



THE 2015 BMW GS TROPHY AND INTERNATIONAL LADY GS CHALLENGE FINALISTS

September 10-13

Nearly 900 bikes at Drakensville...

It seemed as if every BMW GS in Africa had arrived in the area of the Eastern Free State and the Natal Midlands around Harrismith and Bergville over the second weekend of September. The air was filled with the thrum of twin cylinder engines and the thump thump of smaller singles no matter where one went - one of the local battlefields, a coffee shop in a Drakensberg resort or a winding mountain pass.

Nearly 900 BMW GS motorcycles, ranging from a handful of classic GS 850 and 1100's to the very latest water cooled GS 1200 LC top of the range models turned up at the ATKV resort in Drakensville, half way between Harrismith and Bergville. The BMW Motorrad South Africa team, headed by the tireless Cora Forsmann, transformed the normally peaceful resort into a BMW village to host the 2015 BMW GS Trophy.

The actual challenge is a technical riding

competition contested by a number of 3 man teams, chosen on a provincial basis during the months prior to the event, to find the winner of the 2015 GS Trophy. The winning team from each province competes for the annual title at the GS Challenge weekend. The provincial finals were held on Friday and Saturday afternoon, run by the BMW rider academy, who designed and judged the event and hundreds of enthusiastic GS riders urged their favourite teams along.

But the majority were amateurs, there for fun, riding various chosen routes ranging in degree of difficulty from gentle touring to needing paddling and pushing. They came to enjoy a weekend sharing their passion for BMW dual sport bikes...lots of good food, many old and new friends, the enjoyment of the road trip to get there and lots more.

These routes were pre-marked out rides prepared by the BMW owners club and

many of the instructors from BMW Motorrad riding schools around the country. They ranged from two all tar routes through the Eastern Free State Highland and the Natal Midlands to several routes of different difficulty through the Drakensberg mountains, were designated by different colours. Participants on all of these outrides were supported by the "BMW on Call" recovery service, as well as by GPS and Garmin support service.

International GS Challenge lady finalists:

There's more - BMW brought out the lady finalists for the 2016 International GS Challenge from all over the world to participate in the weekend, as well as having other celebrities like their local Superbike Team Rider SA Champion Lance Isaacs as well as the official BMW chief riding instructor Tomm Web from Europe. Very prominent as an official BMW partner was the Metzler tyre distributor AMP, offering a