

2013 - Karapoti's First International

Canadian Dan Maddess rode the inaugural Karapoti way back in 1986. Twenty nine years later he did Googled us to say giddyay for old-time sake.

Wow, I think I was the first international mountain biker to race in New Zealand. I am from Vancouver Canada and did the first Karapoti back in 1986.

I had been touring New Zealand on my mountain bike and saw the ad for the race. I took the train from Auckland to Wellington and even pre-rode half of the course a couple of days before race day. I had a great time at the carbo loading dinner the night before the race. I remember some giggles as I drank a ton of water too.

On race day I had a crash in the first few meters then took off. The first spot of rocks everyone else jumped off their bikes to run and I went by them, riding until the first climb which was a clay rutted 4x4 track.

I surprized a guy (official) at the top (startled him really) and proceeded down a very bumpy hill. I got a flat snake bite and had a hard time

fixing it. By this time i had built up a little lead on everyone only to watch them ride by as i tried to fix my tire.

When i finally got to the finish line I was 22nd. But all was not lost: A fellow from the US I'd met at the hostel in Wellington had come along and been keeping a six pack of Lion red in the river for me.

I also remember having some extra Panaracer knobby tires I wanted to sell. They were hard to get in New Zealand back then, and we ended up with a bidding war. I ended the day far richer than I started!

If anyone has any pictures of the day please send them to me? I remember thinking it would have been nice to take that great homemade trophy home!

*Daniel Maddess
Canada*

Start Line 1986 - Akatarawa Summit

