

Hinchcliff's Property Ferny Glen Qld Easter 2019



Well Easter has been and gone already, which saw SOTA hold its annual Easter 2 day social gathering with a bit of trials riding thrown in at Hinchcliffe's property, located at Ferny Glen near Canungra. The weekend was kicked off by a group of 10 that got an early start by setting up camp on Friday, with some lucky ones even starting on Thursday. Friday was mostly showers of rain so once everybody's camps were fine tuned there was little to do but relax with some card games for some or a beer or 2 for others. Later that afternoon there was a reprieve from the showers long enough to allow 3 sections to be set to give us a head start on Saturday's soiree. Unfortunately, the firewood we had collected had nothing to be nervous about come nightfall, but the weekend was young so maybe it would meet its demise another night.



After a comfortable night listening to the rain fall and the frogs croak, we woke on Saturday to another overcast day with showers persisting. Even with the slightly dodgy conditions we had a great turnout ready and willing to brave the slippery conditions. First thing first tho, after the early arrivals split up into groups they headed off to set the last 7 sections in preparation for the afternoon ride. With the slippy conditions the afternoon session would be just 2 laps. With riding starting at 1.30pm and wrapping up around 4pm it proved wise to get out and finish your laps as soon as possible, as the course would degrade rapidly into a nice slop in some sections. Nobody seemed to be complaining about the conditions tho, with sliding down hills sideways and getting 5's just putting bigger smiles on people's faces. The weather was relentless with showers right through the afternoon and into the evening rendering efforts to start a campfire totally fruitless. It seems nothing that wet will burn no matter how hard you try! and yes there may have been some accelerant tried too! After a few of the campers returned from having dinner at Canungra pub, 10.30pm saw the last campers scurry off to bed in anticipation of another days riding ahead. Twas another relaxing night sleeping to the sound of rain on tarps and canvas, well for those of us in tents anyway.

Well Sunday morning arrived and we were awoken by the sound of hot air balloons lifting off, maybe (hopefully) that was a sign of some fine weather today! After the usual sign in and briefing, riders headed off to brave the greasy conditions once more. The weather was a little improved over the previous couple of days with a few more periods of blue sky between showers. The riders still had ample moisture in the sections tho to make things that little bit more interesting. Once again it was smiling faces all round. This events plonker plate was awarded to Steve Chesters for apparently successfully doing a backflip to submerge himself in the creek, tho unintended. Nice work Steve but can you save it for when there's a camera handy next time please. Oh and the ride of the weekend can go to the one and only President for stepping up and getting 2nd place in Div 1, well done Harry, even if it was a field of 2 haha.

The weekend was wrapped up around 1.30pm Sunday afternoon with the obligatory score reading over a free hot dog or two. Thanks to the ladies for a great job managing the scores and to all the volunteers whom there was many of, for making this event the great success that it was. And last but not least, a big thankyou to the Hinchcliffs for the use of their great property.

Some photos below and see the attached score sheet for full results.

Cheers Brad



