

Hello All

The top hat is being dusted down, the elephant's toenails clipped; we're getting ready for the 3 Ring Circus on 22 August! We're going to need a magician's help too on that day, as many of us in the Wild Horizons crew fly to East Timor via Darwin that same night to take part in the Tour De Timor, a 5 day MTB race around that island nation. Always good to ride in new places!

We've had an interesting month with website launch (and crash), new event management system, record event sell outs and bottled water.....

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

NEW WILD HORIZONS WEBSITE AND ENTRY SYSTEM

www.wildhorizons.com.au



Hope you like the new website - it's taken us some years to get there! There's still some work to be done but we feel it better reflects our passions without becoming over complicated for users. It also allows us to update content easily from the office. A huge big hug to Roy, our webmaster for the past 10 years when he dragged us into the internet age!

In conjunction with the new launch was the introduction of WHEMS (groan.....) - Wild Horizons Event Management System. The web based entry system makes things a lot easier for us and should do for you too. It means that you can change entry categories yourself, gift your entry to someone else if you have to cancel, order merchandise after you've entered, update your personal details, etc.

2009 HIGHLAND FLING - RECORD SELL OUT



We knew the event would sell out quickly this year; perhaps over 3 or 4 days for the 1500 places. But 5 HOURS?! That was insane. And with over 2000 people online still trying to enter when entries closed. It was this original 'pressure' that crashed our website when we first tried to open entries a week earlier on. A sleepless week followed (and a huge thanks to Fi for propping up her eyelids night after night to bring the boat around and back on track).

Obviously we're genuinely sorry for all those who missed out on an entry. Numerous suggestions have come in with some going so far as to suggest running 2 Flings on consecutive days. Mmmm, don't think the volunteers, community groups, road closures etc. make it that simple! And every excuse heard now; the favourite being the guy who was taking his wife to hospital to have their first baby when entries opened/closed!

There is no waitlist being kept for the Fling as we took a few more riders to allow for that. We will give away a few entries in coming months (see World MTB Championships below). Note that there are still entries available for untimed The Casual Fling (which is additional to the 1500 race limit) and of course you can still enter the Bundanoon Dash!

A big welcome too to new Fling sponsors Shimano and Maxxis Tyres.

THE 3 RING CIRCUS - 22 AUGUST

Only a week to go until the 3 Ring Circus cycles into town. The Big Top is full with the 600 rider limit reached. Should be a great day of riding for mountain bikers of all levels down in Wingello State Forest.



WILD HORIZONS AT WORLD MTB CHAMPIONSHIPS, 2-6 SEPTEMBER

With the Worlds coming to Mt Stromlo in Canberra, we'll have a stand at the event from Thurs 3/9-Sun 6/9. We're there to talk about our events, tours, bikes, caffeine (OK, we're really there to see the action and talk mountain biking!) so come say hello. We'll be drawing a free Highland Fling entry on each of the 4 days so if you missed out, here's another chance.

2010 BMC MOUNTAINS TO BEACH - 28 FEBRUARY-5 MARCH



We're looking forward to another awesome mountains to beach journey with entries due to open on 1 October. DT Swiss, Osprey Hydraulics, Ibis Bikes and Limar

Helmets join our existing event sponsors. Hopefully you caught some of the articles in the MTB mags. You can check out another article in the latest Underground from Ground Effect on www.groundeffect.co.nz/underground



BUNDY ON TAP - OFFICIAL LAUNCH 26 SEPTEMBER



Many will have seen our home town of Bundanoon in the media in early July regarding our plans, as a town, to go bottled water free. Whilst we knew there was a story of interest there, nobody could have predicted the media frenzy that ensued.

Helicopters carrying film crews landing on the oval where the Fling is based, hundreds of interviews and hardly a country in the world not covering the story. The story almost knocked Michael Jackson off his perch as the story of the day (even though he'd already fallen!). Bundy on Tap is all about making public drinking water more available.

Much work is being done on the installation of the street water stations, in-store water dispensers and refillable bottles. All this to be ready for the official launch on Saturday 26 September. There will be lots of activities including a short 'Ride for a Refill'. Read about our journey so far on www.bundyontap.com.au and come join us at the launch.

HIGHLANDS TRAILS WORKING BEES - WIN A FLING ENTRY!



The next Working Bee will be held on Saturday 19 September, to work on new sections of the Highland Fling course. Come help build this new Fling track and we'll do a draw from participants on the day to award a free Fling entry which you can either use or give to someone else if you're already entered! There'll be another chance on Saturday 3 October if you can't make it in September. See www.wildhorizons.com.au/highlands-trails for more info and to rsvp.

WILD HORIZONS MTB TOURS & SKILLS DAYS

Wingello MTB Skills Clinic, Wingello State Forest - Sunday 20 September

A full day skills clinic for beginner and intermediate riders - <http://www.wildhorizons.com.au/calendar/skills-clinics-camps/4-wingello-mtb-skills-clinic>

Women's MTB Skills Camp, Wingello State Forest - 3-4 October

There are just a couple of spots left on our Women's Skills Camp on 3-4 October. The two day format ensures plenty of time for both skills sessions and social riding. We've just heard that one of our instructors Zoe King has been selected for the Australian World Championship XC team. Go Zoe! See www.wildhorizons.com.au/calendar/skills-clinics-camps/6-women's-mtb-skills-camp for more info and to book. And, if you're keen for more riding after the clinic, there's a new MTB tour on the following day - see below!

Down and Out Tour, Fitzroy Falls/Kangaroo Valley - Monday 5 October

This new MTB tour will lead you from the Highlands escarpment to Kangaroo Valley, taking in some great singletrack and a thrilling 600m descent along the way. Finish with some pub grub before catching a shuttle back to your car. See www.wildhorizons.com.au/calendar/tours/10-down-and-out-mtb-tour

Advanced MTB Skills Clinic, Twin Falls - Sunday 18 October


A full day skills clinic for intermediate riders to advanced riders - www.wildhorizons.com.au/calendar/skills-clinics-camps/5-advanced-mtb-skills-clinic

Wine and Wheels - Sunday 18 October


Enjoy a caffeine fix at Ye Olde Bicycle Shoppe in Bundanoon before a leisurely 9km ride to St Maur Estate, enjoying the views of lush green farmlands and rolling countryside along the way. At St Maur we'll sample their fine wines and enjoy a delicious antipasto platter. We also hope to take you to a stunning lookout over the vast expanses of the Morton National Park. See www.wildhorizons.com.au/tours/tours/9-fling-in-the-vines-winterfest-wine-and-wheels for the info.

Womens MTB Skills Clinic, Wingello State Forest - Saturday 5 December

A full day skills clinic for beginner and intermediate women riders - www.wildhorizons.com.au/calendar/skills-clinics-camps/2-women's-mtb-skills-clinic



5 days of mountain bike stage racing from the roof of Australia to the surf
28 Feb-5 March 2010
www.wildhorizons.com.au
Email: bmcmtb@wildhorizons.com.au
Tel: 02 4883 6509

2009 URBAN POLARIS - SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER, CANBERRA



This year the Urban Polaris will celebrate its 10th birthday and the 2nd year under the guidance of The ACT Mental Health Foundation, who we licensed it to. Last year you raised \$38,000 for the Foundation's great work!

Teams of two riders ride the bike paths, forests and roads over 7 hours using a detailed street map to seek out a choice of checkpoints. 2009 also marks the launch of 'The Metro', a slightly less challenging event for beginner and intermediate riders.

Registrations open mid August. To enter or to find out more, visit www.urbanpolaris09.org.au

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

MTBO - 26 & 27 September, Wingello State Forest

Mountain Devils are holding a Night MTBO event at Wingello on 26 September followed by a combined format event on Sunday 27 September as the last SuperSeries event of the year. See <http://mountaindevils.nsw.orienteering.socialfx.net/> for all the info.

5 days of mountain bike stage racing from the roof of Australia to the surf

Imagine a week of mountain biking, a week of racing, that will take you from the highest mountains in Australia, across snowgum fringed plains, down along rainforest lined creeks and out to finish with your wheels in the sand and surf. Snaking singletrack, 'wind thru the helmet' downhill challenging uphill and some of the most varied scenery you could want.

Join us for the second running of the The BMC Mountains To Beach and come on a journey where entrants, solo or pairs, will ride some 380km from Thredbo in the Snowy Mountains of NSW to Narooma on the South Coast of NSW.

The majority of the riding will be in race stages that will test the full range of mountain biking skills - uphill, downhill, cross country, marathon, riding under lights. Whilst timed race stages will range in length up to 100km, there will also be a number of non timed, non race cruising stages along the way.

- Ride 380km on a range of superb tracks and trails
- Take the challenge of the race and enjoy the journey
- Stay in a range of accommodation from 'sheer luxury' to camping
- Test your range of mountain biking skills
- Win yourself some great prizes

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