

Ruakokoputuna Trail Ride

THURSDAY morning was fine, meeting at Waikuku Lodge at about 11am. A bit of lunch then the famous H.B.K track, which is a 'little' uphill to say the least. Then off to Mt Ross trig, took in some awesome views, then down the 'pole' track, long and steep downhill decent, with gardening on the way, for the anticipated uphill approach to come. At the bottom, playing in the river and along it's banks, Mike H broke his clutch perch which was fixed on the spot with a cable tie, then it was up Pig Ridge, gardening on the way for future rides. Back to camp for a beer and rations. A little later Bob was sacked as DJ as we had problems with his volume.

FRIDAY - another fine morning and as the morning cloud burns off, we head out about 10am. John L and John T joining us as does Murray R from Masterton. It's along Pig Ridge going the other way from yesterday when we came across "DOC" track clearers. We told them they're doing a "great Job", a bit of gardening our selves and whoa, John L's bike has an axel support acting strangely. After repair is effected we're off again proceeding to the Mill track, but are stopped by the biggest washout you ever saw, so we turned back and went to the famous hill climbing hill for a bit more gardening.

SATURDAY, watching the 'Yea ha' bikes doing the hill climb, after a while a group of 'Hard Core' (e.g. Rory on his new 250cc 4 stroke and Tim L on a Gasonda decided it's back up the 'Pole' track. Some trials bikes went with them, but the sensible ones went the other way, around bullshit basin, along the ridges, to the three tits (3 rocky outcrops). Some interesting terrain, fantastic views, and Murray giving us a talk on some of the local history. Had to laugh (hee hee) as everyone was keeping their bags close as pet rocks were about. Also I noticed the new Wade parking spot on Pig Ridge that Steve and Jamie are keen on. Everyone is getting tired, some going home tonight while others off to an early night.

SUNDAY. Talk about 'Gung ho', four survivors went out, namely Toney S, Kevin T, Tim L and Mike H started the morning on the H.B.K, track around bullshit basin, Mt Ross, Pole track, Pig Ridge and back for a 1pm finish - well done!

Thanks go to Emma, keeping an eye on things and entertainment, the peanut champ on Friday night. A maximum of 18 turned out to ride some very interesting land. A real treat for the keen rider.

Mike Quinn