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PORT ^{MTB} TO PORT NEWCASTLE AUSTRALIA

AWABA MOUNTAIN BIKE PARK SET TO BE STAR ATTRACTION OF THE 2015 EVENT

An entirely revamped Stage 3 of the Port to Port MTB featuring a 13km section through Awaba Mountain Bike Park is set to be the star attraction of the four day stage race this year.

In an attempt to recreate the highly successful Saturday Special Stage highlight through the Margaret River Pines from sister event, Cape to Cape MTB, the quaint Cooranbong Park provides the perfect start and finish line setting.

The start of Stage 3 begins with riders shooting into the locally groomed goodness of Awaba Mountain Bike Park which boasts flowing, swooping trails requiring minimal pedal power for maximum momentum. The course is set against a backdrop of rotating terrain from the dry Australian shrubbery at the park's peak, to the stunning dense rainforest in the valleys.

Port to Port MTB Event Director Jason Dover is looking forward to seeing the beaming smiles on participant's faces as they pass through this particular section.

"We are really excited for the Port to Port MTB field to experience the trails in the Awaba Mountain Bike Park," Dover said.

"Trails like Awaba are the reason we all go mountain biking; they have been expertly crafted by the Hunter Mountain Bike Association to flow perfectly, with high speeds, changes in elevation and plenty of corners. Those familiar with riding the Cape to Cape MTB in Western Australia will find many similarities between Awaba and the Margaret River Pines, only Awaba has more elevation and is even faster!"

"After the success of the 2014 event, we identified an opportunity to include a signature stage with some stand out trails. We visited Awaba, and just after one lap we knew that these trails will make the 2015 event absolutely unforgettable."

"Awaba really is for the enjoyment of all riders. I expect everyone from the likes of Shaun Lewis and Andy Blair at the front of the pack to those in the rest of the field to come out of Awaba wearing a massive grin," Dover said.

After the magic singletrack of Awaba is a gruelling climb up Mt Faulk to reach the ridge line of the Watagans, followed by 20km of fast flowing fire trail with views over Lake Macquarie before a final epic 15km descent that will leave your brakes and smile burnt!



Whilst the idyllic Stage 1 route from Nelson Bay Marina around Tomaree National Park and back again remains unchanged. Those returning to this year's event will be relieved to hear the Stage 2 second climb up Mt View has been sliced in half. Replaced with high-speed switch backs to the new finish line at Briar Ridge Vineyard, this course redirection allows riders to embrace the magnificent view of the Hunter Valley but from a height that is a little kinder to the calf muscles.

Changes to Stage 4 in Newcastle will include the addition of the rugged trails of Wallarah set against the iconic NSW coastline, and those snorkels can be replaced with a new set of golf clubs, with a large percentage of last year's beach section replaced with an easier ride down Belmont Golf Course. To cap off the course alterations, trail time through Glenrock MTB Park has also been doubled.

Registrations are now open for the Port to Port MTB which returns to the Newcastle region from Thursday 28 – Sunday 31 May, 2015.

Visit our website at www.porttoportmtb.com.au for more information on the event.

Visit our You Tube Channel to [view the 2014 Port to Port MTB documentary](#).

For more information, images, footage and interview opportunities please contact:

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