

Mt Mee "Ekala" Qld June 2021



The 1st Sunday in June had the SOTA road show travel to Mt Mee for only their 3rd event of the year, after the Big Loop trial over Easter had to be postponed. This event was held at Glen & Wilma Sommerville's beautiful "Ekala" property at Ocean View, Qld. It was an exceptional turnout with numbers in the mid 50's and those that made the trip were blessed with a perfect winters day to ride their bikes and enjoy some sunshine. The terrain at Ekala has a lot on offer from rocky creek beds, dry gullies, steep hill climbs and some man made obstacles. It offers riders a challenging course for the beginners through to the Div 1 red line boys. And yes that log! We can't run a trial at Ekala without using the log section. If you haven't seen it, well you will have to wait until next year now.

On the Friday a few of us with Glen's help got a head start and set the first 4 sections. It was a cruisy day without much fuss and we were finished for the day not long after lunch. On Saturday we had a good turnout with at least half a dozen more volunteers to split up into a few groups to set the last 6 sections. The terrain at Ekala can be more challenging than it looks so it's easy to overcook the lines if not careful. We did have to make some adjustments on Sunday morning to reign in a couple of sections but everybody was still challenged. You only have to look at the score sheet to see there were a lot of points lost and some reasonable gaps between the top and bottom of some grades.

It was good to welcome some new visiting riders with most riding the Div 7 open line or the Div 6 white line. As for the scores, Drew Wightman was the overall winner on the day losing just 24 pts for 4 laps around the red line. Aki Nagao took out the Div 2 yellow line on 18 pts. Andrew McDonald-Smith was the Div 3 blue/yellow line winner on 31 pts. Div 4 blue line was won by Tony Bax on just 12 pts. Neville Derrick was the clear winner of the Div 5 white/blue line on 28 pts. Div 6 white line was taken out by Les Juds on 14 pts and Div 7 open line was won by visiting rider Tony Mego on 35 pts. Best effort by a junior rider was Jake Long finishing 2nd in Div 1 on the red line losing just 57 pts. See the full score sheet for a full list of placings.

As usual our events would not happen without a team of dedicated people. Thank you firstly and most importantly to Glen & Wilma for the use of their amazing property. Without them it would not be possible. Glen puts in a big effort on his tractor to prepare his property for us and we really do appreciate it. Thanks to Rosie for giving up her Sunday to keep the scorecards turning over and the scoreboard updated. Thanks to the section setters who gave up their Saturday to finish off Friday's efforts. The Plonker Plate award was a bit of a grey area with it officially going to Dean Hicks for a spectacular dismount while transiting between sections, however Dean's story was he was just trying to avoid an incident between Harry and Aki. Either way when you crash not even riding a section you're a good chance of winning the plonker, which does come with a 6 pack so it's not all bad.

Well, now we look forward to the Big Loop take 2 which will be a loop of 15 sections across the hills and valleys of Hinchie's A & B properties in Canungra, Qld. It should be a big turnout so don't miss it and make sure you register online to make it easier for the organizers.

Cheers
Brad