



BURNIE ATHLETIC CLUB INC

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(BC-33)

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Attention: Chief of Staff, Sports editor, sports reporters – For Immediate Release

### **Welsford creates wheelrace history and joins elite list**

West Australian cyclist Sam Welsford became the first rider in history to win three years in a row when he stormed home to win the 2018 William Adams Men's Wheelrace at the Caterpillar Underground Mining Burnie New Year's Day Carnival today.

Starting from the coveted scratch mark in the 3000m handicap event, the 21 year-old West Australian track star also claimed his third major victory of the Tasmanian Christmas Carnivals Series, after winning the Latrobe Wheel last Wednesday and the Launceston Wheel on Thursday night at the Silverdome.

Welsford now joins former greats Danny Clark (three wins) and Stephen Pate (five wins) as only the third cyclist in the 131-year history of the prestigious Burnie event, to have won it three times, but the first to win three in a row.

The victory was also a personal one for Welsford, as it carries the name of his great mate and 2010 winner Will Robinson, who was killed in a road training accident in 2011.

"The Will Robinson Memorial trophy for the winner is very special for me," Welsford said.

Having now completed the Burnie Wheel hat-trick, Welsford is keen to return next year and go for four in a row in a bid to beat Pate's record five wins.

In the Direct Edge Manufacturing Burnie Women's Wheelrace, South Australian teenager Maeve Plouffe capped off a great week at the carnivals, adding the Burnie victory to the Devonport Wheelrace she won on Saturday night in blustery conditions, with the 18 year-old also seeming to relish today's windy weather as well.

On the running track, the lion's share of the \$12,000 up for grabs in The Heritage Burnie Men's Gift, stayed in local hands for the second year in a row with Burnie sprinter Daniel Reeves recording an amazing victory.

Starting his career as a distance runner with previous wins in the Burnie Mile 1600m and Stawell 800m finals, Reeves showed his potential as a sprinter in last year's Burnie Gift, when he finished second behind Jordy Englund.

Starting from the front mark of 10.5 metres this year, Reeves was not to be denied in the final, holding out fast-finishing backmarker Eddie Gates, to score a memorable victory.

"I'm ecstatic – I was second last year and I've put in a lot of hard work since then and it's paid off," Reeves said.

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William Adams



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It was also a front-marker's victory in the Stubbs Construction Women's Burnie Gift as well with 16 year-old Hobart sprinter Kiani Allen winning from the second front-mark of 8.0 metres.

The feature event on the distance running programme, the Zezt Tasmanian Mile saw another West Australian athlete and Commonwealth Games 1500m aspirant, Matt Ramsden, score a gutsy win in a quality field featuring a handful of runners boasting personal best times of under four minutes for the distance, with an impressive time of 4:00.05 in the windy conditions.

In woodchopping, Victorian axeman Glen Gillam added another world title to his impressive resume, winning the JMC World 325mm Standing Block Championship in a classy field.

Defending world champion Laurence O'Toole Jnr, from Victoria, finished second ahead of New Zealand's Jack Jordan, who won an underhand world title at Latrobe last week.

In what was a fruitful day for Gillam, he also won the Tasmanian 400mm Standing Championship ahead of defending champion Kody Steers, from Gowrie Park, and NSW champion Dale Ryan.

The major handicap event on the chopping programme was the Brian Cartledge Memorial 300mm Standing Handicap, with Kiwi Jack Jordan taking the victory ahead of Victorian Brad Turner and Westbury's Stephen Rowe, in what was a backmarker's final with unexpected firm wood favouring the stronger choppers.

The other main handicap event was the Henry Munday Memorial 300mm Tree Felling Handicap, which is always a crowd-pleaser and cut in the main arena.

Zeehan front marker Riley Sheehan scored a popular win, with world champion Deloraine father and son and backmarkers, Matthew and Daniel Gurr filling the minors

In doing so, also Sheehan created his own unique piece of history, becoming the only axeman to win all four handicap events ( 225mm standing, 250mm standing, 300mm standing and 300mm tree felling) at the Burnie Carnival, although not in the same year.

## **RESULTS –**

**Cycling and running results are available on-line at - <http://www.live.tastiming.com.au/event.php?dir=burnie2018>**

### **WOODCHOPPING**

325mm Standing World Championship:

400mm Standing Tasmanian Championship: G Gillam, 1; K Steers, 2; D Ryan, 3.

Brian Cartledge Memorial 300mm Standing Handicap: J Jordan, handicap 32 secs, 1; B Turner, 26, 2; S Rowe, 27, 3.

Henry Munday Memorial 300mm Tree Felling Handicap: R Sheehan, 3, 1; M Gurr, 145, 2; D Gurr, 155, 3.

275mm women's underhand handicap: A Heath, 18, 1; M King, 50, 2; K Brown, 16, 3.

250mm standing handicap: W Lovell, 6, 1; S Rowe, 19, 2; C Willard, 16, 3.

250mm junior standing handicap: D Rowe, 75, 1; T Rowe, 80, 2; O Lovell, 65, 3.

250mm veteran's standing handicap: D Hunt, 18, 1; J Youd, 18, 2; K Abblitt, 10, 3.

225mm standing handicap: L Chant, 7, 1; H Maine, 14, 2; R Sheehan, 12, 3.





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## NU-GEN YOUTH CARNIVAL

400m handicap (no finals) -

Heat one: A Hyland, 1; J Corkery, 2; H Cripps, 3. Time: 51.47 secs.

Heat two: K Polley, 1; H Frankcombe, 2; T Winkel, 3. Time: 51.99

Heat three: G Payne, 1; C Eldershaw, 2; R Williams, 3. Time: 47.55

Heat four: K Anderson, 1; N Grey, 2; O Ball, 3. Time: 54.91.

1609m junior handicap: S Plapp, 1; W Goninon, 2; T Winkel, 3. Time: 5:05.21.

1609m senior handicap: E Stretton, 1; J Armistead, 2; T Singleton, 3. Time: 4:55.32.

120m handicap final: .

## ENDS

*For more information, contact carnival media manager, Martin Agatyn, on 0418 137 692  
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