

28 May 2014

www.amazingalbany.com

World champion heads to Albany for Australia's first Urban Downhill

Five time world champion and world circuit mountain biker Sam Hill will head to Albany in June for the inaugural THULE Albany Urban Downhill in June.

In an Australian first, the historic streets of Albany will be transformed into the ultimate mountain bike battleground.

The first race of its kind in Australia, the THULE Albany Urban Downhill on June 22 will see armour-clad racers burst onto the streets of Albany, riding a purpose-built course in the ultimate spectator event.

The WA-bred world champion will join over 100 riders reaching speeds of more than 70km/h as they fly through Albany's urban landscape

Hill is a consecutive two time UCI World Downhill Champion, winner of the 2010 world championship in Mont-Sainte-Anne and winner of the 2007 and 2009 UCI Elite Men's Downhill World Cup.

With over 22 purpose-built features including kickers taking riders up onto shipping containers and gravity-defying curved-wall-rides, the race will descend from the rugged bush trails of historic Mount Clarence and culminate in a spectacular jump off the pedestrian overpass on the Albany foreshore.

Albany's natural topography and picturesque scenery makes it an ideal location for adventure sport events.

Major international sponsor THULE have thrown their weight behind the event that now boasts one of the biggest prize pools for a mountain bike event in Australia.

Event director David Marshall said gaining international sponsorship had taken the event to the next level.

"For the first time, spectators will be able to enjoy the quality hospitality that Albany provides, right on the edge of a downhill spectacle," he said.

With over \$8,500 worth of prizes, the event is drawing local amateurs, sponsored professionals and riders from around Australia.

"A lot of riders who don't regularly race club rounds are entering," Mr Marshall said.

"The THULE Albany Urban Downhill is attracting free-riders and those looking to push the boundaries in adventure sport."

The event is also attracting seasoned professionals, including BMX star Tyler Vershuren, young gun Jackson Davis, and local Albany girl and former state champ Sarah Booth.

The inaugural THULE Albany Urban Downhill is set to grow, with Government funding announced through the 2014/15 Regional Events Scheme for the event in 2015.

The City of Albany is the proud major supporter of THULE Albany Urban Downhill.

The City of Albany is committed to attracting unique major events such as the THULE Albany Urban Downhill that successfully promote Albany as a premium visitor destination and showcase Albany's natural competitive advantages.

Holding major events in June also ensures additional visitor spend in a traditionally low visitor period benefitting local business and industry.

END

MEDIA CONTACT: KEIR TUNBRIDGE – 9841 9344 – keirt@albany.wa.gov.au