

Snaking through the bush

MTB Australia



Previously called the Central Australian Bike Challenge and now the more colourfully named Anaconda MTB Enduro, this is a the seven-stage, five-day race based in and around Alice Springs.

Contrary to what many people imagine, Alice is not surrounded by flat scrub and desert as far as the eye can see in every direction, but actually is circled by stunning mountain ranges. Besides being the site of the world-class, two-week long walking trail, The Larapinta, it also offers some challenging mountain biking.

The race made full use of this, mixing masses of flowing, rocky singletrack out in the desert with fire trail, and of course a fair bit of sand. Stages ranged from as short as 300m right up to 100km in length and included a night stage.

A total of 212 riders took part and fuller details of how they got on can be found at the organiser's website: www.rapidascent.com.au

Room to zoom MTB Hong Kong

The new GP ReCycko+ Action Asia series of mountain bike races kicked off with a two-hour enduro on June 1 over a motorcross course. In a place poorly served by official trails, the location was appreciated by racers.

"The course was wide enough for beginners and expert riders to race together which is unusual in Hong Kong", said Jeff Chan, who placed second.

One person doing plenty of overtaking on the wide course was winner Cheng Chuk Chun (right). He completed 28km overall, despite taking a bad-looking fall.

"I got a flat tire in a very bad downhill position coming full throttle into a corner and flipped over the handlebars into the bush bending my handlebars", he said later. "Luckily nothing serious. I got up, changed the tire in a minute, asked if I was still leading and took off." www.actionasia.com/aae

