

## ***OSET wins in South Australia.***

The South Australian state titles were held on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> June at Rockleigh.

It was an early start to make it to the event on time and it rained most of the way there. This made me a bit nervous because the property is known for its mossy rocks. The 4.6km course was made up of 12 sections which we had to complete 3 times. This meant Dad was going to be busy managing battery use, but he wasn't worried, he told me he had a plan and to just ride my best.

I walked all the sections thoroughly and took my time to pick good lines. The first section I attempted was grassy and had a tight uphill turn. I decided it would be safer to ride the A line and go up a rock step, knowing it would cost me a 1 but saving a possible 5. This proved to be a good idea because the next few juniors to take the turn got stuck. The sections were good and there was nothing the Oset 20 and I couldn't handle. Before I knew it, I was done for the day and finished with a score of 2 points with no flat batteries.

Day 2 had another wet start but by the time we arrived, the rain had stopped and it was starting to dry out. It was another day of the 4.6 Km long loop but some sections had been removed and a few others added to make 12 sections for the lap with 3 laps required again.

I started with the sections that were the same as the previous day to give myself more time to look at the new ones. The first new section I arrived at had a huge uphill with mossy rocks in it. It looked slippery and would take all my techniques to make it up. I positioned Dad at a turning point on the section and went back to get ready. I lined up the start gate and headed straight around Dad avoiding the slippery rock and then held it flat to make it to the top of the hill with no wheel spin. I was stoked!

We moved on to a few more new sections before coming to the ugliest section for the day. I had to ride through some angled rocks that just wanted to kick me sideways, then turn right on an off camber, head up the hill further to another right turn before a step down and then, out the gate. Could I make it without spinning out? Dad had confidence in me, so I lined up. Dad marked me a good line and I went for it, but the back wheel got caught by an angled rock and kicked me to the right. I had to dab. I got a big bit of wheel spin and had to dab again but managed to straighten up and I was off. Those 2 dabs were the only 2 for the day and I was super happy.

I finished the weekend on 4 points winning the junior B class and had a blast, Dad had the battery situation under control and at the end I had enough left in the tank to ride a few of the A lines and show off with a few signature wheelies.

Thanks to my competitors Ryan and Mitchell for making it a great weekend.

Hayden Eardley.

