

Ennio Folini demonstrates his unicycle prowess.
Picture: Marcelo Palacios d385202

Ennio's a Muni ace

HILLS BOY AMONG BEST UNICYCLISTS IN WORLD

Karen Valenti

MOUNTAIN cycling (Muni) along the Darling escarpment in his spare time has helped lead to a 12-year-old Bedforddale boy becoming among the best unicyclists in the world. Ennio Folini, who is in Year 7 at Mazenod College in Lesmurdie, became involved with the unusual sport after his dad Marco first read about it in a Swiss newspaper.

"It reported on the Unicon 13 Unicycle World Championship held in Switzerland," Mr Folini said.

"I never thought that one could ride a unicycle off-road, but the article proved me wrong."

Mr Folini bought two unicycles in 2006, and in 2009, Marco and Ennio spent six months in Switzerland riding in the Alps.

Three years after that adventure of a lifetime, Ennio won a gold and silver medal at Unicon 16, which was held in Italy last month.

He won gold in the Muni Obstacle race for his age group and silver in the Muni Uphill race.

Ennio said living in Bedforddale helped with his training.

"I am very used to obstacles as we have some at home to practise on," he said.

"In the competition, I carefully observed other riders and their mistakes. It was very challenging on the Muni (mountain unicycle) obstacle riding competition and I received 73 points, tying with another rider. This means two gold medals were given out and no silver, just bronze."

The young athlete explained what he liked about the unusual sport:

"I like riding unicycles because they're so uncommon and it stands out wherever you go," he said.

"I enjoy riding technical downhill tracks as it is very challenging and cool."

More than 1850 people from 32 countries competed in the event, including a rider from the Northern Territory and about a dozen from other Australian states, contesting a wide variety of disciplines.

 Community

Comment News

ARMADALE

www.inmycommunity.com.au

TUESDAY, August 14, 2012