

on the RIGHT TRACK

WORDS: Tim Vetter PHOTO: Sandy Images



The local mountain biking community will again benefit from the dedication shown by Northpine Christian College (NCC) staff to the sport, when the school hosts the fourth event of the 2017 NCC MTB Racing Series this month.

Riders from around the local area and beyond will gather at the school's specially-built track for the event, competing in three different grades for a share in the prize pool and series points.

"The track was built about four years ago by teachers who put in hundreds of hours to shape it by hand," Head of Sport and race organiser Dustin Dever said. "It's situated on bushland which is attached to the school property, and is made up of about 70% single track (width of one bike)."

The track is not only used for sanctioned races, but for Northpine students in the mountain biking program, which runs every week.

Around 50 riders are set to take part in the cross country short-course event on October 22, with registration at 2pm and racing from 3pm. Split into three grades, A-grade riders will complete four laps of the course, B-grade three laps and C-grade two.

"There's always a great spread of ability levels in this competition, with very high level riders down to primary school," Dever said. "As long as you can ride the track then you can race. It's always been our goal to help people get into the sport at very little cost."

Registration, payable on the day, is \$5 for students and \$10 for adults.

"The support of our sponsors, 99 Bikes North Lakes, means we can offer up the prizes for the riders," Dever said. "This event is getting more and more popular every year, and we're very keen to see the school's involvement in mountain biking continue to grow."

"A lot of locals are aware of our mountain biking program now, but we're also working towards hosting an interschool event in 2018 for Brisbane, Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast schools."

For more information about the event or the school's mountain biking program, visit the NCC MTB (SEQLD) Facebook group.

REGISTRATION for the race is open to the public, online via www.webscorer.com/register?raceid=111530&owner=1.