

2007 - Records All Round

Right up until mid-January this year we were cursing the summer-that-wasn't. Continued rain right through Christmas and New Year brought back memories of 2004 when unseasonable storms washed away large parts of the course and left the rest of it bogged up and covered in fallen trees. We weren't keen for a repeat. In 2004 we'd worked for several weeks, continually shifting wind falls, clearing slips and maintaining tracks right up until race day and we just didn't want to go there again. Luckily, we didn't have to, because summer eventually arrived and brought with it the best weather and driest course that Karapoti has ever seen.

To single out one of 22 years as the best ever is a big call. But you need only look through this results book to confirm the obvious...

... Course records for Clinton Avery and Jennifer Smith, eight age group records, a record 102 people added their names to Karapoti's Sub-3 Hour Club and four women breaking three hours, to bring the all-time total to seven.

2007 also saw our biggest ever total entry. This year almost 1700 people applied to ride Karapoti. After some track work in certain areas, and chats with local farmers about car parking, we allowed a record 1300 people from 13 countries enjoy the Karapoti experience.

This year was also one of our best organisationally. In an event the scale of Karapoti there is always something that goes awry. This year a few database issues had us up until 4:00am on the Thursday. But when race day rolled around everything went super-smoothly. Simon Kennett said it might have been the best-organised Karapoti ever. Certainly it was the best in our recent memory.

A lot of this comes back to the people involved. Scott Bicycles were an invaluable help on race weekend and Upper Hutt City Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council were their typically brilliant selves. If that sounds like butt-kissing, well so be it because without their resource and support this race just wouldn't be what it is.

Nor would Karapoti be what it is without the great volunteer network that comes out of the woodwork every year. Almost 100 people helped make Karapoti '07 the success that it was and judging by the emails we've had from appreciative participants, they did a great job.

Indeed, the participant feedback we've had this year has been great. But it has to be said that a large part of the atmosphere and buzz around this year comes back to you, the rider. Karapoti is first and foremost an event for the average mountain bike enthusiast. So, thanks for being so enthusiastic!



Two of 2007's awesome crew