

## Oceania's Track Champs Report

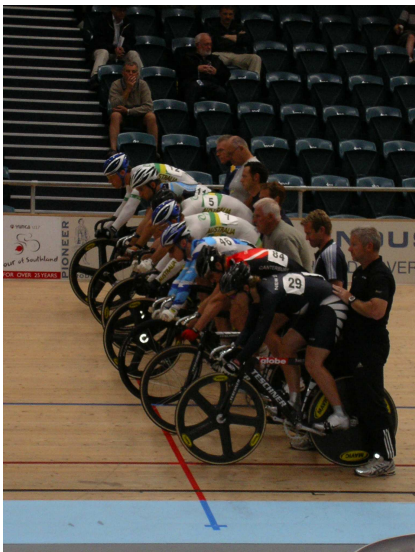
There sure was some great competition at this event!

The Aussies sent over a strong sprint team which include most of their top sprinters. Names such as Ryan Bayley, Anna and Kerrie Meares and Ben Kersten to name a few. Their guys were big and dwarfed the majority of their NZ counterparts. Full time training and racing was evident in both their physical appearance and speed on the track. This little rider's one claim to fame was to ride off against the current Olympic and World sprint champ Anna Meares in the first round of the sprints. A thorough thrashing was had by said small Auckland rider but the world champ was most gracious in her winning of the ride.

Track and Oceania records were falling left right and centre mostly taken by the Aussies but by no means all! NZ held its own (just!) in the junior ranks' when some great rides by the NZ under19 boys team sprint which saw them take out the gold over the Aussie U19 team. The U19 boys pursuit team also took gold over their Aussie counterparts. Auckland's own Andy Williams took out bronze in the men's omium event in which riders have to compete in all disciplines in one day and is won on a points system. Events include a 3000m pursuit, the 1km kilo, 5km scratch, 15km points race as well as a 200m sprint qualifier. Some awesome fast paced racing was also seen in the final event of the track meet in the men's 15km Elite scratch race with NZ Greg Henderson taking out the silver medal behind Australia's Glen O'Shea who lapped the field.

For full results and race reports check out the BikeNZ website:

<http://www.bikenz.org.nz/Article.aspx?ID=24409>



This is how the big boys do it at the start of the heats in the Elite men's kerin.

Riding on a top quality and indoor velodrome is a great experience and one to be looked forward to. Roll on an Auckland indoor track though at least the North Island will be gaining one soon in Hastings where one is currently under construction.

Happy training!  
Olivia ☺