

Theodore Trail ride a roaring success!

They emerged from the dust like a shimmering mirage, the parts of their face you could see grimy with dust, sweat and exertion but the sheer enjoyment of racing motorbikes through challenging terrain emanated from them in waves. They slowed just enough to allow the three dusty gate stewards to register their rider numbers before heading back out on the track, ready to do battle once again with their own riding abilities, the hill climbs and the gully crossings.

The 182 riders in the Theodore State School's P&C's inaugural Trail Ride held on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th June took full advantage of the 69 kilometres of tracks on Allan and Tracey Hewitt's "Glenmoral" property near Theodore.

Riders from from as far South as Avondale near Sydney, Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast and as far North as Eungella near Mackay tested their skills on the 23 and 35km open tracks, the 10km novice tracks and the 1km pee wee track, with the different routes on each day.

The P&C's Trail Ride committee's twelve months of planning came to fruition with an event that was enjoyed by riders, spectators and volunteers alike.

Preston Comber of Atek Mechanical, Toowoomba was enthusiastic in his praise of the entire event, particularly the tracks. "A group of us follow the trail rides and when we heard about this one through Dalby Moto, we thought we would come and give it a go," he said.

"It's been a great weekend and we'll be back next year and let others know as well!"

Trail Ride Secretary Kris Markey paid tribute to all involved in the organisation and execution of the event.

"The men involved have been out here most weekends deciding on the track routes, marking them and ensuring the tracks were clear of dangerous obstacles - they have called it hard work but it didn't take much persuasion for them to take to their bikes every spare moment," she said.

"In the lead up to the two days and the trail ride we had a fantastic team of volunteers manning gates, setting up the amenities, riding the track, organising the catering for the 400 people on-site and the hundreds of other details which make for a successful event."

The organising committee were impressed with the attitude of all of the riders and visitors to the ride.

"Everyone recognised the need for sensible riding which including having to dismount on the public road that intersected the trail and all respected the need to look after the site to ensure the trail ride could continue in the coming years."

Pens and paper were already out on Sunday afternoon noting how the event could be improved in future years - which all bodes very well for some excellent trail rides in the coming years.

Article & Photos - Bronwyn Christensen

