

Murray Bridge Pedal Prix

On the 24th and 25th of September, Mannum Community College participated in the annual Murray Bridge 24 hour Pedal Prix at Sturt Reserve. Our two teams were pumped and ready to go. The junior bike consisting of six riders from Years 6 and 7 put in a massive effort and continued to push through the 24 hours with solid effort and teamwork. The senior bike entered the race with eleven riders from Years 8 to 12 thanks to a recruitment push.



At the strike of midday on the Saturday, the green flag dropped and our teams, began to climb their way up the grid. Grey clouds slowly rolled in and as the precipitation produced hazardous conditions on the track, our riders pushed harder, but nothing was stopping Mannum from achieving their goals. Rider after rider would come to the pit dripping wet from the water spray from the wheels, and as the clouds gave way to the sunlight, the condensation on the windscreens was our next challenge.

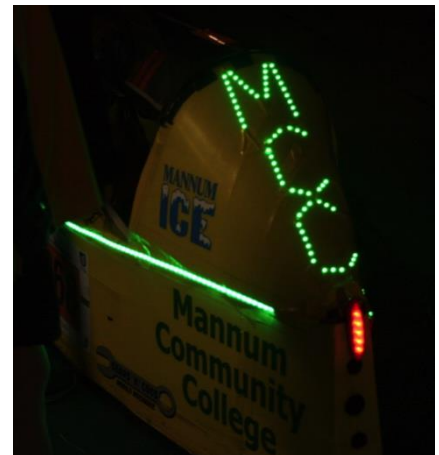


Fogging screens were easily fixed thanks to Jeremy Strauss and his immense power, the windscreen did not stand a chance. Who honestly needs a windscreen anyway? MCC1 and MCC2 continued to thunder down the track, overtaking as many of the local schools as we possibly could. The clearing

weather allowed for the return of our senior bike windscreen, making our bike look the part again.

As day turned to night it was time to illuminate the track with the MCC spirit. LED lights on the back of our junior bike and LED lights on the bottom of the senior bike allowed for Mannum to be spotted in the darkness. Special thanks to Brandon Bormann, who helped Mr Strauss solder the LED lights together.

No Murray Bridge Pedal Prix is complete without a quality BBQ cooked chicken yiros for dinner. Cheryl Neville once again went above and beyond, being our team Logistics Officer. All of our meals were expertly prepared and organized. Feeding the troops well ensured that energy levels of the riders could be replenished.



The night owl was unleashed from each of us as we continued to gain positions deep into the night. With a red flag at approximately midnight, our neighbouring teams enjoyed a dance show with the music cranked, as we undertook the Mannum Community College Nutbush in pit lane. Our spirits were high with our tired bodies enduring the punishment.

As night turned into day the damage to our bikes became obvious caused by multiple rollovers during the early hours of the morning. Our bikes may have been damaged, but team spirit was still evident. We continued into the morning, nothing could stop us! That was until the flat tyre on the senior bike. This was time for our J Strauss racing pit crew to jump into force. Despite the flat tyre, we lost minimal time and our position was still holding strong.



In the final hour our teams continued to press on, pushing harder than ever. Fatigue was taking its toll, as riders sat in their camping chairs having naps. Once midday Sunday was reached, the celebrations started, with the tradition of throwing of water over the riders on their victory lap. Our final results for the event were: Senior Bike 103rd, Junior Bike 156th out of 202 bikes, a vast improvement from last year's results.

The Pedal Prix season requires assistance from multiple parties and a big Thank you is required for all of these. Sonny Lombardi is fantastic at organising our team's business. I (Mr Strauss) devoted many hours working on the bikes, ensuring they were ready for racing. Cheryl Neville is an absolute asset to this team, spending her valuable time in ensuring that Sonny and myself are organised. Jeremy Strauss brings knowledge and understanding of how these bikes run to the team, and is an excellent pit crew manager. All parents of our riders play an important role in helping set up, cater and pack up at these events. The wider community has continued to help MCC in undertaking Pedal Prix with numerous businesses around Mannum supporting our team with donations. **Thank you all!**

Our Pedal Prix season is over for 2016, but we have already begun planning for 2017. A total rework of both fairings has already begun, and plans have been made to ensure that Mannum Community College continues to improve and reach our high goals.

Jacob Strauss
Pedal Prix Team Manager

