

Writing a Trip Report for MX-press - Guidelines and Suggestions

Congratulations on “volunteering” to write the article on today’s run for the Club's MX-press magazine; it’s much appreciated; a BIG thank you in advance. Don’t let doing the article dominate your day ... have fun today. Please regard this guide as “tips only”; it’s not the bible on writing Pulitzer Prize articles!

FIRST - FACTS

Note the name of the organiser, the number of cars and the number of people present.

ON THE RUN

It’s not just what happens while driving that is interesting. Capturing things that happen at the start, stops, the end and on the way home may be interesting.

Jot down “memory joggers” as they happen (or at the breaks). Putting remarks on the run notes is a great way to keep things in context.

Talk to others at the regroup and the end. They may have seen something you missed.

ESSENTIAL BITS

Keep it light: inject a bit of humour and wit and, a fact or two if at all possible.

Comment on the country side or farming activities, animals etc. that may be of interest. Also, seasonal variation – wet, cold, sunny, hot, windy, etc.

Avoid turning your trip report into a turn by turn recording of the route. Mention the roads that may be new to us, or are particular favourites, but not too many.

Mention mistakes - including your own. Who made a wrong turn, who overshot the turn, had a near miss with a kangaroo, a bike rider or whatever. Use first names, but be kind.

It helps to break your narrative into short paragraphs making it easier for people to read.

Avoid the inclusion of incidents or inappropriate behaviour that may reflect poorly on the club.

Comment on the destination (whatever it is) and remember to thank the organiser.

WHEN YOU GET HOME

Work out a theme for the day while events are fresh in your memory. Fire up the PC and start the word-processor or e-mail program. The editor can take “Word” or similar text files, or you can write directly in an e-mail. Write your report in past tense; you are writing about a past event and the story should be written to reflect that. Size wise aim for 300 - 1000 words.

Use the spell-checker and watch out for typos. It can help to get someone else to proof read the article, we all tend to read what we expect to see!

If you have photos, include them in the email.

DELIVERY OF THE FINISHED ARTICLE

Please email your article (and photos if any) to the Editor (editor@mx5club.com.au), Production (production@mx5club.com.au) and the Events Coordinator (events@mx5club.com.au).

DUE DATE

Please get your report in within a week of the run.