

# NEWSLETTER

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## GEELONG MOUNTAIN BIKE CLUB

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### **MTBA ROUND 5 Anakie February 10th**

On February 10<sup>th</sup> we held Round 5 of the MTBA National Series at Anakie. The Course was run over a combination of previous courses with the inclusion of new single track, which had a grueling climb, and the use of the valley floor down to the dam. This new course layout got a lot of people saying it was one of the better courses we have run there and that we should run it all of the time.

Racing started early and finished late in the afternoon as it was our aim to give all riders the advantage of one class on the course at a time.

Ninety-five riders competed on the day with Simon Bishop, Paul Radenback, Trent Lowe, Rob Eva and Dellys Franke being some of the top ten riders competing.

The racing was hard and fast all day with the elite men doing 16 minute laps when it was estimated that it would take them 19 to 20 minutes. The course also caused its share of problems for a lot of riders, as the DNF from punctures were very high. I would say it was the highest for any race that we have held there.

The day went smoothly with all classes getting away on time making the day a complete success.

We would like to thank all those people who helped with the day's proceedings as without their help it would not have been the success that it was.

### **MTBA NATIONALS – MT BEAUTY 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> March**

Once again the nationals were held at Beauty. This location is one of the best as all disciplines are contested at the one location.

Friday night was the Duel Compressor at the BMX track with approximately 40 riders competing in what was fast, hard and spectacular racing as it was an elimination event. The track was standing room only and the floodlights gave it a great atmosphere, even the downpour towards the end didn't send people away.

Saturday was cross-country with racing starting at 8.00 am. There were three courses in one with the higher the class the more climbing up the hillside was involved.

Most of Australia's top riders were there with the likes of Josh Flemming, Paul

Rowney, Garth Hennessy, Paul Radenbach, Simon Bishop, Rob Eva, Sid Taberlay, Dellys Franke and Anna Baylis, which shows that MTBA racing is now high profile.

The course was very tough with many elite riders finishing with dirt and a few scratches for their effort.

The weather was hot and the rain on Friday night made the track excellent for the early riders but as the day progressed it became a dust bowl as it was in the previous practice days.

The Club was well represented in most classes with David Steinhauser placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in expert and Hayden Lebbink 4<sup>th</sup> in U19.

On Sunday the mountain started to buzz early as it was the down hillers day. The track was a new course with the inclusion of what was called the Lizard Bridge, a timber ramp about 6 meters long with a padded gate on its crest which was a challenge for many riders. The course had all that Beauty is famous for, rock gardens, big drops, big berms and its fast section of jumps at the bottom.

Again Australia's top riders like Kouarik, Panozzo, Graves, Rennie, Boyer and Sharples contested the Elite class.

The Club was well represented in most classes with some good results. Tess Dickie 1st U17 Women, Ben Cleggett 3<sup>rd</sup> U17, Jarrah Breese 5<sup>th</sup> U17, Whylie Burchall 3<sup>rd</sup> U19, Brendon Billings 4<sup>th</sup> Vets, Tony Burchall 1<sup>st</sup> Super Masters and Sam Steinhauf 4<sup>th</sup> Sport.

All those who went to the Nationals for the week or just the weekend would have to agree that it was an event that should not be missed.

### **VICTORIAN SUMMER SERIES XC**

GMBC and FTF ran the summer series between the two clubs with five rounds

being contested on courses at Macedon, Wonga Park, Whittlesea, Anakie and then back to Macedon for the final round which was a dual point race as it was also the Victorian Cross Country Championships.

The series was well contested with 80 to 90 riders at each round. 20 women raced the series, which was good to see as it made it competitive as there was more than one or two in each class.

Sport Men was huge as usual and there were good numbers in Expert with an average of ten riders at each event.

With the age change for Vet Met now being 30 to 40 this class is now quite large and the rivalry is as if they were out there to win sheep stations. The age for Masters has also been changed to 40 to 50 and is also a large field now and very competitive.

We would like to congratulate the following on their placings in the series: Phil Orr 2<sup>nd</sup> Expert, David Steinhauser 3<sup>rd</sup> Expert, Hayden Lebbink 2<sup>nd</sup> U19, Gary Milburn 1<sup>st</sup> U17, Libby Evans 1<sup>st</sup> Women, Alfred Bluch 3<sup>rd</sup> Super Masters.

### **VICTORIAN STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH**

This race was held at Macedon. The course was changed from the last race held there with the inclusion of more single tack which proved to be much harder to ride than we thought (you might know who to blame). Once again 90 riders turned up for this race and the race times were still fast even with the extra length in the track

Once again the Club faired well with Gary Milburn winning U17, Hayden Lebbink 2<sup>nd</sup> U19, Alfred Bluch 3<sup>rd</sup> Super Masters, Libby Evans 2<sup>nd</sup> Sport Women and Kim McCormack 1<sup>st</sup> Elite Women.

At the end of the race presentation was done for both the Victorian

Championships and the Victorian Summer Series. It was good to see so many people stayed for this.

### **6 HOUR ENDURO – FEBRUARY 6<sup>TH</sup>**

This was held at Anglesea again starting at 6.00 pm and finishing at 12.00 midnight. As it was held later this year it meant that there was more night riding time and some riders had trouble keeping their battery power up. A total of 60 riders turned up. There were 13 riders in Individual with Evan Jeffries and Jeremy Ryan riding a tandem. 17 teams made up the rest of the field with 2 and 3 riders in teams. There was also one all women team. As time went by so did the laps with the winning team doing 21 laps and the 1<sup>st</sup> individual doing 19 laps. The women did 13 laps.

Club members Dan Hale and Nick Kirally won the team's event with Grant and Hayden Lebbink coming 3<sup>rd</sup>, Gary Hope came 4th in the Individual.

All those who raced said that it was a great night's racing and an event not to be missed.

### **VICTORIAN SINGLE SPEED CHAMPIONSHIPS – FEBRUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>**

It was 12 o'clock at Anglesea and 26 riders ran up a track and back for a Le Mans start to the race. The only problem was that they had to refit their front wheel and someone, who won't be named, swapped all the wheels around just for fun. After much mayhem they started what was supposed to be a race. Dan Hale and Damian Auton turned up in drag so this gave them points for style. Anyone who was desperate to have the most laps up after the 2-hour time limit could score an extra lap for a nudy lap. Not surprisingly there were 3 desperates who found it more pleasurable riding in the raw than with their gear on.

Dan Hale got the D.F.L. award, when he finally found his front wheel at the start he

then proceeded to use a stick to roll it around the course. By his 2<sup>nd</sup> lap he decided that was too hard so, with the stick and some bunting, he turned his wheel into a hobbyhorse and proceeded to ride that around. 2 laps down in 2 hours made him D.F.L.

The day was one of its own with all those there having a great day of non-competitive racing, even though it was supposed to be the Single Speed Championships.

### **MTBA NATIONAL XC RANKINGS**

We would like to congratulate the following members on their final ranking in this series:

Elite Men	Phil Orr	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Elite Women	Kim McCormack	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Expert Men	Nick Kiraly	1 <sup>st</sup>
	David Steinhauser	3 <sup>rd</sup>
U19	Hayden Lebbink	2 <sup>nd</sup>
U17	Gary Milburn	3 <sup>rd</sup>

### **ANAKIE DOWN HILL**

Once again on April 14<sup>th</sup> the hill at Anakie was a buzz with down hillers and loud music. Rego opened up at 9 o'clock and the rush began, it was frantic all morning. The mad rush for practice began at 9:30 and was flat out till 11:30, with most riders getting 4-5 runs.

The course was changed, instead of having the burm to the finish line; a jump was added at the start of the burm, which meant that the riders had to jump up onto the road section before doing a sharp right hand turn over a step into the hole with the finish line on a slight curve. This appeared a challenge for some U17 riders as two took out the timing equipment with the second time causing a ½ hour delay in racing, as the optic eye required wiring repairs and we changed the finish line.

After the delay we got back to racing and gave the U17 a second run, as the timing

problems happened half way through their race run.

All classes got down in one piece, but the drop was still the place to be for some spectacular crashes. The times were fast for the top riders in each class, with Jarrah Cocks getting close to matching Shane Wodes record time of 02:10.45.

Racing finished at 3:30 and within ½ hour all the race times were posted. With presentation following not long after with a large number of riders staying for this, which was good to see them supporting the winners and place getters.

The club fair well again with Will Hudson 3<sup>rd</sup> U19, Jarrah Breese 1<sup>st</sup> U17, Hutch Peters 2<sup>nd</sup> U17, Fergus Anderson 3<sup>rd</sup> Hardtail, Cody Birchall 1<sup>st</sup> Sport Women, Peter Hutchison 1<sup>st</sup> Sport Men, Steve Munyard 1<sup>st</sup> Vets and Tony Birchall 1<sup>st</sup> Masters.

Jason Haire from Ballarat got the VICMTB best crash award, as after crashing at the drop, he returned for presentation with 12 stitches in his ankle.

We would like to thank VICMTB for their on going support. (The boss was there himself racing sport with a time of 2:48.97, not bad for his first ever down hill race. GRAVITY COFFEE was also a sponsor, as well as selling coffee, which was well appreciated by many.

The whole day was a great success and we would like to thank all those who helped.

For those who didn't get their time, they are posted on the VICMTB and Fatties websites.

### **SUPER SIX SERIES**

Round 1 was held at Anglesea on 28<sup>th</sup> April. The series got off to a great start with 70 riders turning up and a lot of new faces. Also pleasing was the large number of women competing.

The course was changed with some more single track and this was to every bodies liking. There was also a jump added with some riders, not many, getting air off it, about 200mm max not a XC thing.

The day was another good race with some photos from the race at the end of this letter.

### **SINGLE SPEED SERIES**

The single speed class will be run this year in a different format. The riders will race in normal class but will be awarded an extra 5 points on top of their normal class placing points. Eg. 1<sup>st</sup> gets 80 points, but if the rider is on a single speed he would get 85 points.

Once again James McCormack from On One will be sponsoring the single speed series.

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Any person who would like to add something, or would like to sell parts or bikes, give me a ring on 0417340927 or Mark on 0407433682

Any members interested in assisting in course building, that is cross-country, down hill or dual slalom, please give Murray a ring on 0417 340927 or 9741 6443.

Also for any club and race information don't forget to ring Mark Barends on the club hot line 0407 433682 or Murray Richardson on 0417 340927.

Till next letter, enjoy your racing.