

## 2012 - Relieved Virgins

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The 2012 Karapoti Classic was a first time for everyone. The unseasonal southerly storm that swept up the country forced the event that is never cancelled... to cancel ! But we quickly rallied around and two weeks later ran "Karapoti Take-2". The stories below are an insight from a couple of Karapoti virgins on the event's first ever cancellation.

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### Still A Virgin

As a Karapoti Virgin I woke up on Saturday morning to the worst March storm ever and felt the little pang of fear that comes into the pit of your stomach before any competition. But this was different.

I remembered the website statement of never postponed or cancelled, so I got ready for a long day. I am a newbie to mountain biking and I thought I'd be out on the course for five hours plus. Given the conditions, I accepted it would be even longer.

I got the car all loaded up and started making my way to the starting line from my home in Kapiti. Half way over to Upper Hutt my car was blown around so much I did wonder if this was wise. A few minutes later the radio announced that Karapoti was postponed.

It was announced so quickly I wasn't sure I had heard it correctly. I pulled over and rang a friend who was also doing the race and he confirmed the race was postponed.

I turned around and drove home, arriving to find my street flooded, trees blown over and no power to the house. It was 7pm before power was restored and the next day broken tree branches were still flying into my front lawn. The right decision was made to cancel.

There is an element of risk with the Karapoti that each competitor accepts when deciding to race. But when that risk goes past the point of reasonable risk to possible death of a competitor and the health of volunteers, it is not worth it.

Thank you for cancelling. My wife and four year old son thank you also. On the bright side it gives me another 12 months to lose more weight and maybe get under five hours. Roll on Karapoti 2013... See you there.

*Pat Kavanagh (4408)*  
*Raumati South*

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### Relieved Aussie

Commiserations on the event cancellation. I will try and get back across the Tasman next year for it, but thought I'd share my experiences thus far.

I had charged out of my hotel door in the morning all kitted up for Karapoti, with my wife telling me I was an idiot as we got into the elevator.

In hindsight I was totally inadequately dressed, so the cancellation to come was probably a good thing. But at the time I was just thinking, "Gee, making this Sub-3 Hour Club might be tough today."

As we walked through the foyer my mate decided to check the website before we left, and we were a bit dumbstruck to discover that it was called off... But never before has my wife been so happy to see me when I walked back into the hotel room within five minutes of departing.

And all was not lost; we managed to get a good Welly ride in on Sunday. Cheers and good luck with Karapoti Take-2.

*Bruce Murphy (1425)*  
*Sydney*

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Karapoti course crew cleaning up after the storm

