

COOMIE 3HR ENDURO

On Sunday the 25th September, 16 members of the Broken Hill Mountain Bike Club competed in the Coomealla Club 3 Hour Enduro. This event was held in bushland surrounding the picturesque Coomealla Golf Club on the banks of the Murray River. With recent floods, the ever increasing river height had already claimed a fair section of the track but the Coomie Club worked tirelessly to present a very interesting, tight and twisty track with plenty of obstacles to make a 10km loop.

The morning started fresh with rain predicted but the sun shone through for perfect riding conditions for the 92 riders competing on a course which was 90% single track. It was going to be hard to pass, so a good start was important. When the flag dropped you would not have thought this was a 3 hour race with a 200 metre dash before turning on to the single track, the elite riders were not going to get caught out and amongst them were Steve Chinner and David Goodman - 2 of the best riders from the Hill. Unfortunately when racing this close it becomes follow the leader resulting in David and a handful of others on the first lap taking a poorly marked turn and having to back track some 100 metres. Unluckily with a quarter of the field already gone past, it was very hard in a sport like this to drag back time and position. Steve continued to hold pace with the leaders and finished 3rd overall with 7 laps.

David quickly cut through the field, joining David Stephenson and Tasman Johnston who were sitting in the top 10. The trio road the whole race, tyre to tyre, swapping the lead to rest each other, while waiting to see who would drop first or make a break for it. Throughout the race they were known as the 3 Amigo's thanks to a cheeky young Mildura lad. Following the trio were Wayne Demery, Les Borchart and new comer, Lance Edgecumbe who has the determination of another Lance I know (must of been the lycra "Lanfo"). By the end of the 3 hours, 9 seconds separated David (Stepho) 10th, David Goodman 11th and Taz 12th. Lance finished just 4 minutes behind in 13th, Wayne and Les both had mechanical drama's which allowed David Lyle to finish in 15th. Wayne would finish in 21st and Les in 25th.

The race of the day was between once again husband and wife, Nick and Megan Algate. Nick was quicker over the first 3 laps but Megan thought her husband would be cramping by the 4th lap and she might be able to catch him. Nick has been battling the flu for weeks but no medical evidence of this has been presented and Megan passed Nick on the 4th lap. And by the 6th lap when they turned onto finish stretch there was a foot in it, with the whole Broken Hill crew except Mappa cheering for Megan. She crossed the line 1 second ahead of Nick - it was a golden moment.

George Adams finished in 27th spot which is outstanding given the size of this bloke and how tight some of the trees were on course. And yes they make LYCRA that big! Darryn Sammutt and Stephen Pascoe finished the day off with 6 laps in 36th and 39th spot despite Stephen being "taken out" by another rider trying to pass and crashing heavily. He bravely battled on. Barney Stephens was going well when on the 5th lap he succumbed to severe leg cramping finishing him in 41st position.

Special mention must go to Lindy Goodman 47th (5 laps) and Darren Orr 53rd (4 laps) who produced great efforts.

By the end of the day Broken Hill had 16 riders finish in the top 53, with several members scooping awards. Steve Chinner Finished 3rd Overall & 1st in the 40-50 age group, Megan Algate Finished 2nd

Overall in the Women's Race and 2nd in 30-40 age group, David Stephenson 3rd in 40-50 age group, David Lyle 2nd in 50+ age group and Darren Orr 3rd in 20-30 age group Thanks to our fantastic pit crew who helped out during the race with food and water and lots of support and the photographer for capturing a memorable day.

Overall	Name	Laps	Total
3	Steve Chinner	7	3:18:28,0
10	David Stephenson	6	3:02:04,5
11	David Goodman	6	3:02:12,5
12	Tasman Johnston	6	3:02:13,9
13	Lance Edgecumbe	6	3:06:18,5
15	David Lyle	6	3:08:44,9
21	Wayne Demery	6	3:11:59,0
23	Megan Algate	6	3:13:01,3
24	Nick Algate	6	3:13:02,6
25	Leslie Borchard	6	3:13:52,9
27	George Adams	6	3:14:36,1
36	Daryn Sammut	6	3:29:51,7
39	Stephen Pascoe	6	3:35:58,9
41	Barney Stevens	5	2:46:07,7
47	Lindy Goodman	5	3:43:06,7
53	Darren Orr	4	3:20:53,3

Story by MAPPA.



Photos by - Emily Saurman