



**World Wide Sport Agency  
Media Release  
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## **Bettin to Spearhead 'Biggest Ever' Crocodile Trophy Peloton**

**Italy's Mauro Bettin, the former UCI mountain bike Marathon World Cup Champion will attempt to lay his "crocodile curse" to rest when he spearheads a record field in the Crocodile Trophy of 2007.**

**A two-time protagonist in Australia's greatest endurance cycling event, Bettin will be desperately hoping this, the 13<sup>th</sup> staging of the Outback classic, will bring the luck which has so far deserted him, as he attempts to lead the Felt Dream Team to victory.**



*Bettin is back*

**"Mauro is a fine rider, a great competitor and we welcome his return to the Crocodile Trophy," race supremo Gerhard Schoenbacher said.**

**"But Mauro is on notice that this will be a tougher assignment as we have the biggest and without question, the strongest field in the event's history."**

**At the peak of his powers when he toured Australia in 2005, Bettin was close to blowing the race apart when his tyre perished on the loneliest, most remote part of the course, between Blencoe Falls and koombooloomba. Close to tears, the Italian champion rode for 20 kilometres on a rim, but could only watch as Australian Adam Hansen cruised by, en-route to his second race victory.**

**In 2007 Bettin will have outstanding support in the shape of Luxembourg's Benoit Joachim (Astana), the vastly experienced European Max Becker and hard as nails Australian domestique Darren O'Grady (a 2006 stage winner).**

**Joachim, who sports an impressive resume including multiple Luxembourg national championships, along with the honour of riding for Lance Armstrong in the Tour de France during his former years at U.S. Postal, could yet be the Dream Team trump card.**

**"Joachim brings brute strength to the Felt Dream Team and you need that in this race, especially on the longer flat stages," Dream Team Manager Christi Valentine explained.**

**“But we also need the luck to go our way for Mauro's sake because you know the Crocodile Trophy has a habit of breaking hearts and grinding egos into the dirt.”**

**Thirteen nations are represented on the eighty-strong start list. Last year's stage winners Attila Marton (Hungary), Stefan Rucker (Austria) and Michael Borup (Denmark) are back in the hunt for overall honours along with Czech marathon specialists Andrej Fojtik and Radoslav (radik) Sibl.**

**The Europeans won't have it their own way when the race begins in Mareeba on October 23, with 12 Australians signing up for ten days of suffering.**

**Experienced Crocodile Trophy campaigner David Wood, who broke through last year for his maiden stage win, will lead the Flight Centre team in its first shot at Crocodile Trophy glory.**



*Radoslav Sibl*

**Both Wood and team-mate Tim Bennett journeyed to Europe in 2007 to gain experience at World Cup level and prepare themselves for the standard of competition which only the Crocodile Trophy brings to Australia.**

**Media Inquiries:**

<b>Australia:</b>	<b>John Flynn</b>	<b>+61 (0)410665464</b>
<b>Europe:</b>	<b>Gerhard Schoenbacher</b>	<b>+43 (0) 6763047584</b>
<b>Website:</b>	<b><a href="http://www.crocodile-trophy.com">www.crocodile-trophy.com</a></b>	



**Crocodile Trophy - Laura Far North Queensland**





## 2007 Stage Plan

<b>Mareeba - Irvinebank</b>	<b>120km</b>	<b>23/10</b>
<b>Irvinebank - Koombooloomba</b>	<b>128km</b>	<b>24/10</b>
<b>Koombooloomba - Wombinoo</b>	<b>117km</b>	<b>25/10</b>
<b>Wombinoo - Chillagoe</b>	<b>169km</b>	<b>26/10</b>
<b>Chillagoe - Chillagoe</b>	<b>100km</b>	<b>27/10</b>
<b>Chillagoe - Mount Mulgrave</b>	<b>145km</b>	<b>28/10</b>
<b>Mt Mulgrave - King Junction</b>	<b>163km</b>	<b>29/10</b>
<b>King Junction - Laura</b>	<b>156km</b>	<b>30/10</b>
<b>Laura Cooktown</b>	<b>142km</b>	<b>31/10</b>
<b>Cooktown - Cape Tribulation</b>	<b>148km</b>	<b>01/11</b>

