

My first ever MTB race

The 2017 Otway Odyssey 30km race



Racing was not something I had ever seriously thought about, it was something some of my friends did but not really on my radar.

I had been introduced to mountain biking the previous summer when I had done a skills clinic with a friend. Since then it hadn't been unusual to go for a couple of months without riding my bike. Life is busy, especially with small kids.

It was when my friend was training for the 100km on her single speed that I got caught up in the excitement of events. I joined a group training with Cycle Technic for the Otway Odyssey and entered the 30km Novice event.

I had a very basic mountain bike that was super heavy. I was a nervous rider who loved the brakes. I wasn't very fit and this showed in our training sessions, I was always very far behind the rest of the group puffing up those hills! Despite this, I loved every moment.

Race Day came and I was obviously pretty nervous. I had never even ridden 30km in one go!

Adrenaline is an amazing thing and as soon as the race started I was off. There is something pretty special about a race vibe, and I found myself loving being on my bike more than any other moment.

I learnt a lot that day, I went too hard too early and had nothing left for the end. I think I fell off my bike 3 times in the last 20 minutes because I was so tired mentally and physically. I also didn't drink any water or eat anything. But I finished and I had the biggest smile on my face for days.

After the Odyssey I went and entered more races because I was hooked.



Chiara

