



The Tracey Robinson Report



Wingallo Epic - *"Melancholy is incompatible with Mountain biking"*

Sunday, May 10, 2009

The wombats were shuffling back to bed, the sun was just peeping through the trees and

30 riders brave the cold weather (~4C) and the 2 hour trip from Sydney to come

rider, - he carried everything bar a spare frame in his backpack and did some major



the mist was rising from the valleys around the sleepy hamlet of Wingello when they appeared. A convoy of cars, led by the Turramurra van, transporting all manner of magnificent MT Bikes and intrepid MTB riders! Yes, the TORC Wingello Epic was on again!

You know how good MTB riding must be when more than

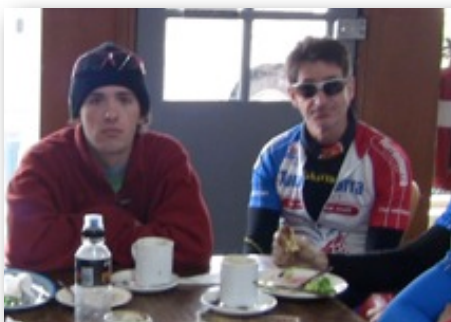
together for a group ride at 0800 on a Sunday morning. It was a spectacular sight when all the bikes and riders were assembled to head off into the exhilarating MTB tracks in the Wingello forests.

The usual suspects were there along with some new faces too.

Simon put in an awesome effort as the technical support

repairs at various points along the track. Surely there is no truth to the rumour that he only volunteered to do the repairs to catch his breath? He also kept a headcount of all the riders out on the track (well, we hope he did, but he does only have 20 fingers and toes....)

Martine continued to show that riding a MTB does not mean sacrificing style - she was a



symphony in pink - bike, helmet, gloves, back-pack and clothes! It is important to look nice as you sail past the big blokes up the hills!

Jase took it pretty easy, even walking up some of the hills, - supposedly to keep Rodney company, but mostly cos he hasn't ridden more than 10K on the MTB since the last Wingello epic.

Alex, one of the MTB newbies, smashed up the red track and now understands why we ride MTBs.

Farkas was in fine form, but we have finally worked out his training regime. He gets so lost every time he goes out, he ends up cycling much further than anyone else. Most of us did 50K, Farkas did about 150K! Maybe a GPS would help? Or maybe just following directions?

It has been so long since Matt Hou pulled out his MTB that his tyres had gone green. He also couldn't understand why his front shocks were so soft - weight gain perhaps? He also used the excuse of taking photos and filming to stop frequently and catch his breath. Lots of female shots as well, Mattie....

Stu and Tom were like the Bobbsey twins and must have

called each other up the night before - same bikes, same shorts, same helmet, same sunnies, same tops....they do make a lovely couple!

Even though the Wall was a little easier this year (some grading done on it), Mike Israel was the only rider to allegedly make it up, and this with helmet camera in-situ. However, his excitement was such that he did not actually turn the camera on, so we have no real proof that he made it!

Pena with Cheese were laughing at the start but disappeared at the end - ostensibly to head back to Sydney early but probably just to hide the fact they were exhausted. Age shall not weary them....

Greg (Houdini) Hatton rode like a champion on one of his last rides before an overseas holiday - we are not sure if he has told his wife yet that all his bikes are travelling with them...

Liam 'legs on a bike' M rode out hard at the front and Peter M helped as sweep rider at the back, chatting to the locals and giving very useful tips and support to some of the newer riders. He also took an alternate route with some of the locals, bypassing the Wall

to arrive at the single track with fresh legs and a smug smile!

Although there was much posturing at the start about doing the red, yellow and outer limits (50+K in total) and although the ride briefing was clear (!), only Kelly and friends actually did the whole epic - great effort guys! The remainder of the pack ventured a little way down the outer limits, claimed directional confusion and headed back the short way along the yellow track. Most later confessed that they were a bit tired and looking forward to caffeine and carbs!

A great ride was followed by copious amounts of coffee, carrot cake and chips accompanied by tall tales, gentle jibes and much stirring and sledging at the General Store!

All in all, another awesome day out on the MTB - thanks to all organisers and thanks to all riders for making it a such a fun-filled event. Roll on the next epic.

"They can have my mountain bike when they pry my cold, dead fingers from it"