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New home track for JetBlack 24H Race confirmed

Last month, events organiser Rocky Trail Entertainment set Sydney's mountain bike rumour mill buzzing with news that an announcement about their prestigious JetBlack 24-Hour race was imminent. Rocky Trail had established the prestigious race on Sydney's MTB calendar over the past three years and now race director Juliane Wisata confirmed, "New track, new date."



On the weekend of 3+4 December 2011 Rocky Trail will be summoning mountain bikers from near and far to their ultimate in MTB endurance events and to a new venue - The Australian Botanic Garden, Mount Annan.

"We are excited that we have found a perfect new home track for our 24-hour race", says Wisata.

The date for the race had been brought forward deliberately to combat extreme weather conditions of torrential rain and record heat waves, which were thrown at organisers and riders in February of previous years. Adds Wisata, "With the team at The Australian Botanic Garden, Mount Annan we have found such great supporters of mountain biking and we are excited that we can contribute to making it a real MTB destination."

In March this year, Rocky Trail hosted the first ever MTB racing events at the brand-new trails in Sydney's South-West. Caz McCallum, Director at The Australian Botanic Garden, Mount Annan, said that she was thrilled by the number of visitors to the gardens - more than 500 mountain bikers with families, support crews and friends had come to the area from near and far to enjoy the beautiful surrounds over the entire weekend.

"We have become really fond of this 'friendly new species' in our botanic garden", smiles Caz McCallum. "All visiting and racing mountain bikers are so supportive and caring about our trails, which really encourages us to expand on the existing track network and to make our beautiful garden accessible to an even broader visitor group."

Whilst already planning to expand the garden's facilities for mountain bikers and visitors to accommodate an overnight event, 'trail godfather' and horticulture manager Daniel Bishop confirmed that together with the Rocky Trail crew an extended race track would be made available.

"We are keen to put our trails on the map as a world-class MTB venue. Having races like the JetBlack 24-Hour on our calendar and Rocky Trail on board as an events partner in year one shows us that we're on the right track", Bishop said and added that the botanic garden's trail building project team is already planning on track extensions.

A strong supporter of the mountain bike racing scene and of Rocky Trail events, JetBlack Cycling has been confirmed as the major sponsor of the JetBlack 24H Sydney race for the fourth time and promise a plethora of prizes.

The love-affair of Australian mountain bikers with 24-hour endurance races has been growing strong over the past decade with more and more social riders participating in teams at events all around the country. Four consecutive 24H-Solo World Championship titles have been claimed for Australia since 2007, with Jason English keeping his reign from 2009 at last year's World titles in Canberra.

It was also him, the teacher from Port Macquarie and multiple 24H Solo National Champion, who has claimed the top spot on the podium for three years in a row at the JetBlack 24-hour race.

Concludes Juliane Wisata, "Rocky Trail brings Sydney's most prestigious MTB endurance race to Sydney's best race track - this is going to be an awesome 2011 season finale!"

So looks like there will be excitement on the cards – new track, new date... new champion?

For more event information, please contact Rocky Trail Entertainment or visit www.rockytrailandentertainment.com



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