

COFFS' "BIG BANANA" ROAD SHOW REPORT



The SQTA Road Show rolled into the NSW Mid North Coast trials heartland on the weekend and once again dodged a bullet with the weather. With the forecast rain arriving on the Gold Coast on Friday afternoon and predicted to be as far south as Port Macquarie across the weekend things weren't looking too good but none the less we headed off with loads of optimism in the wee small hours of Saturday morning. Well, to say it didn't improve the further south we went would have been an understatement but we pressed on regardless and to our surprise as we left Yamba behind us the roads miraculously dried up and stayed that way all the way to "Camcota", i.e. the venue. Upon our arrival at 8.00am we were greeted with a paddock that looked like a used arena

section sales yard with every conceivable manmade contraption you could think of, well this was Coffs Harbour after all I guess, and I'd be lying if I didn't say that there weren't a couple of concerned looks exchanged between JB and I as we pulled into the driveway. Our brief to Cameron, the property owner, prior to committing to the event had been quite simple; we wanted a minimum of 25 entries and 10 natural sections, i.e. no manmade arena types, so you could understand our trepidation as we drove up the drive past all the steel, aluminium and timber pallet monstrosities. Upon arrival I was immediately whisked away by Cameron for a full tour of the property and it became every apparent very quickly that there had been a lot of man hours put into creating a venue with as many natural, albeit manmade, sections to cater to our demands. There were in excess of a dozen areas created for sections to choose from and in the end 80% were of the manmade nature, but aside from the odd truck tyre and concrete slab there were rocks and logs aplenty and in enough numbers to allow us to set our customary 10 all Division sections.

"Camcota's" facilities were second to none and set a venue equalling standard with Duley's Goolies with hot showers, toilets, a 14 bed bunk room (please take a note of that Ian), undercover BBQ entertainment area and massive fire pit that went continuously all weekend for obvious reasons. The Saturday night swarey began with Cameron and Erica's superbly cooked spit roasts feeding around 50 hangers on all spread out around the fire pit and topped off with a sound and light display reminiscent of a Sydney Harbour New Years Eve celebration. No need to say that most of the dinner conversation kept returning to what the weather was likely to do and although a couple of stars were spotted prior to bedtime the rain did arrive later on but thankfully didn't hang around and when we surfaced on Sunday morning we were all greeted with the sun rising behind clear blue skies and a property that was ready and rearing for some action.

Well, the phrase "build it and they will come" was never more appropriately coined than for this event and they certainly did come, all 46 of them. Interestingly, we only had 15 SQTA members brave enough to travel south into enemy territory, so close after the State of Origin, which left 30 Mid North Coast trials enthusiasts, some of whom had either never ridden a trial or a structured event before and all book ended by "*Coffs Harbours only licensed trial rider*" who rode a rattly piece of crap TY something and who also showed it doesn't matter what you ride as long as you have the ability to do so taking out Div 3 on "1" point. Very impressive Greg but let's see how you and the dinosaur do in the Div 2 yellow lines next time and yes, Daniel will need to be on his guard for the TY Challenge me thinks.

Rider Briefing understandably took a little longer than normal explaining all of our 6 Divisions and associated splitter colours and there was a palpable feeling of nervousness permeating amongst the first timers made particularly more evident by the number of Divisional down grading that occurred after Sign In and prior to kick off once they had viewed the adjacent sections and realised what they were really expected to ride. Riding between tapes and following arrows was something that was certainly alien to most of them but a joy to watch none the less! I'm pleased to say that the frowns soon turned to "miles of smiles" once they got underway and it was a joy to be part of an event that attracted so many trials virgins finding out for the first time that it really was a lot of fun and at the same time achieving our objective of taking trials to the masses and winning them over.

Once again we had a full complement of observers which included 4 trainees who earned their stripes with flying colours and actually enjoyed the experience in the process finding our card less rider number scoring system very easy to deal with and who are all keen to do it all over again. Worthy of special commendation were Paul & Nerida Anderson who came down from Kyogle for the day to observe for us

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and Cameron's brother Glen who came from as far away as Sydney to do the same. We'll let you all know when we are holding our first event in Townsville so you can put it on your calendars. ☺

To add some further spice to the day, Kale and Luigi put on an impromptu arena trials demonstration, (I knew those unnatural contraptions would come in handy eventually) immediately after lunch thrilling everyone with their gravity defying manoeuvres and how good was it to have a two time Australian Open Trials Champion and a European factory Beta rider there to showcase our sport. Luigi even showed us all how European factory Beta riders crash having a spectacular off on Section 1, thanks to a sticky clutch, and riding for the rest of the day with a trials universal tyre tread pattern across the middle of his back, bellissimo. His 10 points lost to Kale's 4 reads somewhat differently when that 5 is taken into consideration.

Cameron and Erica Scott also donated two \$50 fuel vouchers to be raffled off for everyone coming from outside a 300km radius which were gratefully received by the two winners making the trip down that much easier to swallow fuel wise. All in all the weekend was a massive success and many thanks must go to them both for their unparalleled hospitality and also to all the Coffs Harbour riders who not only helped with the property preparation but who also supported the event. It was a pleasure for us to take our special brand of mototrials to regional Australia and something that we hope we can do for other trials backwaters in the future if the opportunity arises. Anyway, you can have your husband back now Erica but let us know when you want a break again and we will reschedule in another event back at you unique trials venue.

As a post script, we inspected another possible venue that had been offered to us recently on the way home on Monday and are pleased to announce that not only do we have a new property in the shape of "Camcota" now but also another three hundred acre gem just south of Ballina at our disposal which is central to almost everyone from Coffs Harbour to Casino/Kyogle and the Gold Coast/Brisbane and which will now be added to our ever expanding impressive property portfolio.

SQTA RESULT SHEET									
VENUE:		COFFS HARBOUR			DATE:		JULY 17 2011		
DIVISION No.1					DIVISION No.5				
PLACE	NAME	Twin Shock	DNF/DNS	SCORE	PLACE	NAME	Twin Shock	DNF/DNS	SCORE
1st	KALE REED	0	0	4	1st	STEVE BRYANT	0	0	14
2nd	LUIGI GARZONI	0	0	10	2nd	PETER GATELY	0	0	31
3rd	DAN RULE	0	0	62	3rd	TREVIN DHARIN	0	0	31
4th	JIM REED	0	0	94	4th	ANTON SUPIERZ	0	0	36
DIVISION No.2					5th	ANDREW SHARP	0	0	41
Place	NAME	Twin Shock	DNF/DNS	SCORE	6th	RYAN HEAGNEY	0	0	42
1st	NATHAN YOUNG	0	0	9	7th	MATT MONK	0	0	46
2nd	MICHAEL FRITH	0	0	10		JUNIOR TITLE	0	0	0
DIVISION No.3					1st	SAM ROGERS	0	0	6
PLACE	NAME	Twin Shock	DNF/DNS	SCORE	2nd	JADE GROVES			77
1st	GREG HARDING	0	0	1	DIVISION No.6				
2nd	MICK MOULE	0	0	36	Place	NAME	Twin Shock	DNF/DNS	SCORE
3rd	ADAM KING	0	0	36	1st	TOM FOSTER	0	0	22
4th	DARREN WRIGHT	0	0	78	2nd	DONNA WOODS	0	0	23
	JUNIOR TITLE	0	0	0	3rd	STEVE COLLINS	0	0	40
1st	BRADLEY BRYANT	0	0	6	4th	GAVIN GILL	0	0	51
2nd	BRADLEY SCHNEIDER	0	0	11	5th	GREG MARSHALL	0	0	51
DIVISION No.4					6th	CHRIS HOLMES	0	0	77
PLACE	NAME	Twin Shock	DNF/DNS	SCORE	7th	DOUGAL FISHER	0	0	89
1st	DENYS REED	0	0	7		JUNIOR TITLE	0	0	0
2nd	ANDREW TREZICE	0	0	11	1st	DEAN COLLINS	0	0	2
3rd	MARK GREEN	0	0	16	2nd	TOM SUPIERZ	0	0	17
4th	IAN ROGERS	0	0	17	3rd	PATRICK SUPIERZ	0	0	26
5th	CAMERON SCOTT	0	0	19	4th	MATTHEW HICKS	0	0	33
6th	STEVE O'CONNOR	0	0	35	5th	HAYDEN FISHER	0	0	91
7th	RAY FRAME	0	0	37					
8th	MURRAY HICKS	0	0	42					
9th	DARREN KERR	0	0	60					
10th	DON RULE	0	0	62					
11th	NORM FORSYTH	0	0	97					
12th	PETER FOOTE	0	0	101					
13th	JOHN BARWICK	0	DNF	0					
	JUNIOR TITLE	0	0	0					
1st	BRENDON SCOTT			30					

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