



SHIMANO MTB Series Finale at Ourimbah State Forest

For the fourth round and series finale of their SHIMANO MTB Grand Prix, organisers Rocky Trail Entertainment summoned about 200 riders to Ourimbah State Forest last weekend. Perfect weather and track conditions meant that riders had travelled from as far as Canberra, Dubbo and Newcastle to collect valuable series points and for podium getters to pick up trophies and prizes. Now it's third year, the SHIMANO MTB Grand Prix endurance series promises to return to some of the most popular mountain bike venues in NSW and ACT with five racing events in 2013.



The start line of the final round of the SHIMANO MTB GP was seeded with potential series winners in various categories ranging from Elite to age groups with Masters and SuperMasters as well as an impressive field of junior riders. Competitors also had the choice to ride in relay teams of up to three riders in either four or seven hour events.

"Fast" four hour categories booming

The solo categories were particularly popular in the four hour "fast" events, as organisers Rocky Trail called it and in the Elite Men's it was no other than Tour of Timor King of the Mountain winner and third overall, Jarrod Hughes from Newcastle who had just returned from the overseas stage race to compete on the popular Ourimbah trails close to home.

Completing nine laps in 4:12:08 on the technical 8.5 km course he finished ahead of James Lamb from Erina, another acclaimed stage racer having finished the Crocodile Trophy in Far North Queensland in 2010. Lamb completed also nine laps in 4:21:16 and third was Jorge Baron from Kensington, finishing on equal laps and a gap of about 7 minutes.



GP4 hour winner at Ourimbah, Jarrod Hughes. Photo: Deubel Bicycles.

Brian Price finished seventh at Ourimbah, however, accumulated enough points to take out the series winner title with 453 points.

Elite Female series winner is fellow Blue Mountains racer Wendy Walker. Walker won the race at Ourimbah with 7 laps ahead of Vanessa Boatwright from the Northern Beaches and Eliza Eldridge Basset from Fisher (ACT).

Canberra racer Mark Tupalski shows endurance in the “furious” seven hour event



With 15 laps in just over seven hours, Mark Tupalski from Canberra took out the Elite Male race. The successful endurance mountain bike racer showed an impressive performance and won ahead of Novocastrian Andrew Lloyd who crossed the finish line less than 30 minutes behind Tupalski and Callum McNamara from Canberra who came in third with 13 laps.

Photo: Deubel Bicycles

Andrew Lloyd was also crowned the GP 7 hour series winner for 2012 – accumulating most points out of any SHIMANO MTB Grand Prix competitor, he received a brand new Fox Racing mountain bike front fork, valued at more than \$1,300.



Andrew Lloyd, GP7 hour series winner. Photo: Deubel Bicycles.



In the Elite Female field, fellow Newcastle racer Sarah Neumann was the clear winner of the day and the series.

Photo: Deubel Bicycles

Top Results SHIMANO MTB GP Round 4, Ourimbah State Forest:

GP7 hour Elite Male

1. Mark Tupalski	Giant/Onya Bike Belconnen	Fisher, ACT	15 laps/7:00:14
2. Andrew Lloyd		Barnsley, NSW	15 laps/7:28:40
3. Callum McNamara	Workshop Factory Racing	Yarralumla, ACT	13 laps/6:46:12

GP7 hour Elite Female

1. Sarah Neumann	I like Chocolate	Kahibah, NSW	12 laps/7:04:10
2. Joanne Fox	Cell Bikes	Penrith, NSW	2 laps / 3:50:59

GP4 hour Elite Male

1. Jarrod Hughes	Team JarHuuz	Newcastle, NSW	9 laps/4:12:08
2. James Lamb	Chops	Erina, NSW	9 laps/4:21:16
3. Jorge Baron	Workshop Factory Racing	Kensington, NSW	9 laps/4:28:33

GP4 hour Elite Female

1. Wendy Walker		Faulconbridge, NSW	7 laps/4:06:50
2. Vanessa Boatwright		Collaroy, NSW	7 laps/4:25:38
3. Eliza Eldridge Bassett		Fisher, ACT	7 laps/4:31:26



SHIMANO MTB Grand Prix Series winners 2012

GP 4 hour Solo

- Elite Male – Brian Price, Faulconbridge
- Elite Female – Wendy Walker, Faulconbridge
- Male Master – Simon Kane, Turramurra
- Female Master – Wendy Stevenson, Waverton
- Male SuperMaster – Stephen Knight, Beecroft
- Male Junior – Guy Frail, Paterson
- Male SingleSp. – Callum McNamara, Yarralumla

GP7 hour Solo

- Elite Male – Andrew Lloyd, Barnsley
- Elite Female – Sarah Neumann, Kahibah
- Male Master – Cory Dimmer, Longbeach
- Female Master – Catherine Wood, Dubbo
- Male SuperMaster – Phil Mathewson, Northbridge

For detailed results and more event information

- visit the Rocky Trail website at www.rockytrailentertainment.com or
- contact Juliane Wisata at 0416 737 972 or via
- email to juliane@rockytrailentertainment.com