



Hinchcliffes "B" Ferny Glen, Qld August 2020

Well who would have thought the first Sunday in August was SOTA's 1st event of the year! Yep, after over 4 months of lockdown and two false starts, the first being the start of COVID and the second being weather related, we finally got the SOTA road show under way. Originally pegged for being at Sizmurs property, this trial was re-located to Hinchcliffe's property on the "B" side, located in Ferny Glen Qld, near the township of Canungra. The "B" side can produce just as good a trial as the more popular "A" side and it seemingly never disappoints. It's a magnificent place to camp with a large flat grassy area central to the sections.

The weekend had started early for a couple of us who had Friday free to set up camp and look for some new territory before Saturday's soiree. Saturday morning was a superb turnout of volunteers again with a large crew of members and visiting riders to set the sections. A total of 13 sections were set to allow the upper grade riders the opportunity to ride some terrain that would be unthinkable for the lower grade riders. It was an awesome effort by all the volunteers with minimal fuss.

Sunday morning, we came close to 80 riders, thanks to Logan River junior development program, most of our 20 visitor riders were juniors.... with the youngest being 4 years old!

The course was easy to navigate which included 3 brand new sections making a mixed bag of easy to bloody difficult sections depending who you asked. This property has it all with some super tight turns, logs, rocks and some loose hill climbs to test everyone out. With the large turnout it was decided to run the trial over 3 laps instead of 4 to give everyone the opportunity to finish at a reasonable time. Riding was wrapped up by mid afternoon giving the opportunity for those with the energy to have a quick free ride before pulling the sections in. The afternoon was a relaxed affair with SOTA dogs served with cheese and your choice of condiment before the reading of the days scores.

Stand outs for the weekend were the young Hijazi sisters taking out first and second place in Division 6, Dylan Long another junior taking out Division 5 and if you weren't impressed with Bruce Le Riche riding then you would have been impressed with him mentoring anyone who wanted some tips at the end of the day. Well done to everyone and especially to all the junior riders.

A big thank you to all the section setters, Pete and Glen for assisting with scoring, the SOTA dog cooks, Denys and Rob for delivering and returning the toilet and John Hinchcliffe for use of his beautiful property and finally a huge thank you to everybody for complying to the social distancing rules.

Our next event is not too far away and will be held on the 16th August at Mount Mee about an hour north of Brisbane. Section setting will be done on Saturday 15th August and any help will be appreciated.

