



## **Press Release — for immediate release**

Tuesday 13 April 2010

### **“New Race Record for Blue Mountain MTB Ride**

Young Christchurch rider Bradley Hudson, set a new race record as he scorched around the 63km Blue Mountain course in just under 3 hours. Hudson has been in scintillating form this season winning a number of races throughout the summer.

This was the first time anyone has beaten the 3 hour mark. The previous race record was held by New Zealand representative rider, Marcus Roy.

“A hard, dry track, low river levels and light winds, provided close to perfect riding conditions for riders in the 16<sup>th</sup> annual mountain bike race held on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April” said race director Chris Thomas.

“It was tight racing for the first 45km”, said Thomas, “before Bradley pulled away on the climb up to Blue Mountain Saddle and extended his lead through the technical Andrews stream section”.

Hudson picked up both the trophy for the first rider home and the first young rider. In second place was Craig Atwill (Timaru) followed by Simon Coventry (Timaru) and Craig Phillips (Christchurch).

Lucie Urbancova (Geraldine) had puncture problems but was able to hold a slender lead to the finish to be first woman home, from Denise Thorne (Alexandra) and Cyndi Hills (Christchurch).

The Blue Mountain race was also the final round in the four race Accessman South Canterbury Mountain Bike Cup series. There were very tight finishes in most grades with results going down to the wire. The closest tussle was in the Vet 2 grade (45-54years) where Craig Phillips and Simon Coventry were equal on 396 points. After a count back, Phillips won the trophy by just one quarter of a point.

In the Open Women Grade, Cyndi Hills (399 points) finished just ahead of Nicola Howes (394) and Emma Prestidge (364).

Other cup winners were Fabian Wybrow-O'Brien (Junior Men), Bradley Hudson (Under 19 Men), Emily Watson (Under 19 Women), Scotty Cain (Open Men), Craig Atwill (Vet 1 Men), Sandra Hunt (Vet 1 Women), Denise Thorne (Vet 2 Women) and Kevin Johnston (Vet 3 Men).

“We are delighted with the close finish to the Accessman South Canterbury Mountain Bike Cup Series”, said Thomas. “We had a new format with races over four months and it worked very well to get more competition for local and visiting riders”.

“We plan to run a 5 race series next summer with rides from December to April”.

A small field of 25 riders also took on the Alpine Energy Mount Peel Mountain Bike Marathon, a grueling 85km circuit including a 1000m ascent of Coal Hill. Riders were hampered by gusty, warm North Westerlies in the exposed mountain areas.

Brent Miller took away the King of the Mountain trophy for the first to the summit of Coal Hill and was also the race winner, completing the race in a quick time of 4 hours and 31 minutes. Milan Brodina from Geraldine tailed him all the way, and finished 27 minutes in arrears. First woman home was Jan Matchett from Otago. Virginia Le Bas of Christchurch won the Queen of Mountain trophy.

The Mount Peel Mountain Bike Marathon was first raced in 1989.

For more information please call  
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