



My first ever MTB race

The 2017 Otway Odyssey 30km race

The Otway Odyssey 2017 30km was my first ever MTB race. I was introduced to the wonderful world of MTB only a few months prior to this race and I fell in love!!

I had only ever ridden at the You Yongs and a few times at Anglesea. A few friends were entering the Otway Odyssey and I thought 'why not'.

Arriving at the grounds in Forrest, I was so impressed at the facilities that were on offer. Various tents with bike equipment and nutrition, as well as food/drinks vans.

From registering in the early hours of the morning, till the time we went home, the whole event was superbly run.

The race challenged me in a way I never imagined - both distance wise and technicality - but I absolutely loved it! I was so nervous but after the hike up the first hill, to the red carpet trail and I was hooked. The staff on the course, as well as the riders were so supportive and encouraging.

I was absolutely exhausted by the time I crossed the finish line, but I really felt I had achieved something and had so much fun doing it.

This race got me totally hooked on MTB racing. On the way home, I entered into another race 2 weeks later.

Since then, I have competed in several MTB races across the state.

Always one for a challenge.... for the Odyssey in 2018, I plan to go for the 50km! :)

Hayley

