

# **BRIEFING NOTES – Blue Mountain Gorges Challenge and Blue Mountain Relay**

**Welcome** – Blue Mountain Gorges Challenge and the inaugural Blue Mountain Relay.

I am Chris Thomas, your race director along with the rest of the team from Special Events Aoraki Ltd.

This year we are doing things a little differently with the Blue Mountain race starting one hour behind the Mt Peel Marathon who have already started and will be making their way towards the hill in Mt Peel Station.

## **Thank you**

Thank you all for coming today. I know for many it is a long journey and an early start. We are now taking registrations on Saturday afternoon so that's something some of you might like to do next year, saves the early morning get up!

Huge thanks to the land owners who have once again let us use their property. It is a great privilege to be able to ride through these trails on private land. The land owners have a great deal of respect for their land. We ask you please to also respect their property and follow the rules of participating in this event. For your information you will travel through Station, Blue Mountain, Orari Gorge Station, Scotsburn Station, Waikanini and new landowners the Edkins that farm on Scotsburn hill.

And also to the great team of volunteers Glen May and his team from Timaru REAC who provide marshalling, the Red Cross volunteers who are providing on-course first aid and St John who will be at the finish line.

The team that did the markout – Peter Keller, Sid Woods and others from Geraldine.

Thank you also to our major sponsors- **Alpine Energy** and **Geraldine Supervalue**

And to our other sponsors –, **The Cyclery Timaru, Ground Effect, Rangitata Rafts, Subway Geraldine, Barkers Fruit Processing, Four Peaks Gloves, Talbot Cheese, Tekapo Air Safaris, Hammer Hardware, Mt Peel Horse Trekking.**

They have donated some great spot prizes. A reminder to be eligible for prizes you must put your race number in the barrel at the finish line at the end of the race.

## **Safety**

While this is a competitive race, we want it to be a safe race and we would like you to all finish in one piece.

You need to be safety conscious at all times. By taking part in this race you acknowledge that there are numerous hazards. You are riding at your own risk.

The course is spectacular but undulating and testing. Please use care and judgment when negotiating the numerous hazards on the course.

You must wear an approved safety helmet throughout the entire race.

This is an alpine environment and weather conditions can change quickly. You must carry wet/cold weather clothing such as thermals and/or a wind jacket.

Your race number must be visible to marshals throughout the race. There are several checkpoints during the race, make sure the marshal can read your race number. This is how we keep a track of where you are.

If you pull out of the race, you must advise the next marshal point and let us know at the finish line. Depending on where you pull out we may be able to provide transport back to the finish line (for you and your bike).

## **Mechanicals**

Carry enough equipment and spares to keep your bike mobile during the race. In the event that your bike is no longer mobile then proceed to the next marshal with your bike. We will have a tail end

charlie operating but this cannot cover the whole course. So if you have breakdown or injury please tell other riders or marshals so we can find you.

### **Riding Rules**

There is to be no outside assistance on course – you are on your own – or at the mercy of other riders.

You must pass within two meters of an arrow or course marker.

Please call out your number to help the time keepers.

### **Rider Etiquette**

Some riders will be faster than others. If you are approaching a rider from behind and want to pass please communicate clearly with the other rider what you would like to do. Riders being passed should allow passing maneuver as soon as it is practical to do so.

Any competitors walking must pull over and give way to any one still riding.

### **Rubbish**

Do not leave rubbish on the course or at the finish area – take away all your rubbish, spare gear, old tubes, sachets, empty bottles etc.

### **FIRE BAN**

**Due to recent very dry months, there is a complete fire ban in the area which also includes no smoking over the whole area of the ride. Please respect the country you are riding through and follow this rule. Thanks for your cooperation with this.**

### **First Aid**

First aid/water stations are positioned around the course.

You must stop and help any injured rider. If you see a rider that is potentially injured check to see if they require assistance and advise the next marshal or First Aid point. In a serious emergency stay with the rider and get the next rider through to get First Aid assistance. If you are carrying a cell phone and you can get coverage dial 111. (If you do stop and want your time adjusted accordingly let us know).

### **Traffic**

**All roads are OPEN to two way traffic.** Marshall's are there for your guidance only and have no authority to stop traffic. **You must obey all traffic rules and signs.**

Special conditions required by the TDC are:

- Riders must not cross the centre line
- Riders must keep to the left of the road

**The Andrews Stream Bridge** has now been replaced with a new bridge – so no problems with riding across.

### **Gates**

All gates must be left as you found them. If they are closed, make sure they stay closed. If they open, leave them open. Do not leave it to the next person to close the gate – if you open it you close it.

### **Course Markings**

Look for the markers arrows, tape and dazzle and don't just follow the rider in front as he/she may have gone the wrong way. Sometimes there are long stretches between markers. If you're on the track stay on the track.

### **Cut Off:**

1pm cut off at Lochaber (for either race). If riders reach Lochaber after 1pm they will be required to wait and be transported back to Peel Forest. Marshals at Lochaber will have discretion over cut offs.

### **Blue Mountain Relay**

*This year we have teams of 2 doing the course as a relay. Lochaber station is the changeover point. You should have already decided who the 2<sup>nd</sup> rider is, they will be transported along with bikes to Lochaber Station. Once your team member arrives after completing the first leg, switch over bike no's*

*and complete the course to Peel Forest. Once all riders of the first leg have reached Lochaber Station, the bus will return to Peel Forest. The bus to take the 2<sup>nd</sup> rider and their bike to Lochaber for the changeover will be departing immediately following this briefing. The 2<sup>nd</sup> team rider should have already put their bike on the trailer ready to go.*

At Lochaber Station the ride goes back onto Public roads for a couple of kms – **Remember Road Rules apply again on this section.**

After the Blue Mountain Saddle, the course follows stream and there are numerous river crossings – make sure you look ahead as you sometimes have to cross before the track runs out. **Take extra care as the river crossings are slippery due to recent weather conditions.**

On your return you will pass the Andrews Stream Bridge and will ride back along Orari Gorge Station road – the same one you rode out on. Look out for a hard right hand turn to the Orari River crossing – it is easy to overshoot in spite of markers. There will be a marshal stationed at the river crossing.

Once you cross the river go up the farm track through the paddock and turn **LEFT** onto the road (Watch out for traffic). The course has changed slightly and is now along the road for a few hundred meters and then it turns **RIGHT** onto a farm track, follow this track – this makes it a little easier riding up the last hill over Scotsburn.

Watch out at turn back onto Peel Forest Road (Sealed) as traffic moves quickly. **Once again Road Rules apply**

The finish line is in front of Peel Forest Hall on the shingle driveway.

### **Lunch**

Your entry fee includes a post race lunch provided by Geraldine Plunket. This is delicious and very much appreciated after a hard day in the saddle. That will be served here in the hall.

### **Sports Massage**

It's a grueling race so Kath Bruce will be providing Ten minute sports massages for \$10 to support competitors with muscle recovery by helping to relieve soreness and tightness built up during the race.

### **Prize Giving**

The prize giving will be held at about 2.30pm here.

Spot prizes from our sponsors will be given out– to be eligible for spot prizes you must put your race number in the barrel. You must be at the prize giving to collect your prize or we will redraw. The major prize is a return ticket on the Scenic Flight on Air Safaris and a rafting trip on Rangitata Rafts plus numerous other prizes.

We will give out small cash prizes to race and category winners based on the number of riders in each race/section. Some sections will be combined due to low numbers. But we will acknowledge all category winners.

The Blue Mountain Gorges Challenge is also the final race in the Accessman SC MTB Cup series. Double points are on offer for today's race. All categories are very close and most trophies will be decided on today's points given out, so good luck to those in contention. We will be announcing winners and handing out trophies during prize giving.

### **Results**

Will be posted on the event web site [www.mtpeelmtb.co.nz](http://www.mtpeelmtb.co.nz). Interim results will be available at the finish line.

### **Course Changes**

If weather conditions or other circumstances force us to change the course layout midway during the race, on course marshals will provide you with directions. Please follow their instructions.

### **Weather report**

The latest weather report direct from the marshals on Blue Mountain is ...

### **The Start**

Riders are to form up 2 abreast on the road verge, facing South East back towards Geraldine. That means when you go out the door turn to your right.

A lead vehicle will precede the race until reaching the off road section when competitors will be required to follow course markers.

*Remember the bus for Lochaber halfway point with team members for the relay race will be leaving here in a few minutes.*

*The bus will return to Peel Forest once all the first relay riders have come into Lochaber.*

**Any questions?**

The Race will start at 8.30am. Have a good safe race and see you back here later in the day.

**GOOD LUCK AND ENJOY and Remember it is all about having fun. So please take care.**