailer so it went to a good home. A total of just over \$23,000 was raised for the weekend. Thanks

heap to those who came to help and we look forward to the next year's event which will be bigger due to the Yackandandah Charity Bash, unfortunately, no longer operating.

Kate Burke

