



The small town of Dwellingup, an hour and half south of Perth was introduced to Marathon XC Mountain biking on Saturday 19 September 2009 in a way they never expected. **661** riders spread over 3 events of 14, 44 or 104 km descended on this beautiful part of the world to take part in the inaugural Dwellingup 100 MTB Classic.

The unusually high rainfall and long wet season also stood as a test for the organizers, riders and trails alike. The course even had to be changed the day before the event as the water levels were too high and too dangerous to cross in the Murray River. But none of this could dampen the enthusiasm of the endurance mountain biker, not even the extra 4 km.

Finishing the 44 km southern loop was a huge achievement on its own with almost 1000M of climbing and the biggest hill of the day at the 10 km marker. Then climb after climb, only to be faced with the timed hill climb in the spectacular pines at the 32 km mark, with a “walk” for most up a 100M of DH track.

Back into race central at the football oval for food, drink, chain lube and bucket loads of encouragement. Then it was North on 9 km of road for a “rest” only to go from one extreme to the other with a timed lap of the brilliant “Turner Hill” XC race circuit, finishing at the 70 km marker.

Heading out through Oakley Dam, using some of the Munda Bididi and other Trails to make our way back to the Marrinup XC race circuit proved difficult for a number of riders. They said there had been a brick wall erected where the 80 km marker was, I don't remember seeing it when I went past on the motor bike????

Luckily there was an “oasis” on the trails in the form of the aid station near this point and apparently some riders “really, really, really appreciated this”

A lap of Marrinup and the fast fire trails also proved a popular way to finish the event. The run into the finish though was just a bit too much for some who thought it was a really good spot to fall off and lay in the mud, well there's no point doing it in the bush where no one sees you, is there?

Jon Gregg and Stephanie Russell were the big winners on the day taking overall honours as well as the bonus fastest hill climb and fastest laps of Turner hill. These riders were also escorted in for the last 5 Km by lead motor cycles sounding the horn in the town to give these riders the accolades they so rightly deserve.

Simon Willets was strong all day and had Jon Gregg worried early to finish second and Kiwi, Chris Fisher was awesome in third.

Pam Criddle and Kate Swain rounded out the top 3 woman and placed well overall. I cant name any more riders because looking down the results list, the names of fantastic riders with great results just doesn't stop.

What a race the "Le Grande" 44 was, Rohan Brown U17, Robbie Rhodes U18, Dave Wilson U17 and Reece Tucknott (13 Years old), raced hard for 2 hours to stay ahead of world class "Track" cyclist Duane Johansen finishing in fifth place.

Another stand out was Daryl Griffiths (Carbo Shotz) winning the 44 K masters race and sixth overall, awesome effort. Leah Glass, Kathy Pirotta, and Amanda Lobegeiger made up the top 3 woman in the 44 k in a very close race.

This highly anticipated event had been 11 months in the planning and did not disappoint. The feed back we have had has been simply over whelming. We have supplied just a taste of it below.

*"Talk about hit the nail on the head. The event you guys coordinated on Saturday was beyond belief!!! I've been to some well-oiled competitions in my time - National series, National Championships - but I've never seen anything as well organized, as well catered for, or as well patronized as the Dwellingup 100".*

**Ex WAMBA president Mike Thorman**

*"Great course, great atmosphere, great organization, best MTB event I have ever been to"* **20 year MTB veteran and legend Steve Jolly**

*"Congratulations to the team and all volunteers for a sensational event. Exceptionally well organised, amazing circuit and brilliant location. The fact that the course was so well marked (not a single wrong turn) combined with distance markers makes it a whole load easier. Numbers, registration, timing etc also done to perfection. Finishers medals sensational and T-shirts a bonus"*

**Bob de la Motte**

Rest assured, the planning is already underway for next years event, see you there!!!!