

Hello All

Firstly, our thoughts are with the people of Victoria and all those who have lost family, friends or property in the devastating bushfires of recent days.

For many years, this time of year was spent preparing for our Polaris Challenge in early March. Now we are looking forward to the inaugural BMC Mountains To Beach MTB Stage Race, and enjoying the new challenges that this is throwing our way! Plenty of other things happening at the same time, we hope you enjoy reading about them ...

BMC MOUNTAINS TO BEACH - 1-6 MARCH 2009



Entries for the BMC Mountains To Beach are looking good at approximately 2/3 full. We've been updating the Web on a regular basis and recent announcements have included Espresso Mobile Café as the official event coffee van and Snowy Mountains Cookies as the official race cookie, good to know these key dietary requirements are under control! We've also got the list of entrants on the site, a stretching program from event physio The Body Mechanic, and a printable version of the route on the Route and Racing page. Don't forget that Verofit have a great offer for Wild Horizons readers on some of their products - a good opportunity to try these out prior to the event! See www.verofit.com.au/product.php?productid=16195&cat=251

HIGHLAND FLING EVENT ARTICLES



The current issues of Mountain Biking Australia and Enduro contain articles on last November's Highland Fling. Check them out to see if you're there in glorious colour. Also check out a great video on Trailflix at

www.trailflix.com.au/tfx_new/trails.php?id=wingello&&component=videohigh

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

We're pleased to announce there are a number of new dates for 2009 Wild Horizons happenings to go alongside the regular ones.

1-6 March _____ **BMC Mountains To Beach:** entries are still open, join us for a great MTB journey traversing some spectacular terrain

25 April _____ **Wingello MTB Skills Clinic:** for beginner & intermediate riders, in Wingello State Forest (NSW Southern Highlands). Led by Fiona Dick and Rod McGee. See www.wildhorizons.com.au/tours/skillsclinic.html for course outline and booking form.

26 April _____ **Fling in the Vines Winery Tour:** join us for a leisurely 25km mountain bike wine tour in the NSW Southern Highlands. See www.wildhorizons.com.au/tours/flingvine.html for information and booking form.

20 June _____ **Women's MTB Skills Clinic:** for beginner & intermediate female riders, led by Fiona Dick in Wingello State Forest, NSW Southern Highlands

21 June _____ **MTB Tour:** a 4hour guided MTB tour of trails of the Southern Highlands, secret and not so secret!

22/23 August _____ **Enduro Event:** Enduro event in the Southern Highlands with some superb singletrack guaranteed

7/8 November _____ **Highland Fling MTB Marathon:** last but not least, the annual MTB Marathon Championships, get in early when entries open on 1 July to ensure your place! See www.wildhorizons.com.au/highlandfling

YE OLDE BICYCLE SHOPPE WEBSITE



We've recently created a brand new website for Ye Olde Bicycle Shoppe, with information on bike hire, café menu, cycling tours, social rides, and much more - see www.wildhorizons.com.au/shoppe/Welcome.html We've also added a new mailing list option for those wishing to be kept up to date on local cycling happenings - sign up to Highlands Rides at www.wildhorizons.com.au/maillist.html From late February we will be adding to our bike hire range with a small fleet of high end demo bikes from BMC. Keep an eye on the website in the coming weeks for more info.

WINGELLO MTB TRAILS - FIRES & WORKING BEES



You may be aware that early in the New Year a bushfire raged in Morton National Park, adjacent to Wingello State Forest where these superb MTB trails are located. Most importantly, no properties were threatened during the fires, but MTBers will be pleased to note that the trails were also spared, and the forest was re-opened just last week.

The Highlands Trail Fairies are heading back to Wingello to work their magic. No doubt there will be lots of raking to be done given the trails haven't been ridden over the past month. The next working bee will be on Wednesday 11 Feb at 5.45pm (followed by a night ride for those keen!). If you'd like to help out, please see www.wildhorizons.com.au/trails/index.html for more info and rsvp details.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Good luck to all competing in the Otway Odyssey MTB Marathon on 21 February.

More of the series of summer races held by the Southern Highlands Cycling Club are coming up at Welby (13 Feb) and Fitzroy Falls (28 Feb). See www.southernhighlandsccl.com.au for more info.

STOP PRESS

PRIME MINISTER RUDD OFFERS TO PAY ENTRY FEE FOR BMC MTB

Rudd announced last week that for all mountain bikers earning less than \$100K, the Australian Government will cover the cost of their **BMC MTB** entry fee by way of a payment of \$950 ...



LAKE CRACKENBACK RESORT



BMC Mountains to Beach stage 2 host Lake Crackenback Resort is now offering mountain bike tours to Mt Kosciuszko in addition to its great range of onsite trails and activities.

Hosted by an expert local guide this tour is Australia's highest ride starting at the quaint alpine village of Charlotte Pass. The tour will take riders up the Summit Road to Rawson's Pass in preparation for the short hike to Mount Kosciuszko via an established trail. This 18km round trip is best suited for moderate to experienced riders with good general fitness. Lunch is provided. \$185.00 per person, minimum numbers apply. For further information visit www.lakecrackenback.com.au

OREGON SCIENTIFIC ACTION CAM



When words aren't enough to explain the pure exhilaration of thrashing down a mountain, you need Oregon Scientific's 3rd generation ATC3K Waterproof Action Cam to do your stories justice.

The only Waterproof Action Camera that delivers full colour high-quality VGA footage at 30 frames per second and weighing only 300 grams, the ATC3K is the perfect way to capture your extreme adventure experiences.

The camera's features include hands-free digital recording, 48 degrees field of view and mounting grips, making it perfect for strapping onto your helmet or handlebars before embarking on your next big race. With the Action Cam, you can easily upload footage of your adventures to the Internet or send to family and friends so everyone can see just how daring you really are!

For more information on the ATC3K Action Cam visit www.oregonscientific.com.au



THREDBO - SUMMER ACTIVITIES



Thredbo is full swing in the height of summer activities and adventures, with bikers especially gearing up the inaugural BMC Mountains To Beach event.

Thredbo is synonymous with alpine fun and adventure, it's snuggled into the foothills of Australia's highest mountains, and when you are staying in Thredbo, it is all at your feet.

Stand tall on the top of Mt Kosciuszko, you are after all on the highest point in Australia or hurtle down the Thredbo Downhill on a mountain bike, cast a line in the famous rivers or just wander in the High Country past peaks and sparkling alpine lakes.



Cheers..... Huw, Fi, Wendy, Wayne, Kaz and all the Wild Horizons team

YE OLDE Bicycle Shoppe

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OPEN 7 days - 8.30AM - 4.30PM (5PM SAT/SUN)

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