



Erinvale - Meringandan, Qld November 2021

Sunday 7th November, SOTA once again held their last official club trial of the season at 'Erinvale', a working cattle property in the Toowoomba region owned by the Luck family. For those that didn't make the trip, Erinvale is a gorgeous 1700 acres with endless options for setting great sections. After some recent rain, the property had greened up nicely for camping. There is even a beautiful timber cabin for rent if camping isn't your thing and you like a little bit of luxury after a day of riding or your outdoor activity of choice.

Saturday our volunteers split up into a few groups to set the sections. The rocks on the embankments are endless here and you are only limited by your imagination. The sections were outstanding with some technical riding required, while not proving too dangerous for the lower grade riders. After a long day out on the property, we had an excellent night with a group of 16 going to the local Meringandan Pub for dinner. It's known for its hearty sized meals and we can say from first hand experience that they are big. We highly recommend it, just book ahead and skip lunch before you go.



The weather was kind on Sunday with overcast conditions and temps in the mid 20's, perfect trials weather. With a field of 40 riders it was fairly easy to get 4 laps completed without too much waiting. Thankfully the weather held all day and no rain fell. With a smaller than usual field the riding was all done by around 1.30 – 2.00pm and the sections packed up in no time. There were some low scores by those who got it right on the day so check out the attached scores to see how everyone fared. A notable omission for the day was the awarding of the plonker plate, everyone must have kept on the straight and narrow at this event again! That's the second year running nobody has made a plonker of themselves here.

Unfortunately, there were no observers at this event so it was up to the riders to score their own cards and keep things honest. The score tent was manned by club boss Harry with some help by a few of the girls to keep him on his toes.

Thank you to all the section setters who did such a great job on Saturday, they were so much fun to ride. Thanks to Andrew Atkinson for his expertise in leading the section setting on Saturday and for arranging and transporting the toilet to and from the property. A big thanks to Cam Norton for looking after our drinks a huge thanks to Andrea and Kieran for hosting our club for the weekend. What a fabulous trials heaven and we can't wait to be able to ride there again next year. If you are interested in renting their authentic farm cabin for a relaxing weekend or maybe longer, get in touch with Harry for property contact details.

Well that's almost it for the year with just our combined AGM and end of year gate trial in a few weeks time. Don't forget this event is not only for members, regular visitors to our events are most welcome so don't be shy. The gate trial is always fun and it's all compliments of the club to say thank you for supporting our events throughout the year.

