

## **AUSTRALASIAN MULTISPORT CHAMPIONSHIPS COMES TO LORNE IN 2014**

The Australasian Multisport Championships will be held in Australia on 6-7 December 2014 in Lorne, Victoria after three years in New Zealand as part of the ThermaTech 3D Rotorua Multisport Festival.

Held in conjunction with the renowned Lorne Adventure Fest run by Rapid Ascent, race directors John Jacoby and Sam Maffett are excited about the opportunity to host the Championships on behalf of Multisport Adventure Racing NZ for the first time in Australia.

"It is a terrific opportunity for the Championships to come to Lorne, and we are looking forward to showcasing this premier adventure race to the New Zealand multisport athletes." Maffett said.

Multisport Adventure Racing NZ President, Bill Godsall congratulated the Australian event organisers.



"We are very excited to see an Australia event have the opportunity to hold the Australasian Championships on behalf of Multisport Adventure Racing NZ. This gives the Championship's real credibility whilst giving all Australian athletes the opportunity to challenge for the "Australasian" titles." Godsall said.

"I am sure many of our New Zealand Elite multisporters will travel across the ditch to challenge the best Australia has to offer and enjoy the Lorne event and its environments. Congratulations to John and Sam for making this happen." Godsall added. "We also thank Neil Gellatly for getting the Australasian Championships off the ground with the first inaugural event held three years ago in Rotorua to rave reviews and has maintained the high standard since."

The quite coastal town of Lorne along the picturesque Great Ocean Road is just 2 hours from Melbourne airport, and is the home of one of Australia's toughest adventure courses that makes the most of the region's stunning ocean and hinterland wilderness areas.

Previously known as the Anaconda Adventure Race, the premier Lorne Adventure Race attracts 1,200 participants each year and features a 1.9km ocean swim, 13km paddle, 14km trail run, 18km mountain bike and a 1.2km beach run to finish.

"Our course covers a similar distance to the previous Championships at Rotorua, about 50km, but has the additional swim leg, so it's sure to challenge some kiwi competitors as their races often don't include swimming." Maffett said.

"Some rate the premier Lorne Adventure Race as one of the hardest races in Australia, whilst many others rate it as one of the more spectacular, especially when the sun is sparkling off the ocean in front of the adventure village event HQ, making the swim and paddle look particularly alluring." Maffett said.

The announcement comes just a few weeks after the 2013 Australasian Multisport Championships in Rotorua which saw Dougal Allan and Simone Maier, both from Wanaka, taking the crowns. Australian's James Pretto and Deanna Begg were the best placed Australian's in fourth and fifth in their categories respectively.

Rapid Ascent, who also design and course manage the Mark Webber Challenge in Tasmania, understand the logistics of multisport races and will be assisting international entrants with access to boat rentals and accommodation deals.

New Zealanders will also get the chance to experience the course prior to the 2014 Championships.

"We are offering all New Zealand based multisport athletes a half price 2013 entry to get yourselves familiarised with the course in preparation for the Australasian Championships." Maffett said.

The 2013 Lorne Adventure Fest is being held over the weekend of 7-8 December in Lorne, Victoria, Australia, over the same course as the 2014 Championships. Entries and information at [www.lorneadventurefest.com.au](http://www.lorneadventurefest.com.au) .

The Australasian Multisport Championships 2014 are open to all levels of ability, and anyone can enter the premier multisport title race and line up alongside the elite competing for individual crowns and age group medals.