

WDTC Sign On/Club Day

Trials is alive. This WDTC motto used in the formative years of the early 1980's may need to be reintroduced after a new sign on day record was set for entrants at our first trial of 2016. A field of 61 riders made the trek to Chris Williams property atop the Great Dividing Range, no doubt hoping to start their season in the cooler environment of the mountains. It did not work out that way with temperatures in the mid 30 degrees being recorded throughout the day. With this in mind the decision was made to reduce the number of laps from 5 x 6 sections to 4 laps for all grades. I don't think this was a disappointment to the riders who were already feeling the heat while standing in line, awaiting their turn to lodge membership applications. With a large number of new members and riders needing one day licences the sign on went on longer than anticipated and we thank everyone for the patience that was shown through this period. After a slightly late start, the trial was underway with the riders making their first trip down the "precipice", as it has been fondly christened. The nickname is not undeserved, with the carpark at road level and the sections approximately 100m lower in elevation, the loop drops sharply down to the creek. Lower grade riders did not have to wait to reach the bottom to begin their ride, the traditional hill climb area at the base of the initial steep pinch of the loop was utilised to start their trial. It was only a temporary reprieve with the riders traversing the remainder of the downhill to reach their next group of sections. The sections for the upper grade riders started with a traditional line in the 1st section, the double step greasy log coming up out of the creek. We challenged the C+ grade riders with this line last year and it ended with mixed results of success. This year we returned it to an A/B grade line but as it turned out the challenge did not prove as great. With the unseasonable dry summer being experienced in this part of the world, the log was dry and even the creek was reduced to random puddles. Not that it meant the riders could take it lightly, it was still a trap for the unwary if they weren't careful but it certainly lacked the difficulty of previous years. The loop continued down to link up sections containing varying levels of difficulty, set out in and around the creek bed before the riders began the return climb up to the carpark. Travelling the loop uphill is not as steep as its downhill counterpart but it is still a fair haul, the bushfire like clouds of smoke emanating from the bush before the 2 stroke machines crested the hill was a testament to this. It is a property that always offers challenging, exciting riding and even with the dry conditions, this trial was no exception. Some outstanding rides were on display throughout the day, some from the experienced hands who never seem to lose their touch and some from the not so experienced new riders. A couple of likely lads from up Nanango way, Darryl Adams and Greg Ryan, raised more than a few eyebrows by taking on the B grade lines in their first competition ride and making a very good go of it. The Derrick name has returned as a force in Qld trials with Damon edging out the old stager Neville for the win in C+, with Ryan not far behind in 5th place. Last years WDTC Hodgemasters Cup winner Bob Crawford will be in the running to retain the trophy after a solid 3rd place in C+. There was no end of inspirational efforts on the day and everyone deserved to feel satisfied with what they had achieved. Of course it would not have been possible without our dedicated volunteers. Section setters, everyone who packed them up at the end of a hot, trying day and our score tent officials. Chris Williams for not only allowing us the long standing use of his property but for also spending the day traversing the loop on foot assisting the minibike riders, you are truly part of the heart and soul of the club. Brad Homan for cooking the BBQ lunch, even though I think it was a labour of love with the amount of sausages he ate. A special mention as well to Terry Telfer who gave up his ride to stand in as steward at the last

minute and Dean Trend, who donated his raffle prize of a free years MQ licence back to the club to use as an encouragement award for a junior rider. It is selfless acts like those from our members that provide the backbone and uphold the tradition of our proud club.

