

## Karara Round 3



I've named this trial "Sam's trial" as he almost single handedly set up. Sam Rogers secured this new location for SOTA late last year. He set 5 sections the week before the event, then towed our toilet to and from the site as well...thanks Champ!

We were so excited and felt privileged to use this cattle property owned by the "Whears". It's 400 plus acres with a gold mining history and as you can see by the photo's the country is pretty harsh, with a dry creek bed, loose rocky outcrops and hills making this a perfect area for setting great trials sections.

Saturday volunteers had a casual start of around lunch time. By 3pm we had set remaining sections and were competitive for all grades, this gave some an early start to get the bonfire ready for an upcoming cool night. Some of us snuck off to support the local Karara Hotel for a country dinner served with the sort of usual country service. No, we didn't go to the pub to watch the wedding by the way, the footy was more important.

Pretty sure we counted 18 people sitting around the fire, all spinning a few yarns. Every now and then some would get up, slowly spin themselves around to warm up and repeat over and over again as the night went on. Anyone with an air mattress was in for a cold night, well for us Queenslanders anyway.

Sunday's weather was awesome to say the least, we missed a few usual faces but also saw some faces we hadn't seen for a while. The sections for each division were almost split 50-50, half were challenging, and you had to concentrate and if your confidence was knocked about, the other half of the sections gave your confidence back. The loop was fairly long and it was normal riding side by side to avoid eating each other's bull dust between sections. For me sections 7 with the hill climb was the most challenging, not going up was the problem but on the way down with countless loose rocks made things hard to control if you got outta shape. Division 4 and 5 had their usual close results, with only 1 or 2 points separating the place getters.

The "You Plonker" award went to Evan Hunter this time. He just had a bad day which didn't go unnoticed and the first aid kit was used to sort out a bloody nose that wasn't bike related, rather it was from an accidental elbow between spectators.

Great feedback from riders was much appreciated, this gives us incentive to create another great trial for our riders to enjoy. Our next trial at "The Overflow" is already in the planning.

I also want to thank the following people for helping create another great SOTA trial...

Kerryn Hellyar and Christine Reed for keeping our scores, Saturdays sections setters, Gavin Norton for pruning trees and jack hammering a few rocks for safety, Paul Moore for donating the hot dog rolls, everyone that pulled in the sections and of course the committee members.

Attached are some happy snaps and the official results.



Photos on this page are courtesy of Abbi Gomersall





