

## NICOLE SCHAER

My MTB journey started in February 2018. I had ripped my acl and had a replacement so needed to find a new sport as obstacle raving wasn't an option. I'd decided to compete in some adventure races and needed to practice my MTB. This is where I met my team mate Geoff Moran who I started riding with every Wednesday after work at Daisy Hill. He suggested we enter the Merida 4 hr that same year. We entered and finished 4 laps with a big crash on the 3rd lap which could have ended much worse. I raced on my trek hardtail. I realised I really liked MTB and xc racing over adventure racing. After going quite well we decided to race together in a mixed team and entered a lot of races. I upgraded from the hardtail to a specialized dual suspension after that first race. We entered the first race back at Kooralbyn as we had heard it was the in place back in the day. We checked out the trails before the race and were excited. Then the race was postponed due to rain. I drove 2.5hours say from our family holiday camp site to compete. Started with me getting there late and my beloved bike hanging out of the tree after forgetting it was on the roof, the other racers were awesome helping me get it out. We entered the series but an unfortunate training crash (pre port to port) breaking my ankle ended my race season. Now I'm back to getting that fitness back and back to riding those trails I love.

