



Waihi Gold experience debrief

The weekend [incl Friday] of 15 – 17 Jan was significant for Trials in the upper North Island area.

Friday was a fun trail ride- training day, small numbers but the sort of ride where large numbers would be hard to cater for. This day showed the 'spirit' of those involved with the sport as we ALL made it our mission to get everyone to the "top" in the Maratoto area. There were some extremely good 'sections' along the way.

Saturday was a structured training day with top NZ riders in attendance. We consider that the 31 trainees found it a very worthwhile day, training in the shade of the pines on the edge of Waihi.

Sunday was for the sport to show itself to the thousands of holidaying public in the Waihi region who were visiting the Martha mine open day, the venue for our display. This display left the public in no doubt that "NZ has talent". Feed back from the public used phrases like "best entertainment I have seen in years" to "very professional". The stars of the show were obviously Jake and Karl but nothing should be taken away from the supporting roles of Ben McLeod and Jacob Gundry on pushbikes or the antics of John Haynes, Cam Ladyman, Liam Draper and Gabby Gundry. The team of riders was rounded nicely with the middle order of Jim Lowe-Pattie, Phil Shilton and Blake Fox. Did I mention our circus act Shanmir Singh. Not many can do what he does and to give "flair" we had Ravo comparing and Lisa Shilton with score cards.

The object of the weekend was to 'bond', train and 'expose ourselves' and I believe we achieved [some may want to get their 'minds out of the gutter' at this point] I think we can grow this to become an annual event.

- **See Pictures below**



