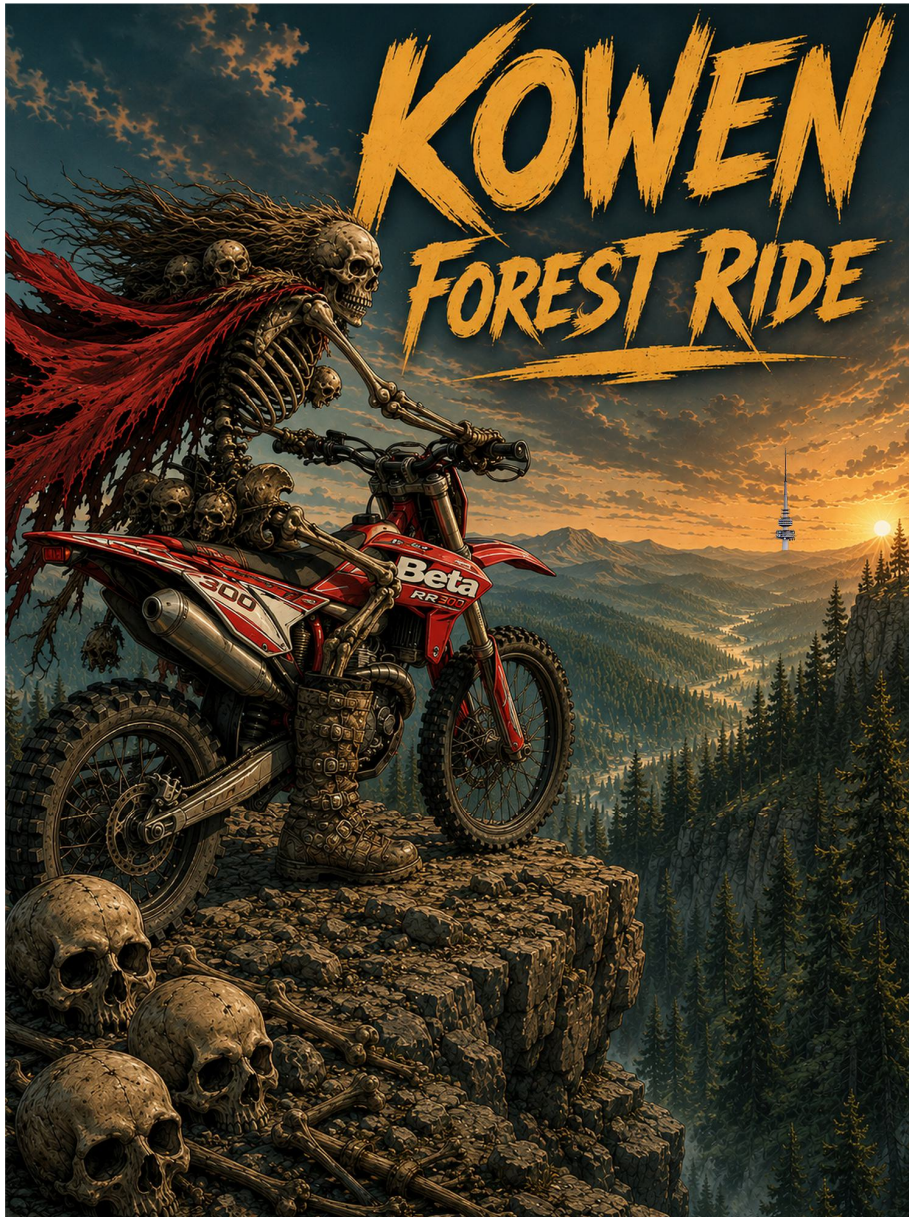


Kowen Forest Ride 2026: Supplementary Regulations & Recognition of Risks



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Introduction

The purpose of these Supplementary Regulations (“Regulations”) is to inform participants of the conditions of entry to the Kowen Forest Ride (“The Event”). Please note that Regulatory Authorities place many conditions upon us to access Kowen Forest for the event. In part, these Regulations ensure that the DSMRA complies with the conditions of our permit to use the forest. If the DSMRA or event participants fail to comply with any of these conditions, it may result in greater regulation or cancellation of the Kowen Forest Ride in future – so your cooperation and compliance is appreciated.

These Regulations do not cover every aspect of the ride, and the onus is on participants to act sensibly, exercise sound judgement, be considerate and to look after each other. This event is run by volunteers for the enjoyment of those who enjoy riding dirt bikes. These Regulations should be read in conjunction with other relevant DSMRA documents including the *Entry Form* and the *Recognition of Risks*.

The Clerk of the Course (CoC) is in overall charge of this event and is supported by the Deputy CoC and the DSMRA ACT Committee. Their instructions must be obeyed, otherwise the event may be suspended or abandoned.

The ACT Government has reserved the right to cancel the event subject to conditions such as weather (particularly rain), fire danger, poor behaviour of participants etc.

The DSMRA reserves the right to cancel the event for any reason.

Due to increasing numbers, a commitment to public safety and respect for the environment – anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated. There is to be no illicit drugs, animals, fireworks, weapons, pools and spas, drones, or any unauthorised vehicles brought into the event site. Anti-social or unruly behaviour will result in those participants being removed from the event.

DSMRA is not responsible for any loss or damage to property (including personal property such as motorcycles, bags, money or other personal items) brought to or purchased at the event by you or your invitees.

The Regulations may be amended from time to time. Please check the DSMRA website to ensure you have the latest version. The version number is printed near the footer of page 1.

DSMRA ACT chapter is responsible for organising and hosting the event for over a decade. It is one of the last organised trail rides available in Australia – please respect the forest and behave appropriately so we can ensure the events survival.

General Ride Information

The Kowen Forest Ride officially begins on the Friday Night, with the main ride on Saturday and Sunday with the following details:

FRIDAY

15:00 – Gates Open
16:00 – Early Registration
22:00 – Gates close

SATURDAY

06:00 Gates Open
07:30 Registration Opens
08:45 Riders Briefing
09:00 All Loops Open
14:30 Last Loops Out
16:00 Loops close – no more riding
20:00 Gates close

SUNDAY

06:00 Gates Open
09:00 Loops Open
13:30 Last Loop out
15:00 Loops close – no more riding
16:00 Event closes
17:00 Gates close

The loops are arrowed and have signage showing the way. Assistance will be provided with sweeps riding the course throughout Saturday and Sunday.

Course short cuts will be signposted for participants to divert around difficult sections or opt out and return to Event Central via easy trails and roads (if feeling fatigued or the bike is malfunctioning /damaged).

No 'informal riding' in parts of Kowen Forest other than on the loops or gazetted roads is permitted. Participants are required to show courtesy and restraint, including no wheel spin or deliberate environmental damage.

No riding to take place on Friday day unless part of a DSMRA led ride.

This is not a competitive event and a strict *40kph speed limit* applies throughout Kowen Forest. Please treat road sections as transports and adhere to speed limits. This is not the opportunity for fishtails and wheelies. If you want to hammer down – the singles are the place to do it.

Although we will try and minimise road usage in the forest; riders should expect vehicles on the roads and should stop at all road intersections. Animals including Kangaroos, deer and pigs are common within the ride area.

Entries

Acceptance of entries is at the discretion of the Kowen Ride Organisers. This years event (2026) will be capped at *300 riders total*. This is to minimise damage to the trails, and organisation to a level acceptable to the club. All riders must hold a current DSMRA membership at the time of the event, as well as a registered, legal motorcycle. The onus is on the rider to maintain your vehicle. DSMRA takes no responsibility for the suitability of your bike.

Unless notified, entries from a postponed event will be carried forward to any new proposed event date. The DSMRA reserves the right to close entries at any stage to maximise satisfaction of the riders already booked in.

Event merchandise may be available for purchase from late afternoon Friday, Saturday to Sunday afternoon unless sold out earlier. We have limited stock / runs of gear so get in early.

Mobile Phones

Riders should be aware that all phone networks have large areas of non-coverage in the forest and phones should not be relied upon for emergencies. We recommend riders carry UHF radios tuned to channel 16 and always ride in a group.

Privacy

Please note, as outlined on the entry form and unless specifically requested, your name and entrant number will be included on the registered entrant list. This list may be on our website and updated regularly. Your name may also be included on a sticker placed on your bike, as it will aid in the rapid identification of riders. Your personal details will NOT be circulated or used for any purpose other than organising this event.

Other

Please note that by signing the entry form and joining the DSMRA or extending your membership, you are also agreeing to abide by the DSMRA's Riders Code, noting that some specific elements (e.g. carry your licence, as you will already have handed it in to us) are not applicable to the Kowen Forest Ride.

Images, Photography and Press

On the course and throughout the event a professional photographer, press, and DSMRA photographers may be present. Your image may be published for marketing purposes or on social media. Please notify the photographer if you are not happy with your image being published.

Although due to the public nature of land you may not have a right to refuse the use of your image.

DSMRA's Rider Code:

1. Obey the laws & regulations on recreational vehicles. Observe restrictions on use of public land & do not go around locked gates.
2. Respect the environment. Stick to formed tracks, avoid sensitive areas like wetlands and vegetated dunes. Treat native wildlife with respect.
3. Don't ride when conditions are such that it will severely damage tracks. As a general guide, if you are leaving a 10 cm deep rut over a distance of 50m or more, you should not be in there.
4. Be considerate of other bush users. Keep to the left-hand side of any track, & give way to horse riders. Ride sensibly past general recreational areas such as camping & picnic spots. This is a public forest so don't assume there are no other forest users present
5. Always ride a well-muffled & registered bike.
6. Always maintain a current driver's licence, & do not ride in public areas with anyone who is unregistered or unlicensed.
7. Obtain permission from the relevant landholder before riding or camping on private land. Leave livestock alone & gates as you found them.
8. Exercise some throttle control when overtaking other vehicles. Do not shower them with rocks!
9. Don't wear a single line rut through drainage structures such as erosion control banks.
10. Keep the environment clean. Take out what you take in.

Access to Kowen Forest

Normal access will be through the "front west gate" of Kowen Forest, approximately 2km north of the driver training facility on Sutton Road. This will have security manning the gates this year to ensure only registered riders are permitted access.

The main staging area, "Event Central" or "Home", is approximately 5km into the forest from the main gate. The route will be sign posted.

The main gate will be open for general admission from 3pm to 10pm on Friday for those who wish to camp. Please note there is no general riding on Friday.

Attendees that wish to queue for entry should do so in an orderly fashion, such that service vehicles (including trucks) are not obstructed from entering/leaving, or other traffic from using the road to the Molonglo Picnic Area.

The gate will open from 6am Saturday and will be locked at 10pm. The gate will not re-open until 6am Sunday, except for emergencies as directed by the CoC.

Everyone must exit via the gate on Quarry Road (i.e. not via the road used on entry, as has been the case in other years). No exceptions. Please obey the traffic exit signs

After exiting please ensure any unmanned gates are locked behind you. Gates in and out of the forest are to be locked at all times, no exceptions. This is a forestry mandate.

Camping

- Camping will be available Friday and Saturday night.
- Camping is only permitted within the marked area. No camping is allowed in the forest, between pine tree plantations, or along (adjacent) to pine plantations.
- A large number of camp spots are available adjacent to Event Central. Positions are allocated on a first come - first served basis. There is no camping elsewhere in the forest or away from Event Central unless designated by the CoC.
- Limited food will be available at the event. We recommend you bring your own food and drink. Absolutely NO GLASS is permitted at the event.
- Fire is one of the major risks for this forest event. It is a condition imposed on the DSMRA that there are no open fires in the forest area. All fires in the campground must be in a fire bucket (a half 44-gallon drum or similar), so for convenience, you may wish to consider bringing your own fire pit/drum. Volunteers have been instructed to extinguish non-complying fires. There can be no exceptions.
- Do NOT place rubbish (including cans/plastics or other non-combustible material) in your fire. DSMRA volunteers are required to collect and dispose of leftover fire ash after the event and contaminated fire ash is much harder to dispose of.
- If you intend to have a fire or transport fuel, you should also have a fire extinguisher.
- Collecting fallen wood is allowed but no chainsaws are allowed. A very limited firewood stash will be supplied, but please consider bringing your own.
- On leaving, you must extinguish your fire completely and ensure the area is clean.
- No pets are allowed at the event.
- Drinking water is not provided - Portaloos will be provided. Please leave portaloos as you would like to find them for the comfort of all participants. Portaloos will not be serviced so damage/blockages will reduce the number available for all attendees.
- Due to the high volume of vehicle traffic – the area is hazardous for children. No children are allowed at the event. No pit bikes, mini bikes or remote control vehicles. We note that drone use is also not allowed without written permission (note distance from airport makes it illegal as well).

Hotel Accommodation

For those attending the Kowen Forest Ride that would prefer a greater level of comfort a range of accommodation is available in Queanbeyan and Canberra. We strongly recommend secure you seek venues where your bike can be securely stored inside.

Registration and Registration Procedures

You must “sign on” and “sign off” each day. This involves attending the Registration Tent and completing the relevant paperwork (Contract to participate) You must also leave your licence at the entry start gate before you enter each loop and pick it up when you come back.

This way we know who is still out on the tracks – so it is an essential element in our safety plan. If at the end of the day you do not sign off– we will assume you are stranded in the forest and will act accordingly to ensure your safety, this may include mounting a major search. This may jeopardise further riding or the Event – so it is in the interests of everybody to ensure that you return to the admin tent and sign off properly each day.

Once you “sign on” on Saturday, you will be issued with a sticker. Apply the sticker to the front cowling so that it can be seen by a person standing 4m away and directly in front. You cannot enter any of the loops or rides unless you are signed on.

To reduce dust, bikes are excluded from the immediate area of the Registration Tent and food serving areas (Event Central).

To ride at Kowen Forest your bike must be registered for roads and roadworthy. Hence registration such as the Victorian Recreational Registration is not acceptable as you cannot legally ride your motorbike on ACT roads.

Scrutineering

Formal scrutineering will not take place. But an event co-ordinator may ban a bike on its discretion. Bikes at a minimum requirement must have a headlight, taillight, number plates and brake light. Bikes not meeting this requirement will not be allowed to enter the loops until the faults have been rectified and verified by the scrutineers.

Mufflers preferably should have spark arrestors and modifications can be checked for sound quality.

In order to stop the spread of noxious weeds *bikes should be cleared of mud; before checking into Kowen Forest* – dirty bikes may be refused entry. There is a 24hr car wash with Bike Friendly Facilities at 155 Crawford Street Queanbeyan. (Behind Kingsleys Chicken)

Safety Gear

Riders are expected to have suitable safety gear, including helmets compliant with Australian Standards. Body armour, gloves, full-length boots, riding pants (not jeans), goggles (rated) and jackets should be worn. The CoC reserves the right to refuse entry to the loops to participants who are not wearing suitable protective riding gear.

All riders are to wear goggles at all times.

Announcements

Official announcements will be made over a public address system (PA) to allow the event organisers to keep participants in the staging, parking and camping area notified of all eventualities. The PA will also be used for rider briefings, prize giveaways, etc.

First Aid

Riding in Kowen Forest is defined as remote area as it is expected to take significant time to locate and potentially evacuate injured riders. Much of the trail is a significant distance from any access roads.

Some limited first aid/paramedics may be on site while riding is in progress but may not be available at all times. If deemed necessary by the CoC, additional first aid/ambulance/rescue helicopter services will

be called to assist you. In the event of injury or sickness your *Recognition of Risk Form* has authorised the Dual Sports Motorcycle Riders Association (DSMRA) to arrange, as it deems necessary, medical treatment and emergency evacuation services on your behalf and at your cost. Please note that the CoC has absolute discretion to call for these extra services if he considers it necessary – say for example, to transport you out of the forest.

All riders should carry their own first aid gear on the track at all times.

The CoC's decision is final. You will be entirely responsible for any costs for these additional services. Riders need to ensure they have ambulance insurance cover for remote areas.

Broken bikes and gear

While the DSMRA will try to assist the recovery of broken or malfunctioning bikes, for safety reasons it may not be possible while the loops are open for riding.

At no stage should any vehicle based 'self-recovery' action be taken without authorisation from the CoC. Please contact the Registration tent.

There is to be no welding or oxyacetylene tools to be used within the forest area.

In the event of your bike "breaking down" on the trails, DO NOT attempt to ride "backwards". Please maintain your position or walk your bike to the next road junction in the correct direction. Sweeps will ride through regularly and assist you.

Dumpsters

Dumpsters will be provided for rubbish. Please check to ensure that you leave the site clean. Contact CoC in the event of any fuel or oil spills, no matter how minor.

Security

You are responsible for the safety of your own belongings. Separate bike chains and security is recommended. No event security will be on site.

Although the forest is closed to the public for the event, Kowen Forest is still an open area, and all valuables should remain secured at all times. Ensure your bike(s) and vehicle(s) are locked at all times when not in use.

Smoking

There is to be no smoking on the trails in and around Kowen Forest. Once you depart parc ferme you may only smoke at a manned way point on the road. Ensure all butts are properly extinguished and disposed of in the rubbish receptacles provided in the camping area.

Gates - (entry & exit)

Please ensure that you close all gates after you have gone through them.

Speed limits

The maximum speed limit throughout Kowen forest is 40km/h. In and around the camping ground, Event Central the speed limit is **walking pace** (5km/h).

The CoC may also declare reduced speed limits and/or "Quiet Zones" for some short segments of the loops/rides (e.g. for safety or environmental reasons.)

Police Presence

Police have the right to enter the forest and conduct police/traffic operations without notice. All event participants must observe all applicable laws (e.g. driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs).

Forest Operations

A large number of Forest Operations (logging/thinning etc.) occur in Kowen Forest as it enters its harvest cycle. A number of our tracks are affected. For the safety of all, the conditions of our access permit require us to keep clear of current operations.

Participants must not at any time approach harvesting machinery or log stockpiles. In addition, many logging tracks show considerable signs of use by heavy trucks. While we will avoid these tracks if possible, some transit may be required.

Logging vehicles should be expected on site.

Caring for other ride participants

Along with abiding by the speed limit, we reiterate that this event is not a competition or race.

The loops are long and may be tiring, so hydration and food breaks are recommended. If you are having a break, pull well off the marked track. If you are delayed on the trail please be aware of the other riders that are around you.

If you approach a slower rider, please be patient and pass only when safe to do so. A short honk of your horn can be used to let riders know you are behind them.

Slower riders should try to give way when it is safe to do so. The loops have intermittent transits on or across fire trails. These are good places for slower riders to move to the side and let the faster riders past. However, the overtaking rider bears full responsibility to overtake safely and must be aware that slower riders have the right to choose their own line.

Lost Property

Any items of lost property should be handed in to the staff at the Registration Tent.

Fuel Storage

Fuels must be stored in accordance with Australian handling standards. Fuel and oil spills no matter how minor must be reported to the CoC.

Refer to AS/NZS 2906:2001 Fuel containers - Portable-plastic and metal.

Riders Briefing

A riders briefing will be held at 8:30am Saturday. This will include important information about signage and specific information on the day. If you cannot attend these briefings please inform the volunteers at the registration tent, or seek out the CoC after the briefing.

Postponement of Event

In the event of postponement (i.e. due to inclement weather) the DSMRA will organise an alternate date, at the next earliest practical time, subject to the availability of the site from ACT Government. Unless you apply for a refund, event entries will be carried forward to the next scheduled event date, and your DSMRA membership will be postponed and begin at the next event date and will remain valid for 12 months.

If the DSMRA have to postpone the event, we will also postpone the raffle draw to the rescheduled event date, as it is expected a majority of entrants would like the opportunity to be present for the draw.

Notice of postponement will be posted on the DSMRA website and the DSMRA Kowen Facebook Page.

Cancellation/abandonment of the Event

In extreme circumstances, the Event may be cancelled or abandoned.

Notice of cancellation/abandonment will be posted on the DSMRA website and the DSMRA Kowen Facebook Page.

In the event of cancellation some costs will not be refundable to the DSMRA such as memberships etc, so only a partial refund may be possible perhaps not at all.

Withdrawing your Entry

Please see refund policy.

Non-Attendance

If you do not attend the ride and have not given us timely notification and received an acknowledgement from the DSMRA, your full entry fee will be forfeited. You will still retain your DSMRA membership for one year and your entry in the raffle will still be valid.

The CoC is the sole judge of fact in relation to timely notification.

Transfers

Entries, raffle tickets or subscriptions are not transferable between riders.

Refunds and Withdrawals

If you cannot attend the ride after your entry has been processed, you must cancel by emailing dsmraact@gmail.com. Please do not try to contact any other way.

Whilst we understand there may be circumstances that prevent you from attending Kowen there are some costs you agree to absorb, these are described in detail below:

This is the only contact for a Kowen cancellation it will not be processed any other way.

Up to 1 week before the event

The membership officer will identify your registration and remove you from the ride and then notify yourself and the ACT treasurer of the refund amount. A cost of \$25 applies, this constitutes a full refund less reasonable costs (listed below)

Reasonable costs are:

- Manual removal from the ride by the membership co-ordinator
- Manual Payment refund, by the treasurer
- Merchant fees do not get refunded
- Other miscellaneous costs that are non refundable do not get refunded

Your entry in the raffle draw will also be withdrawn.

No partial refunds. (You cannot elect to retain your membership or entry in the raffle).

Refunds Less than 1 week before the event

No refunds will be issued 1 week prior to the event.

If the Event is cancelled, postponed or abandoned

- There are no refunds.
- DSMRA memberships are honoured.

Once the event has started

NO refunds will apply after the Event starts.

Catering and Food

Our regular food van is not available to attend this year. While we will attempt to seek alternatives, plan on there being no food available at this years event.

No water is available at the event you must bring your own water.

Entertainment

No formal entertainment is provided

Alcohol

Alcohol is only to be consumed by those who will no longer be riding that day.

Spare Parts

Spare parts may not be available. If you need anything substantial, the DSMRA recommended you got to local motorbike shops located in Queanbeyan and Fyshwick.

We hope to have various spares present on site (knobbies, tubes) as Eye Candy Motorcycles should be present to undertake assistance. TBC