

## In 2 Adventure Weekend Dirt Fest Race Reports

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March dawned clear and sunny for the inaugural I2A Weekend Dirt Fest, a few campers arriving Friday night had a sleep in as the first competitors of the weekend started to arrive for registration at 6.30am, once registered a few riders who hadn't been to the course familiarisation day the week before headed out on the course to check out the 10km race lap.



### I2A 40km XC MTB Race

At 8.15 just under a 100 riders lined up for the safety brief, with over a dozen Single Speeders racing. Four wave starts one minute apart got everyone away quickly.

**Michael Giess** from the Gap Cycling Club put in a 25:39 first lap to be the first back to Race HQ and the fastest lap of the day with **Dave Kenney** from Toowoomba MC right on Michael's back wheel.

**Nick Mills** from Chain Gang/Dirt Dogs led the Single Speeders in with a lap of 26:59 and put himself 4<sup>th</sup> overall.

**Jayne Rutter** from Adelaide MTB Club led the females and her husband on the first lap with a time of 33:24.



After a rough first lap **Simon Frederiksen** from Race Elements rode the fastest 2nd lap in 26:09 as he chased down the leading pair of **Michael Giess** and **Dave Kenney** who again came through Race HQ locked together.

**Andrew Kelk** put in the fastest lap for the single speeders, 29:50, as he chased hard after Nick Mills.

**Jayne Rutter** continued to lead out the female

racers with a dominating ride.

Down the pack everyone was riding hard and all managed to keep their lap times under 59 minutes which is sure to have pleased them.

As the leaders completed lap 3 **Dave Kenney** and **Michael Giess** were still locked together wheel for wheel as they started the final 10km, **Simon Frederiksen** just a couple of minutes behind had fought his way back into 3<sup>rd</sup> spot.

**Nick Mills** had again put the pedal down hard and lead the single speeders in with a lap of 27:40 maintaining his lead and also the 4<sup>th</sup> fastest lap time.

Into the final lap and with about 3 km's to go **Michael Giess** made a small break up hill to finish the race just 1 ½ minutes ahead of **Dave Kenney**. **Simon Frederiksen** put in a fast final lap to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> less than a minute behind Dave.





Photo events

**Nick Mills** was 5<sup>th</sup> across the line overall to lead the single speeders in with **Jayne Rutter** maintaining her lead to finish as first female.

The top 4 across the line **Michael Giess, Dave Kenney, Simon Frederiksen** and **Aaron Benson** all rode sub 30 minute laps for the whole race with **Nick Mills** only just slipping out of this on one lap with the Single Speed.

With some great riders from all age groups and categories competing it was a fantastic morning of racing to start the weekend. Spirit and determination showed through with a few cuts to be cleaned off at the finish and a couple of people running in on the last lap with damaged bikes to ensure that they completed the course and received a finish time.

The Full Results with split times and some great photo's can all be seen on [ln 2 Adventure.com.au](http://ln2Adventure.com.au)

As the MTB'ers started to finish **Expressive Bikes** started up their skills and trial display to entertain the crowd over the lunch time break in front of the stage and further up the hill the **Laser Clay Pigeon Shooting** was open for all ages to try their eye at.



Photo events

After a short break for refreshments from **Mt Cotton Scouts** and **Jungle Bean coffee**, registration was again open as the entrants for the **Dirt Crit races** and the **Trail Runners** lined up raring to go.

## Race Elements Open Dirt Crit



Photo events

The Race Elements Open Dirt Crit was first away at 3.15pm with 12 riders hitting the short 1.2km course that had been designed by the Race Elements team and built the week before the event.

With a few riders backing up from the mornings 40km race it was going to be an interesting first 20 minutes on the track as they continued to ride laps until the horn sounded the 20 minutes was up and they raced the last 3 laps to the finish.

With a down hill start everyone was away fast before the first sharp turn into a long slow climb started to spread the field out. With some fantastic viewing for spectators as the leaders started to descend the hill through the switchbacks and over some small jumps the first lap had already taken it's toll on some and the pack had strung out over a couple of hundred metres.

**Dave Kenney, Alistair Cook** and **Mark Sheppard** led the field with **Jayne Rutter** the only female racing in a good place in the middle of the field, all four riding strongly after their efforts in the morning race.

The placings held for the next 20 minutes with some great air time on the jumps, a few spills as riders pushed themselves through the switchbacks and a couple



dropping out as the pace hotted up and the leaders started to lap the back of the pack.

As the horn sounded for 20 minutes **Dave Kenney** held a good lead to finish comfortably in 1<sup>st</sup> place with a total time of 29:29, **Alistair Cook** in 2<sup>nd</sup> in 31:52 and **Mark Sheppard** 3<sup>rd</sup> in 32:53. Even as the only female racing **Jayne Rutter** came in 5<sup>th</sup> overall across the line.

Some great photo's of the thrills and action can all be seen on [In 2 Adventure.com.au](http://In 2 Adventure.com.au)

As the next riders started to warm up for the Race Elements Invitational the Trail Runners were lining up to start by the shores of the lake.

## Active Stride Trail Run



50 Trail Runners lined up for the inaugural Active Stride 6km and 2km trail runs skirting the shores of the lake and heading off into the bush.

With all ages from Juniors to Masters racing as the hooter sounded for the start the runners headed off around the dam giving the spectators a great view as they disappeared out of site before climbing Salomon hill at the end of the lake and heading bush.

The 2km runners crossed the marshy ground at the far end of the lake and started the run back along the opposite side.



With a final sprint in full view of the crowd across the dam wall and down to the stage the first across the line was a Junior, **Morgan Evans** in a very fast time of 9:48, **Miriam Bull** led the females home in 2<sup>nd</sup> overall with a time of 12:06.

Just behind the lead runners in the 2km race the leaders of the 6km race were finishing their first 4km lap and starting the final 2km around the lake.

**Don Wallace** led the field with a short lead over **John Drysdale**. **Helen Stanton** in 3<sup>rd</sup> overall lead the females at the end of the 4km lap.

**Don** kicked up the pace over the last 2km's running an average of 4 minute km's to finish with a comfortable 1 minute lead over John, Helen also put in a strong last 2 km's to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> overall.

With a great run along the dam wall and a good down hill to the finish all the runners came in strong to complete a great race

Great shots of the runners can all be seen on [In 2 Adventure.com.au](http://In2Adventure.com.au) along with all the results and split times.

## Race Elements Invitational Dirt Crit



The final event of the day was the Race Elements Invitational Dirt Crit, with 8 riders lining up for what was going to be a very fast and furious race; **Mark Frendo**, favourite to take out the race representing Ffast, **Geoff Suess** – Cycleological, **Andrew Wilcher** – Race Elements, **Shane Wharton** – Phoenix Adventure and **Garry Rogers** – Race Elements. In the female pack **Anna Sheldon** – Race Elements, **Kim Beckinsale** – Tri

Adventure and **Narelle Ash** – Injinji lined up for the start.

In a cloud of dust and dirt they were off down the hill at a fantastic pace as in the previous race the long hill around the back of the track spread the field out as they turned into the switchbacks and jumps for the first time. The crowd got a great view as the riders hurtled through at seemingly impossible speeds, as they came out of the first lap **Mark Frendo** had the lead with **Andrew Wilcher** sitting on his back wheel and **Shane Wharton** just behind them, **Narelle Ash** led **Kim Beckinsale** and **Anna Sheldon** in the female race.

Over the next 20 minutes the crowd where treated to a great spectacle of mountain bike racing as Mark, Andrew and Shane powered away from the rest of the field, Kim and Narelle fought for the lead over the first few laps, eventually Kim made a break and led Narelle and Anna.

Mark and Andrew continued to dominate as they started to lap the back of the field, Andrew took the lead for a lap before Mark made a break and showed his skill and power on the bike by lapping all the riders on the track, even causing confusion for the Marshalls for a minute when they couldn't believe that he was back around for another lap just before the hooter sounded for 20 minutes.

With the final race over the last 3 laps **Mark Frendo** claimed 1<sup>st</sup>, **Andrew Wilcher** 2<sup>nd</sup> and **Shane Wharton** 3<sup>rd</sup>; **Kim Beckinsale** claimed 1<sup>st</sup> for the females with **Narelle Ash** 2<sup>nd</sup> and **Anna Sheldon** 3<sup>rd</sup>.

After just 2 races we are certainly going to add more for next year so that everyone can get a go so stay tuned to [In 2 Adventure.com.au](http://In2Adventure.com.au)

With the prize giving complete everyone settled down to a great dinner provided by Mt Cotton Scouts a movie for the kids and a chance to socialise with loads of other like minded athletes before an early night in readiness for the next days events.

*To be continued ☺.....*