

ABOVE//A long break between heats lead Luke Fink to the conclusion that there had to be new lines possible on the already varied dirt course. 180 barspin transfer to backside re-entry? Could this have been a comp winning run based on innovation...
 BELOW//Tim Casey rode solidly all weekend with a stack of style and new school tricks, including his 360whip attempt had him just out of the 8 going thru to the finals. He'll be a force to be reckoned with in years to come.



**NEW
BEGIN
-NINGS**

bulldoze them after the comp. Not only did Brad G create the epic trail style kickers by hand, he flowed over them with effortless style that got him through to the finals even with a popped shoulder from more than a few slams and endless hard days wielding a shovel. Gutsy effort.

With amateur and pro classes, the schedule of heats and finals was full over the three days. More than a few am entries being scratched as they saw the sets, however plenty stepped up to the plate with skills that will have them in the top ranks in Aus in a year or so! Major standouts were obviously the winner of the amateur class, Daniel 'Mozzie' Dunn who sadly busted his wrist in a major way in the post Pro final trick fest going for a double whip... Get back on your bike soon! Hardknocks king, Dave McComb along with Jared Carter stepped up the level of riding, but it was the crazy determination of Todd Williams sprinting his guts out between racing to do his finals run on his jump bike, then running back to race a heat, winning and running back to finish his last run! Amazing skills with turndowns higher than anyone (including the Pro's) boosted over the first set. To ride a race bike for a race then jump on your dirt machine for a finals run with no practice and still sporting race gear? Word to a rider that lives to ride, congrats on a 2nd place in Am.

With more flat ground than anything else at the showgrounds, the only problem with the designated flatland area was the dirt/dust coming off a berm onto the selected space for rolling madness making it more like Disney on Dust. Pretty much immediately a new area was staked out and claimed by the flatland Cenobite himself, Dave Sayer, which ended up being right next to the roll in for dirt, which is where it shoulda been anyways. While the turnout for flat was small, the talent level more than made up for this. Local rider Shane Badman sessioned hard with Australia's grand ground master, Simon O'Brien and

RIGHT//Simon O'Brien rides with a flow and rhythm that defies all comprehension. The BMXGames flat jam was a warm up for his next trip to Europe to compete in the Red Bull Circle of Balance amongst other comps. Good luck over there!

Sydneys longtime legend Vinnie Pugh. Their combined skills absolutely bugging out the crowds that formed to watch the final jam. Grant Cruise brought a taste of the old school and fun into 2004, while newcomers Bielecki (in true Easter form) and Alistair Finlay tweaked out new styles. While not many cross over between riding styles nowadays, Lee Kirkman rode super well in the flat jam while proceeding to qualify 3rd in dirt, ultimately taking 3rd come dirt finals. Word to versatility! The jam was a 45 minute session in which each rider judged each other come the end of the jam, a format that will be adopted from here on in for flat (and possibly all events?) as the results are finally universally agreed on.

The intensity of the dirt pro finals was something special to be a part of. While it was always going to be a battle between the Luke's, Fink and Weatherall, the standard of riding come finals time was out of control. Brett Pople and Lee Kirkman (who ended up riding 2020 ed's bars after a major slam) busted out big styles while staying super smooth, his flip flatty to nofooter in the heats wasn't to be repeated though, 3rd place in his first dirt comp. Brett did launch superman like into the upper reaches of the roof on more than one occasion, his riding pushing forwards every day. Mike Cernotta and Brad Grantham rode like they were just sessioning their local trails all day, flowing between transfers so comfortably it was like they'd been riding them for years. Damian Connolly and Jon Wakefield took some hefty slams during the finals, Jon having to sit it out, but Damian went harder still, going for flip whips come the last run. Luke Fink styled through his runs with big skills. I kinda wish he pulled some of his magic from practice with either a run in thongs or the crazy transfer from the second set kicker, 180 barspin to the backside of the 2nd set landing. It might have pulled in a win for innovation! It has to be said though, Luke Weatherall is the most focussed and intense rider I have ever seen. His pre-run psyche up almost scary,



Fink just nudged out Matt Fairburn for the Vert title

***THE VERTDOGS.**

Every vert dog has their day and rightly so, vert launched the event on the Wednesday at 8.30 in the morn, meaning around 25 people came down to watch a battle between Matt Fairburn and Luke Fink unfold. When the deal was done, Luke came out just on top with a truckload of tricks and lip tech just outing big air and multiple barspin champ Matt Fairburn. The jam format had these two and the rest of the field consisting of Seaton Spratt, Craig Peters and Matt Pratley riding hard for just on 45 minutes. It sounds like next year will have vert (and street) amongst the goings on in the venue (TBA) so the whole posse can be hanging out stoking each other out.



NEW BEGIN- NINGS

Luke Weatherall smoked his final runs with an endless trick list of insane combos

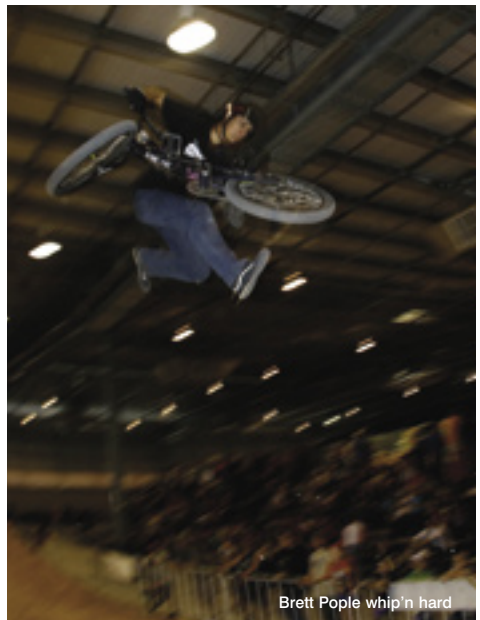


Mozzie ruled the Am class and joined the post pro comp jam to score himself the most busted arm I've ever seen

obviously his visualisations are that sorted cause he was able to throw a nothing to barspin, double truck and a huge tailwhip in one run flawlessly. How he spins triple barspins, one will never know. A well deserved win taking home the cash money to Melbourne.

The event finished up with an after party for those still able to walk, the toll of three days riding keeping it a pretty chill night. The bringing together of a whole new generation of riders has sparked new friendships and inspiration, and thats what it was all about.

Being the first comp run by FreestyleBMX, Heath Walker has got to be congratulated for pulling off an event that had him over his head in terms of what he had to pull together with the resources at hand. The whole vibe of the comp was open and friendly and the riding was at an all time high. All those that came forward to be a part of this years event are sure to be on board for next year, including the trail diggin master, Brad Grantham and his next instalment of trail madness. I know all who entered will be back for that alone. Add a kick arse street course to the flat and vert mayhem and we'll be looking at a world class event on our shores for the riders of this country, what can be better than that. The future of riding is in our hands now, a heavy responsibility by any standard, however we now have a legit organisation there to help us on our way forward. United we stand, divided we fall. **FITZ**



Brett Pople whip'n hard