



**World Wide Sport Agency
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Wood Predicts 'Barn Burner' Mercury Rising for Crocodile Trophy 2007

Crocodile Trophy stalwart David Wood, who will spearhead Australia's Flight Centre Scott team in the 2007 race, is predicting furnace like conditions for the visiting Europeans just a week away from the race start in Mareeba.

No cyclist in the Crocodile Trophy's record-sized peloton is better placed to predict the conditions than Wood, who lives, works and trains on the merciless outback roads of Far North Queensland.

A three-time protagonist and stage winner in Australia's premier international mountain bike event, Wood enters the 2007 Trophy with his confidence on a high, following a podium placing by the Flight Centre Scott team at the recent Australian 24 hour mountain bike championships in Canberra.



David Wood

"They've got to be the best blokes going," Wood said of his Croc Trophy team-mates Tim Bennett and rookie Ryan Hawson.

The trio rounded out the podium placings in Australia's famed Flight Centre Epic earlier this year, with both Wood and Bennett also travelling to Europe to gain experience at Marathon World Cup events.

How their form in one day races translates to the demands of the Crocodile Trophy is an untested proposition. Nonetheless Wood is setting lofty goals of a place on the overall podium and collecting the Croc Trophy's coveted teams prize, for the Australian newcomers.

"This year there are more contenders for G.C. than there ever have been," Wood noted after studying the event's biggest-ever start list.

A survivor of the 2004 race, when the field was decimated by heat exposure in the early days, Wood also issued a warning to the visiting Europeans, including race favourite, Italy's former World Cup Champion Mauro Bettin.

"Unlike last year it's hot already up here," Wood said.



2007 Stage Plan (Updated)

Mareeba - Irvinebank	120km	23/10
Irvinebank - Koombooloomba	128km	24/10
Koombooloomba - Wombinoo	117km	25/10
Wombinoo - Chillagoe	169km	26/10
Chillagoe - Chillagoe	100km	27/10
Chillagoe - Mount Mulgrave	145km	28/10
Mount Mulgrave - Laura	148km	29/10
Laura - Cooktown	142km	30/10
Cooktown - Daintree	135km	31/10
Daintree - Cape Tribulation	30km	01/11



Cooktown .. a magic stage
finish atop Grassy Hill