

Erinvale - Meringandan, Qld June 2022



Sunday 5th June, SQTA held their first official club trial of the season at 'Erinvale', a working cattle property in the Toowoomba region owned by the Luck family. It seems quite unbelievable that our first stand-alone event for 2022 took until June to happen. Erinvale is a gorgeous 1700 acres with endless options for setting great sections. After all the rains we have had the property was nice and green but also very wet in places, making access a bit like a trials section with "momentum is your friend" being the key.

It did catch a couple out giving club president Harry some much unwanted snatch strap practice.

Friday a small crew led by Andrew Atkinson spent the day on the property setting the first six sections in a new area not visited before by us before. There are so many places that we have not used there so it was the clearing to uncover some great terrain. Friday night the property had more rain than expected and we were wondering at that point if anyone would be able to get in but we had gone too far at point so 4wd's and tow ropes was plan B.



Saturday our volunteers split up all over the place to put on the finishing touches and set the last 4 sections. The rocks on the embankments are endless here and you are only limited by your imagination. With the remaining 4 sections finished earlier in the day than expected, there was plenty of time for some afternoon practice and there were plenty taking advantage of it which was good to see. Saturday evening was the obligatory dinner at Meringandan pub. We often have a good turnout for this, but I think we had about 20 people there on Saturday and nobody left hungry.

Sunday, we had 55 starters across all 7 Divisions and again some new faces which was great to see. Some regulars had travelled up to 4 hours from N'thern NSW to attend so if that's not dedication I don't know what is. After a wet Friday and a mildly overcast Saturday, the skies cleared on Sunday to be a warm winters day and great conditions for riding. The sections had quite a range in difficulty from easy and fun to "no thanks I'll take a 5" unless you were feeling a little brave. Those loose floating deceiving goolies (small rocks Andrew) sitting in the grass certainly added to the difficulty, usually they clear away but they just kept coming. Some of the usual white/blue riders that stepped up to ride all blue on Sunday may have been second guessing that decision after the first lap.

Thank you to all the section setters who did such a great job on Friday and Saturday. Thanks to Andrew Atkinson for transporting the toilet to and from the property. We must also say a huge thanks to Andrea and Kieran for hosting our club for the weekend. Owen Norton for donating all those battery powered tools which we're still gob smacked about, Cam Norton for looking after our drinks and take a bow Claire, Amy, Ben and Kieren for looking after our scores. Thanks to all the proactive and unselfish

people that pulled in the sections without the need to be asked. This event was great team effort to say the least!

And finally, a huge thank you to Erwin Interiors and Cabinet makers for supporting this event and as it happens Erwin and his son Bailey rode their 1st ever trial here with impressive results.

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