

**Media release for immediate use**  
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## Hot temperatures assist winners of Inaugural Motatapu Half Ironman Length Triathlon

The field of three females and 24 males, in the invitation-only event started with a 2km swim in Glendhu Bay in Lake Wanaka, then joined the Speight Summit 47km mountain bike field to cycle from Glendhu Bay to Arrowtown through three high country stations, before completing the 15km mountain run over the historic Arrowtown.com Miner's Trail.

27 competitors enjoyed the stunning weather of Glendhu Bay today to compete in the inaugural Motatapu half Ironman triathlon.

The winning time was 4.16.23 by triathlete Axel Reiser, setting the first-ever course record. Reiser, two minutes behind the leader coming off the bike, calmly went into the run, race take the lead and win the event. "I knew I could catch them on the run, says Reiser.

"The lake was fantastic. The last time I swam in Lake Wanaka was for Challenge Wanaka and it was more like a hill swim, this was awesome, nice and flat," says Reiser.

"This is the kind of race we need to put on in New Zealand. It is the real stuff. That run is awesome; I think the run is heaps better than the marathon. It's got everything: Roads, tracks, down hills, grass, and river crossings. Central Otago high country- it can't get any better," says Reiser.

When asked how he coped with the hot temperatures, Reiser comments, "hot is good".

The first of the two females competing to cross the finish line was Simone Maier of Wanaka with a time of 4:42:10. Maier who also placed second in this year's Challenge Wanaka, says, "I think I had a great race. It was pretty tough. I had a good swim. The bike was not bad, I just got a bit annoyed with my seat. I had to stop three times and adjust my seat again because it was sliding down. The run was hard and usually I never walk but today I had to".

"I haven't done the Motatapu before, but it is amazing. I would love to come back next year. The landscape is stunning," Maier says.

"The lake was just beautiful, so calm, not like Challenge Wanaka this year. Just perfect racing conditions. It was hot but I love the heat," Maier says.

Gavin Hawke former top Ironman triathlete and third place getter came up with the idea, when he bumped into old rival and Iconic Adventures Director Geoff Matthews on the streets of Christchurch only a few months ago.

Placing third in the event, dressed only in speedos, and coming closely behind John Mezger (4.25.40) Hawke describes the course as the most outstanding off-road triathlon in the country, "a beautiful cool flat swim, a fast hard mountain bike, and then a technical really hard run at the end which is a true test of someone's running ability."

"So many triathlons now are all about speed and most of us can't run that fast. This course is great because a flat 2km lake swim, really hard mountain bike ride, lots of hills in it to test you and then a really hard run. The run is really technical, so that sorts all those road runners out," says Gavin

Hawke has competed with distinction three of the four separate and different Motatapu events held on the same day, the Icebreaker 42.2km off-road marathon, the Speight's Summit 47km mountain bike, and the R&R Sport Adventure Run. He wanted a new challenge and suggested to Matthews that he hold the triathlon. Matthews agreed on the spot.

Christchurch based Hawke was in doubt over whether he would attend the event after the February 22 earthquake devastated his hometown but decided to support the Iconic Adventures fundraising cause and attend the event, to benefit the people of Christchurch.





“It’s really good when you get a congress of runners too because they all encourage each other along, and give you support,” says Gavin.

People can leave their donations directly at [www.fundraiseonline.co.nz/motatapu2011/](http://www.fundraiseonline.co.nz/motatapu2011/) All funds raised go to the Red Cross 2011 Earthquake appeal.

The invitation only half ironman length triathlon is just one of five Motatapu events all held on the same day. The other events are: The Motatapu Speight’s Summit Mountain Bike, the R&R Sport Adventure Race, Arrowtown.com Miner’s Trail 15km mountain run and Icebreaker 42.2km off-road marathon.

The Motatapu is in its seventh year and this year was its largest event. In 2010 it won the New Zealand Association of Event Professionals for the best event.

## ENDS

Photo caption: Hamish Carter starts the inaugural half-length Ironman Triathlon

Photo credit: Iconic Adventures

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