

National Junior Track Series (Cycling Australia) 2017-18 – wrap-up

The National Junior Track Series (NJTS - <http://cycling.org.au/Events/NJTS>) is run by Cycling Australia each year to provide opportunities for U15 and U17 riders to develop track racing skills, and to build a nation-wide network of friendships. Up to 200 riders - including those in the various State teams and Development Squads - compete at each of one or more of the weekends of racing held over 4 months in four different States. The Series traditionally concludes in Adelaide in mid-January to tie-in with the Women's TDU and the TDU. Entry is free and is co-ordinated by the relevant State Association.



NJTS gives riders experience both on and off the track. Racing in velodromes which they have not been at before, riding against good riders from other states to practice race tactics and positioning and big bunches of riders in each race. The event also helps with learning how to race when you have been on flights or travelled a long way by car, not sleeping at home, being self-sufficient and organised for your race, exposure to drug testing, building and packing your bike for flights. Also managing eating enough at a long event to keep energy up and in staying hydrated. Thank you to the SA team managers.

Angus Miller (JM17)

Nine South Coast Juniors participated in the NJTS this year – and all have become stronger as a result of their involvement. Our riders were: Hugh Nicholas (JM15); Shelby Johnson (JW17); Gypsy Schirmer (JW17); Ella Sibley (JW17); Elliot Walker (JM17); Angus Miller (JM17); Ethan Birrairie (JM17); Jude Thursby (JM17), and Mitch Natt (JM17).

Angus finished up in the top quarter of JM17 (105 in this category) and Mitch in the top third, Shelby (JW17) rode her way into the top quarter of JW17 (62 in this category), while Ella discovered more about herself and finished on the podium in 3rd place for JW17 by the end of the four rounds! Ella finished the first round in 13th, 6th after the second round, 3rd after the third, and only 3 points away from second by the end of the series. GREAT results all round!!

Everyone except the second-year U17s are looking forward to the next series!



JW17 Podium L-R Alessia McCaig, Kat Chung-Orr, Ella Sibley (Photo Trudy Sibley)