



THE WHEEL DEAL: World champion mountain bike rider Jess Douglas in Townsville Photo: EVAN MORGAN

Mountain bike race ready to roll

TYRES are pumped, sprockets are oiled and competitors are primed for the Mike Carney Toyota Hotrock eight-hour endurance mountain bike race at Lake Ross tomorrow.

Event co-ordinator Rob Hunt said a strong field of up to 300 riders was expected for one of North Queensland's biggest mountain bike races. The field will feature up to 100 solo riders with the rest competing in teams of two or four.

The aim was to complete as many laps around the 11km circuit as possible within the eight-hour period, following four-wheel-drive tracks and purpose-built trails.

"The trail suits the entry-level rider but a more experienced competitor will find it challenging to go fast," he said.

"We have riders coming from Gladstone, Mount Isa and all the regional centres this year and also Jess Douglas from Mel-

bourne, who is the world 24-hour champion. She will be running three skills clinics at Lake Ross in the days before the race."

One of Australia's up and coming mountain bike riders, Nelson Tilley, came second in the solo section in 2010 but this year he will be in a two-man team with Mackay's Wes Reibel.

All entrants go into a draw to win a \$5000 mountain bike courtesy of Top Brand Cycles.

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