



# MEDIA RELEASE



## Australia's Biggest, Richest and Raddest Mountain Bike Event is Back for 2019

**Cannonball MTB Festival | 5 Days | 5 Events | Massive \$100k Prize Pool**

*"Cannonball is an amazing festival – so many events and categories something for everyone. We don't have many ski villages in Australia and to have one this good is amazing. I love coming to Thredbo, I was here for the first and hope to keep coming back"*

*Troy Brosnan - World #2 and four peat Cannonball Downhill Champion.*

The seventh instalment of the famous Thredbo Cannonball MTB Festival is back 4-8 December with legends, superstars and everyday riders lining up for their share of the \$100,000 in cash and prizes.

Thredbo Cannonball MTB Festival is the biggest, richest and most prestigious mountain bike event in Australia with a huge range of categories and diversity in events, it's a winning format for the world's best, rising stars and recreational riders.

There's 22 categories in each event ranging from groms in under 13's to the most experienced over 50's, the Cannonball Festival caters to all and is a great introduction to mountain bike competitions.

This year marks a turning point as the spectacle of Cannonball is expecting another big roll-up. For 2019 changes to the schedule will ensure a more structured event to cater for the 1000+ riders expected to descend on Thredbo. The Deity Whip Wars this year will become an invite only competition with the wizards of whip invited to send themselves sideways of a purpose built Whip Off jump.

This year will see the introduction of a Mini Groms Pump Track Challenge that is sure to be a get the crowd to their feet as they cheer the budding stars around the berms and rollers. There is a new e-bike category in all events that will change the pace in the Osprey All-Mountain Assault.

The five day program is packed with five mega gravity inspired events and along with non-stop entertainment there is something for everyone on both sides of the mountain. The mix of events include the prestigious SRAM Australian Open Downhill, Maxxis Flow Motion Cup, Osprey All Mountain Assault, Deity Whip Wars Big Air and the RockShox Pump Track Challenge on the Village Green.

“Cannonball has and always will be for the riders and with the biggest names in the sport now confirmed to be attending; it is set to be a massive weekend” said Tim Windshuttle Thredbo MTB Manager

Participation across all events is important as riders will have the chance to be crowned King or Queen of Cannonball, points scored across each event will determine the crowning glory.

The jewel in the crown of the event the SRAM Open Downhill will see the World #2 and four peat Cannonball Downhill champion Troy Brosnan defend his title.

“I’m always excited to come back to Thredbo for Cannonball, we use it as a really good testing opportunity to learn what the bike needs on the challenging Thredbo track. Also having the amount of amazing riders there to race against makes for some great racing. Can’t wait to be back this year” said Troy.

The weekend offers just as much action off the trails as on them, with both sides of the resort pumping during the iconic mountain biking celebration. Thredbo’s famous village will play host to an awesome line-up of DJ’s and live gigs with the region’s stellar offering of bars and restaurants also open.

A massive prize pool, a roll call of big names and some of the best gravity tracks in the country, the Cannonball Festival is one not to be missed.

Event registrations are now open with a 20% early bird competitor discount for those signing up before midnight 14 October 2019. Click [here](#) for full event details and to register.

To get a taste of all the action from last year’s event all promotional images, video and artwork for the 2019 Cannonball MTB Festival are located [here](#). Feel free to use across your various channels.

#### Event Information

#### **SRAM Australian Open Downhill | Sunday 8 December**

The SRAM Australian Open DH will be raced on Thredbo’s famous Cannonball Downhill the old school way, meaning we will include the upper fast and furious fire road. Riders will then be thrown into a technical masterpiece comprising of rocky chutes, booters, slippery roots and high speed straights with speeds not dissimilar to those found on your average World Cup course. This event also boasts the biggest pay day for any downhill race in Australia.

#### **Maxxis Flow Motion Cup | Friday 6 and Saturday 7 December**

Friday and Saturday will see the [Maxxis](#) Flow Motion Cup go down on Thredbo’s famous 5km Kosciuszko Flow Trail. Although not super technical, this race requires a fit efficient type of rider. A stack of steep banked berms and rolling traverses ensures that cornering and pedalling ability will be paramount. The Maxxis Flow Motion Cup is also a great introduction to gravity racing

#### **Deity Whip Wars | Saturday 7 December**

The crowd pleasing and fan favourite [Deity](#) Whip Wars will again hit centre stage Saturday afternoon, with some of the greatest mountain bikers of all time sending it

sideways on the super booter in the heart of the event village. For 2019, the event will become an **INVITE ONLY** competition. The biggest 'moto style' whip brought back will take the honours with bonus points going to riders that sent it past 90 degrees. A crowd pleasing trick will also earn you some cold hard cash from the judges!

### **ROCKSHOX Pump Track Challenge | Friday 6 December**

Get ready for the [Rockshox](#) Pump Track Challenge on Friday. See Thredbo's Pump Track on the Village Green in full flight as the smooth momentum masters set the perfectly sculpted course on fire. A test of ultimate skill and stamina, as riders pump, double and manual around the course without a single pedal stroke. Riders will lay down a qualifying run on Friday morning, with the top riders going through to the night time final racing in a head 2 head dual format

### **Osprey All-Mountain Assault | Thursday 5 December**

The [Osprey](#) All-Mountain Assault returns to 1800m above sea level at the top of the Gunbarrel Express Chairlift. The iron men and women of mountain biking will embark on a gruelling 7km undulating descend on a trail designed for a short travel mountain bike. The Osprey All-Mountain Assault course has everything a rounded rider could ask for, technical descends, natural obstacles, smaller jump options and pinch climbs to push even the most avid enduro purist.

### **Here is what a few of the riders said about the 2018 Cannonball MTB Festival:**

*"Great format of racing, it is really cool, everyone is loving it. Just riding your bike, not stressful and having fun I will be back next year"* **Loris Vergier**

*"Super relaxed for us as we ride world cup all year. There's so many world cup riders here it's super fun to hang out and smash out the runs because of the chairlift, it's an awesome place to ride. So good to spend the week here, I've missed it so much. I haven't been for a while so to be able to chill in the off-season and come to this race is awesome, I loved every minute"* **Tracey Hannah**

*"Cannonball is an amazing festival – so many events and categories something for everyone. We don't have many ski villages in Australia and to have one this good is amazing. I love coming to Thredbo, I was here for the first and hope to keep coming back"* **Troy Brosnan**

*Super good week, had the best time, the top riders were here so a great prep for the world cup season ahead. And the vibe, the vibe is great – parties, bbq's, music – a super good time, I will be back"* **Yoann Barelli**

**-ENDS-**

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