

2013 CHARITY RIDE - 27th April, 2013

Trail Boss: Mike Teuwsen Co-ordinator: Vicki Crowley

Wow, what a great turn up this year and the weather was just perfect for organisers and riders.

Lots of folks took advantage of being able to camp and Dows Creek Hall on the Friday night which was great to see.

Saturday saw 68 horse and riders head out for the days ride. We had 19 Breakaway Members and 49 Day Members all making the effort to help raise money for cancer and heart research.

Pioneer Valley Rotary put on a great morning tea for riders at a lovely shady spot after a beautiful creek crossing. Some horses found the creek crossing easier than others, and any riders that were slightly nervous about the crossing should be very proud of themselves for making it across safely.

Lunch was again well organised by Rotary and I am sure all riders appreciated being able to have lunch and drinks supplied for such a nominal cost.

Channel 7 filmed the riders coming in to the lunch stop, and for anyone who saw it on the local news it was great publicity for the ride.

A cordial stop for afternoon tea was appreciated by riders, and a good chance to stretch the legs after being in the saddle all day at walking pace.

As always, riding into the Dows Creek Fair is a buzz for riders, and it's great to see family and friends line the road to welcome and clap in riders.

Encouragement gifts were award to 4 junior riders this year, and were very generously donated by Miners Stockfeeds.

The lucky juniors were:

Jason Rutledge, Tayla Essam, Justin Essam and Atari Brand.

This was Jason's first trail ride out in 'public' and he did very well, we hope to see him and many more trail and charity rides.

Tayla and Justin are new members to the club this year and enjoyed riding with their Dad and good friend Kath. They are looking forward to doing some team penning with the club later in the year.

Atari has been a Club member for nearly 4 years and this was her 3rd Charity Ride, what a great effort.

Approximately \$2200 was raised in sponsorship and nomination money.

Bronte Aprile received a gift voucher for the junior who raised the most amount of money, congrats Bronte!

The top five seniors who raised money and received gift vouchers were:

Kirstie O'Brien, Bridgette Warren, Kimberley Kidd, Chantelle Starling and April Pearson.

Many thanks also to the following day members for raising money: Gary Hamelink, Vanessa Vander Meer, Julie Cox, Melissa McCurley, Maria Tomlins, Lynda Mollis and Barry Finn.

Thank you to the following Breakaway members for also raising money: Kath Ryan, Marilyn Green, Marianne Orman and Mitchell Teuwsen.

A big thank you must go to Pioneer Valley Rotary – they do so much work and organising before the ride to enable us to have a safe and enjoyable day! It makes our job so much easier to know that horse water is available, tracks and stop areas have been slashed and riders are catered for.

Thanks also to Mike Teuwsen for putting his hand up this year to be Trail Boss, it is a big responsibility and his job was made easier by having club members step up and be stewards on the day.

Thank you to those members who were stewards also thank you to Noel Cowan for being back up, Lewis Trueman for lead rider and Roxanne Aprile as First Aide Officer.

Hope to see you all, plus more next year!

Safe Riding,

Vicki Crowley