2016
TOUR OF THE GREAT SOUTH COAST
August 10 – 14

August 5, 2016

SCHOOLS EMBRACE TOUR RIDER VISITS

Mount Gambier and Penola district schoolchildren will be armed with knowledge about top-flight international bike racing after next week's Lakes Oil-Fulton Hogan Tour of the Great South Coast road cycling classic.

Three teams of riders competing in the five-day tour will address about 800 students at six schools next Tuesday.

It's part of an impressive program put together mainly by the Limestone Coast's regional road safety officer Rob Forgan, with assistance from the Mount Gambier, Grant and Wattle Range Councils.

About 20 young cyclists from the Mobius, State of the Matter and Swiss Wellness teams will take part in the visits.

Participating primary schools are Penola, Nangwarry, Glenburnie, Mil Lel, Compton and McDonald Park.

The riders will attend the schools attired in their lycra team apparel, accompanied by crew members and their state-of the art racing bikes.

"The aim is to spread a health message," Rob Forgan said today. "We will not complicate things – it will be just a simple set of messages."

Mr. Forgan said cyclists competing in the tour "all look the part – so fit and healthy. School kids look up to them and listen to what they have to say."

Cycling Victoria's chief executive officer Kipp Kaufmann said he regarded the schools' promotion campaign as a key component of the 511km Tour of the Great South Coast, which starts with a criterium in Mount Gambier's Vansittart Park at 11 a.m. next Wednesday.

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"**W**e want to assist the schools in teaching children about road safety, healthy lifestyles and the perils of drug-taking etc."

The tour's second stage on Wednesday afternoon will feature a tough 65km road race, taking in 10 laps of a 6.5km Blue Lake circuit, starting and finishing at the Reidy Park primary school.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

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