

# 2016 TOUR OF THE GREAT SOUTH COAST

August 10 – 14



August 11, 2016

## PORTER POWER IN PORT MacDONNELL AS CROME REMAINS IN TOUR LEAD

South Australian rider Alexander Porter riding for the SASI/Callidus Cycling Team has edged out Victorian pair Cyrus Monk (20) of Pat's Veg Cycling and JML Racing's Samuel Lane (20) to win stage three of the 2016 Lakes Oil-Fulton Hogan Tour of the Great South Coast in Port MacDonnell today in a time of 3 hours 15:36 minutes. Porter, 20, from Adelaide, was part of a four-man breakaway that was able to ride clear of the peloton half-way into the stage and together the quartet worked hard in the windy conditions to fight out the finish into the scenic township of Australia's rock lobster capital.

Bendigo's Sam Crome (22) of the strong Avanti Isowhey Sport outfit remains in the tour leader's jersey holding a 12 second buffer over State of Matter/MAAP's Ryan Cavanagh (21) from Queensland and Lakes Oil's Benjamin Hill (26) from Canberra a further seven seconds back in third place.

Porter, who rides for the Australian Institute of Sport on the track capitalised on some weary legs and a head-wind to form the break. "It was pretty quick to start with a lot of teams trying to get into the early move", Porter explained after his win. "People were getting tired after constant chasing, so we were able to get off the front and work together".

The peloton began the longest stage of the tour, 137.6 kilometres on an out-and-back course in overcast conditions but nothing like what they experienced on day one in Mount Gambier. Riders tried to organise breaks during the early part of the stage and it wasn't until the 65km mark after one-and-a-half hours racing that Porter, Monk and Lane managed to pinch a break of any note. They opened up a gap of just over four minutes on the peloton with New Zealander, Nicholas Kergozou (20) riding for the Mobius Future Racing Team caught in the middle giving chase.

Hill was having a battle with Monk trying to retain his lead in the Campolina Sprint Points Competition and won the first two intermediate sprints before missing the break. Monk duly won the last three intermediate sprints on offer to snatch the lead in that competition.

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At 79 kilometres into the stage near the Blue Lakes Golf Course, the leading trio were joined by Kergozou and they worked together to stretch their lead over the peloton to more than six minutes. The main field including tour leader, Crome, were taking in the scenery of the District Council of Grant and with no-one in the leading quartet of any immediate danger to the tour leader – Monk the closest at nine minutes and 28 seconds – it provided the perfect opportunity for the break to succeed.

Approaching the only hill climb of the day, a category four climb at the 104 kilometre mark, the leaders had increased their lead to six minutes and thirty-three seconds. The weather gods finally smiled on the tour as the sun came out as Lane steered the leaders over the top of the climb and into the township of Donovans.

Four became three as Kergozou was dropped nearing the finish and Porter, Monk and Lane adopted cat-and-mouse tactics with the peloton still four-and-a-half minutes in arrears. As they sprinted to the line beside the white-caps in Port MacDonnell, Porter gained the upper hand and crossed the line ahead of Monk who thumped his handlebars in disappointment at an opportunity missed.

Crome was happy with the way the stage panned out. “It was hectic at the start with a few sprints early”, he said. “We were happy that those guys were quite a way down from yesterday, we rode false tempo for a bit and had Joe Cooper and Pat Lane on the front controlling it”, added Crome.

Crome’s teammate, the experienced Patrick Shaw from Ballarat, remains in the Scody King of the Mountains leader’s jersey while Monk now has a three point lead over Hill in the Campolina Sprint Points Competition. Cavanagh leads the CFMEU Rising Star Award for the best young rider under 21 competition and Avanti Isowhey Sport lead the team’s competition on the General Classification.

The Tour continues tomorrow with stage four a 39km criterium around the streets of Penola in the morning followed by the afternoon stage from Penola to Casterton, a distance of 64.2 kilometres. The Tour of the Great South Coast is part of the 2016 Subaru National Road Series.

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<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/za6u3glt7z5ltyu/AAAVwZHqKKz3aW-XcsBOP1wya?dl=0>

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