



MEDIA RELEASE



World's Best Mountain Bikers Head to Thredbo...

Cannonball MTB Festival | 5 Days | 5 Events | Massive \$100k Prize Pool

With \$100K on the prize table, some of the world's biggest names in the line-up and a fired up format, the 2018 Thredbo Cannonball MTB Festival 5-9 December, is set to stamp its mark as Australia's biggest, richest and most prestigious mountain bike event.

The award winning event, now in its sixth year, is not only on the radar to some of the biggest names in the sport, the format attracts amateurs and rising stars of all ages, mountain bike styles and abilities. There's 20 categories in each event ranging from groms in under 13's to the most experienced over 50's, the Cannonball Festival caters to all and is a great introduction to mountain bike competitions.

"I feel like Cannonball is going to be bigger than ever this year for 2018. The events and fans are getting more exciting with more and more people making the trip up to Thredbo for an amazing weekend of riding and racing" said World Cup Rider and three peat Cannonball Downhill champion Troy Brosan.

This year marks a turning point as the spectacle of Cannonball rolls into its sixth year. For 2018 changes to the schedule will ensure a more structured event to cater for the 900+ riders expected to descend on Thredbo. Cannonball has and always will be for the riders and with the biggest names in the sport now confirmed to be attending; it is set to be a massive weekend" said Tim Windshuttle Thredbo MTB Manager

The five day program is packed with five mega gravity inspired events and along with non-stop entertainment there is something for everyone on both sides of the mountain. The mix of events include the prestigious **Commencal** Australian Open Downhill, **Maxxis** Flow Motion Cup, **Osprey** All Mountain Assault, **Deity** Whip Wars Big Air and the **RockShox** Pump Track Challenge on the Village Green.

Participation across all events is important as riders will have the chance to be crowned King or Queen of Cannonball, points scored across each event will determine the crowning glory.

The weekend offers just as much action off the trails as on them, with both sides of the resort pumping during the iconic mountain biking celebration. Thredbo's famous village will play host to an awesome line-up of DJ's and live gigs with the region's stellar offering of bars and restaurants also open.

A massive prize pool, a roll call of big names and some of the best gravity tracks in the country, the Cannonball Festival is one not to be missed.

Event registrations are now open with a **15% early bird competitor discount** for those signing up **before midnight 31 October 2018**. Click [here](#) for full event details and to register.

To get a taste of all the action from last year's event all promotional images, video and artwork for the 2018 Cannonball MTB Festival are located [here](#). Feel free to use across your various channels.

Event Information

Commencal Australian Open Downhill | Sunday 9 December

The **Commencal** Australian Open DH will be raced on Thredbo's famous Cannonball Downhill the old school way, meaning we will include the upper fast and furious fire road. Riders will then be thrown into a technical masterpiece comprising of rocky chutes, booters that launch, slippery roots and high speed straights with speeds not dissimilar to those found on your average World Cup course. This event also boasts the biggest pay day for any downhill race in Australia.

Maxxis Flow Motion Cup | Friday 7 and Saturday 8 December

Friday and Saturday will see the **Maxxis** Flow Motion Cup go down on Thredbo's famous 5km Kosciuszko Flow Trail. The Flow Motion Cup is also a great introduction to gravity racing. Although not super technical, this race requires a fit efficient type of rider. A stack of steep banked berms and rolling traverses ensures that cornering and pedalling ability will be paramount .. Group B will compete on Friday 7th & Group A will compete on Saturday 8th. Check out the FAQ Page for more info on groups.

Deity Whip Wars | Saturday 8 December

It's all about whip and steeze - the crowd favourite **Deity** Whip Wars will again hit centre stage Saturday afternoon, with some of the best big air bikers sending it sideways on the super booter at the finish arena. The biggest moto style whip brought back will take the honours. With cash incentives to please the crowd the whip wizards are set to send it large.

ROCKSHOX Pump Track Challenge | Friday 7 December

Get ready for the **ROCKSHOX** Pump Track Challenge, see Thredbo's Pump Track in full flight as the smooth momentum masters set the perfectly sculpted course on fire. A test of ultimate skill and stamina, as riders pump, double and manual around the course without a single pedal stroke. The show takes adrenalin to next level when the Pro & U19 categories go head to head to determine the superstar of pump.

Osprey All-Mountain Assault | Thursday 6 December

The **Osprey** All-Mountain Assault returns to 1800m above sea level at the top of the Gunbarrel Express Chairlift. The iron men and women of mountain biking will embark on a gruelling 7km undulating descend on a trail designed for a short travel mountain bike with times around 13 minutes to aim for. The All-Mountain trail has everything a rounded rider could ask for, technical descends, natural obstacles, smaller jump options and pinch climbs to push even the most avid enduro purist. New for 2018 is a section of big berms on High Noon and grand entrance to the finish arena

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