



# MEDIA RELEASE



## The Snow Has Melted...Get Ready to Ride

Thredbo Mountain Bike Park Opens this Weekend |  
Cannonball MTB Festival is just around the Corner

This weekend, Thredbo Mountain Bike Park opens for summer chairlift assisted gravity mountain bike riding.

After an amazing winter, Thredbo is now ready to welcome an influx of mountain bikers for a massive summer of adrenaline fuelled fun. Running from November 17 to April 28, Thredbo will be a mecca for two wheeled action with the famous Kosciuszko Express chairlift ready to take riders 1,937 metres above sea level to access over 20 kilometres of gravity mountain biking trails.

The trails are in great condition, with the refurbished areas packing in nicely with recent rain. The retail store is fully stocked, new top line bikes are ready for hire, there will be lessons and clinics all season long available for all levels of riders, as usual Thredbo will be looking after the après side of things with festivities, parties, giveaways and entertainment throughout the summer.

The opening of the Thredbo's mountain biking season also means that Australia's biggest mountain biking event, the Cannonball MTB Festival, 5-9 December, is not too far away. The scene is set for one of the hottest on mountain showdowns in the Southern Hemisphere with over 1,000 riders expected for the sixth instalment of the festival.

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 includes 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. There's \$100,000 on the prize table, some of the world's biggest names in the line-up and a fired up format, so the 2018 event is set to stamp its mark as Australia's biggest, richest and most prestigious mountain bike event.

The award winning event 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.

After a stellar World Cup season New Zealand rider Brook Macdonald is heading across the ditch, to race - consistent riding saw him cement his place in the world top ten.

"I'm stoked to be coming back to Cannonball, I didn't have much luck on my last visit, I'm hoping to change that. Always good local competition as well, I'm looking forward to it" said Macdonald.

The jewel in the crown, *Commencal* Australian Open Downhill, will be a world's best spectacle. The record books show that only two people have won the event in both the men's and women's categories. Troy Brosnan and Andrew Crimmins have three and two wins respectively. Local rider Tegan Molloy and world cup racer Tracey Hannah share the women's crown and will both be lining up this year.

"I am really excited to be coming back for the Cannonball Festival, I love riding in Thredbo and it's a great time of year to have a race" said Hannah.

Other riders to watch - Aussie world cuppers Connor Fearon, Dean Lucas and Jackson Frew, enduro crossover king Tim Eaton and young gun Kye A'hern who is sure to take it to the top riders ahead of the world cup season.

World Cup rider and three peat Australian Open Downhill champion Troy Brosnan is returning to Thredbo to defend his title and see if he can move into a sub 5 minute time for the 3.5km track.

"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 Brosnan.

The event offers just as much action off the trails as on them, with the resort pumping with iconic mountain biking celebrations. Thredbo 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.

Event registrations are now open, please 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.

### **Thredbo Mountain Bike Park 18/19**

Thredbo Mountain Bike Park is one of Australia's premier mountain biking destinations and this summer it takes gravity riding, cross country exploring and MTB action to a whole new level and elevation. With new trails opening and revamped existing tracks, there is over 20 kilometres of awesome riding to enjoy. From downhill, flow, all-mountain, cross-country and a skills parks for all ages, there is a lot to love about riding

in the Thredbo Mountain Bike Park this summer from 17th Nov 2018 – 28 April 2019. [Click here](#) for the Thredbo Mountain Bike Park video.

### **Thredbo's Signature Mountain biking Trails**

- **Kosciuszko Flow Trail**

Perfect for those looking for an introduction into downhill riding or a warm up for the Cannonball. Starting at the top of the Kosciuszko Express Chairlift, riders roll through flowing single-track down the slopes of the Crackenback Supertrail with never ending rollers and smooth berms to keep the flow going, it is a blast top to bottom. A new section towards the finish for this summer will test riders as they descend straight back into the Valley Terminal base area. The steady gradient and smoother surface gives riders a more mellow ride than the Cannonball, but still providing the adrenalin rush of downhill. [Click here](#) to watch a video.

- **Cannonball Downhill**

Thredbo's signature trail, the famous Cannonball DH Trail takes riders to their physical and mental limits. Starting at the top of the Kosciuszko Express Chairlift and descending 600m vertically through the tree-lined Supertrail slopes, Cannonball tests riders with off-camber roots, rock drops, jumps, wall-ride and other technical features that the gravity specialists dream about. An exciting new section will see the finish arena come alive with two huge jump lines testing the most advanced freeriders. [Click here](#) to watch a video.

- **All Mountain Trail**

The All-Mountain Trail starts at the top of the Kosciuszko Express Chairlift. Riders travel over 10 kilometres down through the impressive mountain landscape to the village below.

Traversing across the slopes of the Central Spur area, the use of natural rock slabs rewards riders with spectacular terrain. The trail then passes the top of the Gunbarrel Express Chairlift, the door to the Cruiser area that is regarded as some of the best flowing single track in the region. Towards the base of the trail at Creek Station, you can either head back to the Kosciuszko Express Chairlift via the Village Trail Loop or the new Home Run trail, take the easy cruise back via the Friday. [Click here](#) to watch a video.

- **Thredbo Valley Track**

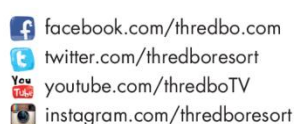
Meandering along the banks of the famous Thredbo River, riders can maintain flow undulating through open grasslands and thick eucalyptus forests and cross some amazing suspension bridges. The section to bridge 3 (5km return) or Rangers Station (12km return) is perfect for the beginners with some climbing involved on the return trip. Continuing downriver there are smooth descents and short uphill bursts with rollers to keep the flow going. Riders can continue on to Thredbo Diggings (14.5km one way) or head on to Lake Crackenback Resort (20km one way). [Click here](#) to watch a video.

**-ENDS-**

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