



Media Release – 17 February 2009 International rider top contender

American John Nobile is looking forward to spending some time in the Australian bush even if it is on the back of his bike as he competes in the inaugural BMC Mountains to Beach from 1 to 6 March.

John, winner of the longest MTB race in the world - the Great Divide Race from Canada to Mexico and second place getter in the 2008 MTB Himachal race, India's own mountain bike race through the Himalaya, is keen to add Australia to his list of conquests.

He's up against some tough competition though and the locals aren't going to let him have it his own way. With current Australian Solo 24 Hour Champion, Jason English just one competitor keen to see the trophy stays in Australia.

Jason has a very impressive record of his own. Apart from being the current Australian 24 Hour champion, he placed 2nd in 2009 World Solo 24 Hour even, came 1st in the 2008 Scott 24hr and placed second behind Dennis Van Mill in the 100 Mile Highland Fling last November. Jason is definitely the current 'form' rider in endurance events, and will be hard to beat.

Another likely place getter is Dennis Van Mill. The legendary endurance rider from Port Macquarie, Dennis will be as fresh on Day 5 as he is on Day 1. In recent years Dennis has made the 100Mile Highland Fling his own race and has completed the gruelling Crocodile Trophy.

In the pairs category, front runners would have to be Troy Bailey & Joel Donney. With a satisfying 1st place in the 35-39 age category at the 2008 World Solo 24 Hour Championship and clearing up in most of the Victorian endurance MTB events, Troy Bailey has teamed up with Joel Donney to contest the Pairs category in the BMC Mountains To Beach. Joel is a regular podium placer in endurance MTB events across Australia and was World Solo 24 Hour U-25 champion in 2007.

The 375km BMC Mountains to Beach is an event that takes entrants on a mighty journey from the slopes of Mount Kosciuszko, Australia's highest mountain, to the surf and sand of the South Coast of NSW.

Riders will ride the whole distance from the mountains to the beach with the exception of 6km – a ride up the Ski Tube underground railway ascending 600metres from the Thredbo Valley to Perisher Blue Ski Resort. Definitely the easiest climb they'll do all week!

The first stage, hosted by Thredbo on Monday 2 March, is the Hayes Manitou Mountain Run. It's an 8 kilometre cross country descent from the top of the chairlift to the village below 600metres below.

From there participants move onto Lake Crackenback Resort where the 26km Maxxix Muster takes place. This race stage consists of two loops of singletrack, purpose built for the event.

The riders spend a total of 4 days in the mountains before descending to the beautiful Eurobodalla coast for the final stage into Narooma.

Full details on the stages are attached and can be found on www.wildhorizons.com.au

The BMC Mountains To Beach is organized by Wild Horizons, promoters of some of Australia's best known mountain bike events.

For additional information on the BMC Mountains To Beach please contact:

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Full Race Stage Details

The Hayes Manitou Mountain Run - Hosted by Thredbo on Mon 2 March.

This 8km cross country stage stays wholly within Thredbo Village descending from the top of the chairlift at nearly 2000metres to the village below

The Maxxis Muster - Hosted by Novotel Lake Crackenback Resort on Mon 2 March.

This 26km stage rides 2 loops of the singletrack purpose built for the event at this magnificent resort..

The Berghaus Mountain Traverse - Hosted by Perisher Blue on Tuesday 3.

March The first long stage of the race, this 60km stage traverses some superb high country through Kosciuszko National Park to near Lake Eucumbene, the largest lake of the Snowy Hydro scheme.

The Ay Up Dawn Raid - Hosted by Buckenderra Resort on Wednesday 4 March.

This 26km stage will start an hour before first light through tracks and bush on the shores of Lake Eucumbene.

The Verofit Big Day Out - Hosted by Visit Cooma on Thursday 5 March.

85km of racing from Cooma down toward the coast leaving the Snowy Mountains behind and descending through Wadbilliga National Park. After the race stage the riders will ride another 40km to Bermagui to finish the day on the coast – truly a big day out!

The Ground Effect Surf Safari - Hosted by Eurobodalla Nature Coast on Fri 6 March

45km of stunning coastal riding – above, behind and even on the beaches will offer a fitting end to a race that finishes on the surf beach in Narooma.