

TERRA AUSTRALIS

Great Southern Land Mountain Bike Epic

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Blood, Sweat and Gears in the North East of Victoria.

The ultimate Mountain Bike Epic is here. Finish Line Events are proud to announce the launch of the inaugural Terra Australis – Great Southern Land Mountain Bike Epic to be staged from March 29th to April 4th 2009.

The **600km** event will be **Australia's most challenging Mountain Bike event**, starting in the Alpine Resort of Falls Creek and finishing **7 days** later on the banks of the Ovens River in Wangaratta. It will travel through the Alpine Villages of Dinner Plain, Bright and Beechworth and is set against the **majestic backdrop of Victoria's High Country**.

Finish Line Events Director Iain Moore says "The event will set the benchmark in the Asia – Pacific region for endurance mountain bike events. The event's timing is ideal as we work with our event partners to capitalise on the rise in popularity of recreational and endurance based Mountain Bike events".

"With the outstanding mountain bike trails, Parks Victoria management tracks, fire trails and the generosity of private land owners, **the course will be the most spectacular and challenging ever established in Australia**. We have been very conscious of remaining true to the spirit of similar events in Europe, Canada and South Africa, which have set a very high standard and are iconic multi stage mountain bike events. Our ultimate goal is to establish Terra Australis as an **international event showcasing the region** and it's attributes to Mountain Bikers from around the globe." Mr Moore said.

"We are especially excited to have already gained the support of **Tory Thomas** and **Kerry Ryan** as event ambassadors. Tory is a passionate North East Victorian local and a highly credentialed endurance mountain bike rider having previously claimed the **2005 Australian National Solo 24 Hour Championship**, the **Australian MTBA 100K Marathon Championship**, and in the same year the **Australian X/C Championship** and **MTBA National Series Championship**. Kerry has also spent many years travelling to the North East to ski and Mountain Bike ride. He is a former **World Masters Champion** and along with partner Craig Peacock won their 50+ age group category in the **2005 Trans Rockies challenge in Canada**". Mr Moore said

The event is proudly supported by The **Victorian State Government, Falls Creek, Dinner Plain Alpine Village, Alpine Shire, Indigo Shire and Rural City of Wangaratta**, who welcome this new event as part of their overall strategy to position North East Victoria as one of the world's premier cycle tourism destinations. The success of the event will see it as a permanent fixture on the North East Victorian events calendar.

For further information please contact, **Iain Moore** – Event Director (Finish Line Events P/L) 0419 504 088 - iain@finishlineevents.com.au



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