



Rider: Paul Whibley

Team: Yamaha

Bike: Yamaha YZ250

Event: Taranaki Hard Enduro, Mt Damper

Result: 3rd

Race Report

I'm a little light on experience when it comes to extreme events and with the first Taranaki Hard Enduro, it was tough to know what to expect. If the track wasn't technical enough the rain would certainly make the steep back country a challenge. Being the last Gold rider to leave meant I had plenty of riders to pass. I tried to push early and make some quick passes before it got too technical and tight. Still, by the time I got in the tough stuff it was nose to tail and not being able to carry momentum made it hard to overcome my lack of trials skills. Once up and over "boil up hill" I got into a good rhythm and started to flow through some tight bush single track. I was having a lot of fun and the YZ 250 was working pretty good. Being a little unsure on how tough it was going to get I was pretty conservative. Unfortunately just over half way to the fuel stop I damaged my front brake and lost the fluid. As if the steep downhills weren't scary before, now they could be gauged by how many times I cartwheels the bike into Ponga trees on the way down. I struggled on to the fuel stop thinking my day was done. I rummaged around in the fuel trailer and found some fluid and tools and managed to fix the problem. I was stoked to be able to continue because to not finish after dragging my bike to that point would have been gutting. The second half had more technical bush trails and a few more farmland hillclimbs.

Post-race I heard I had some good times but losing a lot of time with the damaged brake. Still, just to make the finish at this event was satisfying enough.

1st: Jake Whitaker

2nd: Greg Delatour

3rd: Paul Whibley

Thanks to ACEPICS for the photo

Paul Whibley is supported by:

Sidi, Smith, G2, Asterisk, MotoSR, Vortex Ignitions, EC3D, Bush Riders MCC, Darbis, GHQ, Freedom Moto, Yamaha NZ, Rosscos Start Up Services, Works Connection, Pro Taper, Race Pace Services, Unabiker, Leatt Brace, Tire Balls, bikesportnz.com, CarbSport, KettleClamp, Alliance Offroad, Ride Eng MotoSeat FMF Kenda Yamalube CV4 GYTR IMS MSR Recluse Twin Air Wiseco Ride Eng Workshop graphics

