

## 2008 - Even The Weather Agreed

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After eight years of glorious weather there was a degree of the inevitable before this year's Karapoti Classic. For almost a week the forecasters declared, "Heavy rain developing early in the day". But it didn't happen.

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Apparently even the weather gods love Karapoti because 95 percent of the field got home his year before the skies opened. For the supposedly unlucky five percent; you guys are special because your achievement was that little bit harder won.

Certainly we were thankful, and not just for the weather, but also to the hundreds of you who braved the rain during the prize giving. Every year we receive dozens of emails, letters and phone calls thanking us for a great day; but during that wet prize giving the sight of a thousand-odd people clapping and cheering in the rain illustrated yet again just how much people love this event.

Mind you, there was a lot to love about this year. A sell out field once again, and while most people agree that the course wasn't quite as fast as 2007, the results argue otherwise with 10 new race records and a record number of riders joining the Sub-Three Hour Club.

From a personal perspective, however, this year's crew were exceptional. This was evident in how smoothly the day ticked along. So while you all argue about how fast the course was, what tyres worked the best, who had the best crash, and how much you beat your buddy by... all we can say for certain is that 2008 was without out a doubt "our" best effort yet. Indeed, for the first time in memory we don't have any tales of organisational woe to tell.

All this bodes well for the future. In 2009 we'll be starting a new five year sponsorship with Merida Bikes, and in 2010 we'll be celebrating the 25th anniversary Karapoti with a "New Zealand Mountain Biking Week."

But first things first - the 2009 Merida Karapoti Classic is down for Saturday March 7. Entries open in May - Don't miss out!

