

Toonumbar Dam NSW May 2019



Last weekend saw SOTA hold its 3rd event for the year at the popular Toonumbar Dam property, roughly 30 minutes south of Kyogle, NSW. Our usual Saturday soiree prior to the Sunday ride was not required at this event due to our NSW chapter pulling together a crew, along with a couple of Qld'ers, to set the sections the weekend prior to the event. The general consensus was that they did a fantastic job, even managing to scratch out a couple of brand new sections never used before. Well done to all those that put in the effort to give everyone such great sections, some of which were quite the challenge.

Saturday was now a casual affair with the whole day to do whatever you wanted, with a few of the more enthusiastic ones going for an afternoon of mountain biking around Kyogle before hitting the pub for dinner. Saturday evening was a comfortable night spent sitting in front of the camp fire until most had retreated to bed by around 10ish, with one diehard reportedly still parked in front of the fire at 4am.

Sunday sign-in had about 40 riders ready for what treachery might await them. After we confused the hell out of everyone at the briefing about how to find the sections it was stands up and let the carnage, um I mean riding begin. Section 1 was quite a confronting place to start for anyone that went there first, with a series of logs that couldn't have been more slippery. I'm sure they caught a few out, as they did me. I seem to recall going from being on top of a log to beside the log with a bike on top of me in the blink of an eye. Sections 2 to 4 had a fantastic selection of drop offs and bank climbs, while also contending with slippery rocks in the creek areas. Sections 5 to 8 were mostly dry with plenty of challenging turns for the lower grades and large rocks, jump-ups and drop-offs for the upper grades to test their skills. Sections 9 and 10 were run along the bottom of a very steep gully with some daunting rocks in the way of getting a clean for the lower grades, while providing some very steep banks for the upper grades to traverse up and down. The overall slippery conditions provided some entertaining get-offs resulting from making the commitment, but not quite pulling it off like you did in your head.

After everyone had finished their laps and sections were pulled in it was time for a hotdog and a well earned rest before the days scores were dished out. I think most were happy with their efforts and some of the scoring was quite close which might make the club championships interesting as the year progresses for those focusing on a trophy at years end. Once again, this event could not be possible without the long list of volunteers who orgainse everything from the property access, feeding the masses and providing the portaloo.

Special thanks to the NSW chapter for pulling the course together and the ladies for keeping our scores, well done. Next month the SOTA roadshow moves from the slippy terrain of Toonumbar to the grippy rocks of the Overflow property, west of Beaudesert. Hope to see you all then.

Scores for the day attached.

Cheers
Brad

