

# Melbourne to Warrnambool Cycling Classic 2015

OCTOBER 17



Tuesday, October 13, 2015

## SHIRE COUNCILS “UP THE ANTE” FOR INTERMEDIATE SPRINTS

BY ROD MORRIS

ROAD cycling is all about taking the sport to the people, not the other way round.

The Lakes Oil Melbourne to Warrnambool has been taking road cycling to the populous for almost 120 years and the tradition will add another chapter this Saturday.

The 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the maiden 1895 Melbourne to Warrnambool will coincide with the 100<sup>th</sup> staging of the great race.

When entries went on-line three months ago, the 300 maximum spots available were snapped up within 3-minutes.

Yesterday, courtesy of a small number of scratchings and withdrawals – for a variety of reasons – 14 vacancies became available.

Race organisers had no trouble filling those from the 150 standby riders.

Saturday's Melbourne to Warrnambool is scheduled to start at Werribee's Eagle Stadium at 7.30am (AEDT) and finish in Raglan Parade, Warrnambool seven hours later.....give or take a few minutes.

Organisation of the race involves the co-operation of a large number of people, businesses, emergency services, sponsors, media and councils.

Two local shires have upped their support for the 100<sup>th</sup> classic.

The Corangamite Shire controls the Barwon South West government region and the “Warrny” will travel through Camperdown, Terang and Cobden where intermediate sprints within the Classic are located. The majority of the intermediate sprints and hill climbs will carry an attractive \$500 purse to be split among the first three riders over the line.

But the Corangamite Shire have upped the ante for the Hill Crest Park hill climb finish which will coincide with the Victorian 200km Championship.



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The winner of that sprint will take home \$500, while the minor placegetters will receive \$300 (2<sup>nd</sup>) and \$200 (3<sup>rd</sup>) respectively.

If it all goes to plan, spectators should see the Victorian 200km title decided at around 12.30pm.

Meanwhile the Shire of Moyne, which is based around the Port Fairy – Koroit district, has also increased the stakemoney for the intermediate sprint at Panmure, which it is sponsoring.



**Moyne Shire Mayor, Cr Colin Ryan**

Cr Colin Ryan, a former police officer has been Moyne Shire Mayor for two years, has promised a party atmosphere for the Panmure sprint.

Cr Ryan is a founding member and a former vice-president of the Woolsthorpe Community Progress Association which has worked hard to ensure Saturday's festivities go to plan.

"We live in a great part of the world," Cr Ryan said.

"Moyne has many diverse communities spread over a large area."



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Panmure will be the penultimate of 16 intermediate sprints and by that stage of the race – 254km – the likely challengers for overall honours should be at the pointy end of the field, given that there will be only 25km remaining.

## Intermediate sprint time estimations

Location	Kilometres	Time
Little River	19.5	8am
You Yangs	28.8	8.13am
Serendip	32.3	8.20am
Batesford	58.9	9am
Murghebuloc	72	9.20am
Inverleigh	83.3	9.37am
Barunah Plains	100.3	10am
Cressy	125.2	10.38am
Berrybank	140.3	11am
Lismore	153.6	11.20am
Chocolyn	187.3	12.10pm
Cobden	210.4	12.45pm
Terang	233.3	1.20pm
Garvoc	245.7	1.40pm
Panmure	254.2	1.50pm
Allansford	269.1	2.15pm

**Finish line** 278.6 2.30pm

## King of the Mountain

Location	Kilometres	Time
Elcho Park	41.6	8.30am
Dog Rocks	61.1	9am
Brislanes Rd	78	9.27am
Camperdown	196.5	12.20pm
Hill Crest Park	200	12.30pm

(Victorian Championship)

## Updated weather forecast –

In Werribee Saturday: Mostly sunny, maximum 21 degrees Celsius, 5% chance of rain.

In Warrnambool Saturday: Mostly sunny, maximum 17 degrees Celsius, 10% chance of rain. *NB: courtesy Elders Weather*

## FURTHER INFORMATION:

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