

2011 Taupo 1000

This year saw again another strong showing from CMORC with 4 members competing, and the usual gaggle of supporters along with a couple of new faces, all prepared to get their hands dirty. The weather couldn't be described as anything but superb, for all 4 days. Thursday we arrived at the track just in time for the looksee lap. The 52K track was reasonably tight and winding for the first few kilometres alongside the river but soon opened up into the reasonably tight long straights Taupo is famous for; organizers even chucked in a tar seal section this year. After kick starting a couple of blokes following a heavy Thursday night we headed for the track in time for the afternoon qualifying session. Greg in 303 had a moment tipping momentarily onto his side; unfortunately this was just long enough for a bearing to pick up in his engine so his race was run. Troy in Nick Leahy's car and Jay qualified without incident, while Phil Johnston was left mending his steering after a mishap during practice.

Saturday dawned unbelievably fine and clear. We fired up the BBQ for the traditional Counties Manukau bacon and eggs breakfast while the racers made final preparations. The start of the race was incident packed, with organizers forgetting to remark the track after the junior's race earlier in the morning. 82 competitors thundered off down the wrong road, lucky for organizers they all did so they managed to gather them all up for a restart. Unfortunately for Phil, he got shunted up a tree during the miss start essentially ending his weekend. He did get going again but ended up off the track again due to steering miss alignment from the repair of his earlier crash. Troy was side lined for a couple of laps with a gear box problem. Somehow he managed to repair 2nd gear through the filler port on the side of the box. Nick was next up and was in a hurry with his fastest lap less than 3 minutes slower the eventual race winners Brad Prouds. Jay just plugged away clocking up the laps with only a couple of punctures slowing progress until a lack of fuel halted progress on the last lap.

Sunday was again a perfect day and with the barbey again fired up the racers took off again, Nick eventually retiring with a terminal engine problem and Jay again setting a steady pace right to the end, eventually retiring with a broken link pin on the last lap, but he'd done enough to come third in class 3 and 9th overall, a bloody outstanding effort it has to be said. From a personal point of view the weekend went without a hitch. For members that haven't yet experienced the hospitality and friendship the club provides at Taupo you must make the trip down in two years' time. Also it was gratifying to see some new club members help organize the weekend and help out with transport.

Thank you to all that attended and helped with the weekend, it was a team effort and I think it shows the essence of what our club is really about.

Matt Koppens