

It was a some what damp start to the 2015 Cross Country season when the heavens decided to open up 5 minutes before the riders briefing! But the first round held at Coondoo last month had a lot of positives; there was no dust to speak of ...

Tony and the trail crew did an awesome job with the track, everyone of the 44 riders walked away with a huge smile. The alternate track configuration was a hit; can't wait to ride it when it's dry.

The only negative I can think of was me forgetting about my very wet & muddy riding kit, which I left in the sink for a week. Not good.

Our next event will be at Superbowl on the 17th May. Hope to see you there.

Brad

NEXT EVENT

Type: Cross Country Round 2
When: Sunday 17th May
Where: Superbowl
Time: Rego 8.am
Ride 9.15am

We'll have a BBQ on-site for anyone to use, so bring some sausages and bread and have a sausage sanga after the race. We might even have a presentation!



Trail Crew Update

Tony and the trail crew did a fantastic job in preparing the Coondoo track for the first round.

For those that did not take part in the last race you'll be surprised with some of the changes.

Dig and Ride days usually happen on the second Sunday of the Month; but due to mothers day the next one will be Saturday 9th of May.

For anyone that would like to be part of the trail crew just keep an eye on the SCUM forum
<http://scummtb.proboards.com/> OR Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/South-Coast-United-Mountainbikers/257332614324813> for meeting times etc.



Contributions are welcome!

Do you have a SCUM or Ride related tale that's worth telling? Maybe your family are sick of hearing about everything MTB and you need a more enthusiastic and bigger audience? Well you can send you words and pictures to us and we'll include it in a future Newsletter (subject to editing rules etc.) E-mail: Brad bmstein@bigpond.com or Grant Grant.Turner@aanet.com.au

XC Round 1 Race Report

Challenging conditions greeted all those that took part in round 1 of the SCUM XC series held at Coondoo on the 19 April.

The rain that started just before the race ensured it was going to be a technical (*read slippery*) ride.

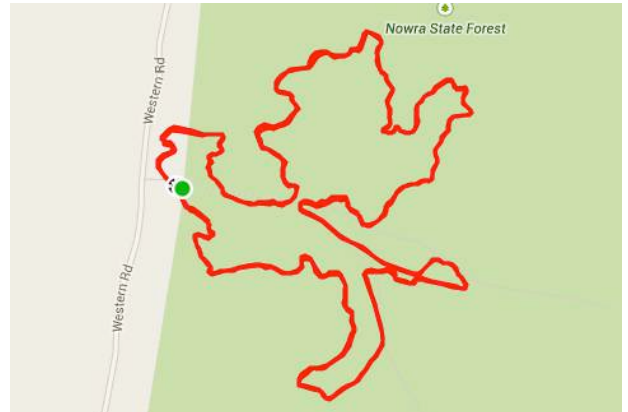
The Mud Flickers kicked off at 8.50am and thankfully they enjoyed a rain free race. But the rain came and it came by the bucket by the time the main race started.



The Mud Flickers at the start line.

Whilst there was a lot of water on the ground the track held up well and everyone who took part had nothing but positive things to say about the track. Thumbs up to the Trail Crew for marking out an alternate track.

Congratulations to all that participated in the fun. For full results visit the SCUM website.



The Alternate Coondoo Track used – thumbs up!



Andrew Sleeman (front) placed a solid 3rd in the Veteran Male Class while **Tony Kuipers** placed 1st in the Masters Male Class



Dean Quince showing some style on his way to a 1st Place in the Elite Male Class.



Nicole Fellows on the rivet to a first place in the Expert Female Class

Across the Ditch words by Nick Smee

During the last School holidays Jordan and I went for a boys mountain biking trip to New Zealand. We flew into Auckland, picked up our bikes, then camper and headed off to Rotorua. A word of advice, fly Emirates, they give you a 30kg baggage limit, pack your bikes and clothes into a big bike box and there is no extra baggage cost (also remember to wash your bikes and shoes really well as NZ customs will inspect them for dirt, a big No NO.)



Rotorua has some amazing trails, for the free rider Skyline park has gondola rides and a good selection of descending trails (steer clear of the Crank worx run though !) and Redwoods is an XC trail rider heaven. In 2 days riding we covered maybe 30% of the trails. (Hint get the phone app with the map, this place is huge) The trail head was amazing, coffee shop, bike hire and repairs, toilets and showers. Tracks near the trail head were family friendly and progressively got harder and steeper as you got into the forest. They operate a bus shuttle in the forest which was worth doing to experience the down hill runs on offer; otherwise the legs would get a major work out if you wanted to do more than one or two runs. These were definitely for more experienced riders but you could just cruise if you wished. Great berms and plenty of jumps were on offer, think the Luge at Stromlo on steroids and then multi ply by 10 or so for the different runs. You could easily spend a week here and we wish we had, but we needed to move on south.



There were MTB parks everywhere, "Craters of the Moon" at Taupo another at Whanganui on the coast south of Mt Ruapehu and Wellington. Wellington could easily be a destination by itself with 3 separate trail areas plus coastal single track. From Wellington we caught the ferry across to Picton on the South Island. After 3 hours and a beautiful trip through the Marlborough Sound we arrived in Picton. Next destination was Kaiteriteri in the Able Tasman national park. Another great trail park was the most amazing trails cut out of the hill side. Apparently they even used explosives to compliment the rock

cutting equipment to carve out "jaws" the newest trail. Gives a new meaning to "exposed", bars clipping rock face on one side while there was a big drop on the other. Combined with "skullduggery" this made for 23 minutes of descending. We heard about a 2 and a half hour descending single track to Golden Bay to the east, but you need to organize a shuttle and time got the better of us, one for the next trip. Nelson is near here and that also is a hot spot for great trails but alas that also is for the next trip.



Frans Josef glacier!

Across the Ditch continued...

South we went through the mountains and down the Buller river gorge (a white water hotspot for those kayakers) to hit the coast at Greymouth. A couple of days and two glaciers latter we arrived in Wanaka. The rain was back but we still hit "The Plantation" trail network. Mainly hand made, this was another great trail network with berms abounding and plenty of big jumps. Bit of a theme happening here, berms descents and plenty of jumps and nice switch back climbs. The "Hikuwai conservation area" trail network was also at Wanaka but again this will have to wait.



From Wanaka we headed to Queenstown, the main hot spot on the South Island. Time was against us but we did get one day at skyline park Queenstown. Unlike Skyline Roturua this place was big and Very steep. The "easy" track Hammys was 500m drop that took about 15 minutes. Easy but not for beginners, this was a machine built track through the pine forest with berm after berm, plenty of table top jumps and big hips off the side. The "intermediate" tracks were much the same but steeper. Once you hit the expert tracks the line was narrow, steep, with some insane jumps definitely suited to all mountain bikes. You then had the black and double black trails....insane. Downhill bikes were the norm and the accents more often European or American. Pat would be in heaven here. In 4 hours I did about 12 runs about 6 km of vertical descent. Who ever said descending was easy, I was shattered.

That was it, we were out of time and had to head to Christchurch to catch the plan home. A great trip that opened my eyes to some stunning trails. We experienced just the tip of the potential just across the ditch, boy have we got some catch up to do to match the Kiwi mountainbiking scene.



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Are your Riding Jersey's looking a bit tired?

Are they worn around the edges? Do they have holes in the wrong places or has that zipper broken? Maybe you've just slimmed down so much, that your old one is too big ☺ ...

SCUM can fix any of these problems with some new kit with cool green SCUM logos just for you:

Bibs - \$100; Jerseys: \$75; Free Ride Jerseys: \$55

There also a few old style Jersey's available for \$50 (limited sizes)

See the SCUM Website for more info and hit the contact page to enquire about available sizes.



Want to look cool both on and off your bike?

Thanks to the efforts of Simon (Jax Tyres) Finlay (*has he got some Car Tyres for you*), you can grab T-Shirts; Hoodies; Sweat tops or Tank Tops all emblazoned with the SCUM logo.

You can even SCUM'erize your Phone Cover or grab a cool SCUM Sticker... *now where could you stick that.*

Simply head to the link on the bottom of the front page of the SCUM Website to find out how OR hit this one:

<http://www.redbubble.com/people/whizkidz/works/11084586-scum-mtb>

2015 Event Calendar

Date	Event	Track	Details
14/03/15 (Sat)	Dusk to Dark Enduro (3 Hr)	Coondoo	Results: www.scum.asn.au/results.html
19/04/15 (Sun)	XC Round 1 + Mud Flickers* (BBQ Supplied: BYO food)	Coondoo	Results: www.scum.asn.au/results.html
17/05/15 (Sun)	XC Round 2 + Mud Flickers*	Superbowl	Rego: From 8:00am Ride: 9:15 (Mud Flickers 8:45am)
21/06/15 (Sun)	XC Round 3 + Mud Flickers*	Butterfly	Rego: From 9:00am Ride: 10:15 (Mud Flickers 8:45am)
12/07/15 (Sun)	Gravity Enduro Round 1	Superbowl	Details to be confirmed
19/07/15 (Sun)	Possible alternate date for XC round (to be confirmed)	To be confirmed	
09/08/15 (Sun)	Gravity Enduro Round 2	Butterfly	Details to be confirmed
16/08/15 (Sun)	XC Round 3 + Mud Flickers*	Coondoo	Rego: From 8:00am Ride: 9:15 (Mud Flickers 8:45am)
30/08/15 (Sun)	Chocolate Foot (7hr)	Coondoo	See: http://www.chocolatefoot.com.au/singletrack-mind-series
05/09/15 (Sun)	Dusk to Dark Enduro (3 Hr)	Coondoo	
13/09/15 (Sun)	Gravity Enduro Round 3	Superbowl	Details to be confirmed
11/10/15 (Sun)	Alternate date for Gravity Enduro (to be confirmed)	To be confirmed	
25/10/15 (Sun)	XC Round 5 + Mud Flickers* (Pink Wheel Fundraiser)	Coondoo	Rego: From 9:00am Ride: 10:15 (Mud Flickers 8:45am)
29/11/15 (Sun)	XC Round 6 + Mud Flickers*	Butterfly	Rego: From 8:00am Ride: 9:15 (Mud Flickers 8:45am)

* 'Mud Flickers' is a ride targeted at kids under 11 years. The course is short & flat & usually less than 200m long. It's a whole lot of fun for your 'want to be' World Champion. Mud Flicker events usually run between 10-15 minutes prior to the main event, so bring the kids along.

Please note:

All events are dependent on weather / track condition; therefore details can change (sometimes at short notice). **Please check the SCUM Website, FORUM & Facebook for updates.**