**CAPE BRIDGEWATER A STUNNING CHALLENGE**

**FOR GREAT SOUTH COAST TOUR CYCLISTS**

**T**he spectacularly-rugged Cape Bridgewater is the jewel in Glenelg Shire’s expanded involvement in the Lakes Oil-Fulton Hogan 2016 Tour of the Great South Coast road cycling classic.

**T**he Glenelg municipality will be the location for the final two-and-a-half days of the five-day race, which is programmed to start in Mount Gambier on Wednesday, August 10.

**G**lenelg will host the finish of the 64-kilometre Penola-Casterton stage on the afternoon of Friday, August 12, before unfurling a potentially-brilliant new course in upper-level Australian road cycling – a punishing 121km four-lap hill-laden trek in the historic Cape Bridgwater region of South-Western Victoria the following day.

**T**he 511.2km seven-stage tour will conclude with another scenic gem – the traditional waterfront criterium in Portland at lunch-time on Sunday, August 14. (course attached).

**G**lenelg chief executive officer Greg Burgoyne was effusive about the shire’s upgraded participation in the tour, which was first held in 2012 and has rapidly developed into one of the most popular and important events on Cycling Australia’s Subaru National Road Series calendar.

**“G**lenelg Shire Council is proud to host the Tour of the Great South Coast,” Mr. Burgoyne said.

**“O**ur shire has one of the most spectacular coastlines in Victoria, providing a majestic backdrop for this much-anticipated road tour over two-and-a-half action-packed days in our municipality.

**“T**he new Cape Bridgewater road course of about 120 kilometres, winding across Portland’s three capes, is as challenging as it gets.

**“P**hysically, the Cape Bridgewater race, which will start and finish at the Portland Surf Life Saving Club, will test the endurance of the competitors and their teams as they complete four circuits of the course.

**“T**he ‘shuffler’ (a well-known local landmark) will be the major challenge; and will have to be conquered not once, but four times.”

**M**r. Burgoyne said the Glenelg Shire looked forward to welcoming the cyclists, their support teams, crews and spectators to a cycling event unlike anything Victorian has seen before.

**H**is sentiments were echoed by Cycling Victoria’s chief executive officer Kipp Kaufmann who congratulated the Glenelg municipality on its continuous support of the tour for the past five years.

**“G**lenelg is entering new territory this year with the Cape Bridgewater stage – and also by hosting the tour’s grand finale on that fantastic criterium circuit in Portland,” Kaufmann said.

**“I**t’s an exciting development in the history of the National Road Series – the Tour of the Great South Coast is a very serious, career-shaping bike race for the competitors.

**“L**ast year’s winner, the young New Zealander Patrick Bevin, signed a contract with the international trade team Cannondale-Garmin shortly after his victory and has already put up some eye-catching performances this year on the European circuit.”

**T**he Great South Coast Tour has taken on additional significance this year, with three South Australian councils backing the event.

**T**he Wattle Range Council has joined the District Council of Grant and the City of Mount Gambier in hosting tour stages. (The City of Mount Gambier’s participation is subject to final council budgetary approval).