

2016-Armidale High Hunnit

Nearly two hundred mountain bikers flock to Armidale for the EvoCities High Hunnit at the Piney.

Earlier this week, 190 riders competed at the Armidale Piney for the EvoCities Armidale High Hunnit. The race was held on the 30th of October and featured many race categories, ranging from 17kms to the 100kms.



Registration started at 7:00 on the Sunday morning, and the Dirtmasters kicked off at 9:00. The racers started at nine thirty in an epic battle for the best positions, handle bar to handle bar for the first few kilometres. The seven time world 24 hour enduro race winner Jason English took first place in the solo male division, accompanied on the podium by Ethan Kelly (2nd) and Andrew Lloyd (3rd).



Due to rain the night before, the track was

very muddy in various sections, but the 25° day soon turned the slippery mud into fast, tacky sections of track. The track was custom to the High Hunnit, with many kilometres of previously unraced track, designed to have less hills and rocks, resulting in a less technical track accommodating beginner riders. The track also featured about five kilometres of trails through the Piney walking tracks.



Huge Congratulations to Tamworth's own Allyssa Rogan for her first place in the Solo Masters Female 100km event and the NIAS under seventeens boys for their third place in the Male Pairs 100km. Unluckily for the Tamworth Young Guns, a mechanical in the last lap knocked the

Chisholm boys off the podium in the Male Pairs 100km, despite their brilliant racing beforehand. Tamworth MTB All Ages, with the NIAS boys Joel Carter, Tom Mair and Stephen Carter placed three minutes in front of NIAS's 'Cykel Trio' featuring Justin Roberts, Alex Day and Blake Newman. Both teams placed in the top ten in the category teams of three or more 100km event.



Also racing in the teams of three or more, a special mention of Rebecca Mair, Emily Carter and Lisa Roberts, mothers of our NIAS team members, for competing in the 100km. :)



Thanks to the New England Mountain Bikers (NEMTB) for organising the race and Michael Wooster the race timer. It was only possible with the help of the EvoCities series and Mountain Bikes Australia (MTBA). Thanks to David Harris from Bicycles on Marsh who compered. Of course, we also have to thank our parents

for bringing us along to these awesome events and NIAS for supporting us. Thanks to everyone that helped out with the race preparation and track building and maintenance, and thankyou everyone who competed and came to support the race.

Hope to see you all at the next EvoCities race in Dubbo on Sunday the 20th of November, 2016!

-Steven ROBERTS