



MEDIA RELEASE

June 2, 2018

Albany young gun speeds ahead to win 90th Menzies Classic

Craig Wiggins (19) left it to the last kilometre to race to victory in the 90th Menzies Classic in an exciting breakaway in the final minutes.

Wiggins, who races for Sydney-based team Mobius BridgeLane finished ahead of Simon Billeau and Kieran Scott who led the rest of the pack across the line

Wiggins said when he saw the rest of the A grade pack looking tired he dug deep, pushed into his hardest gear and gave it all he had.

“I’m pretty stoked with it, I’ve been coming for the last three years and getting closer and closer, chipping away and to be up with names like Michael Freiberg and Sam Welsford it’s pretty good,” he said.

Wiggins considers Freiberg, last year’s Cyclassic winner, a mentor who has helped him move up a gear in mindset, training and racing this year.

The first woman over the line was Corrie Johnstone (nee Fillmore) who starting in C Grade, finished in 3h06:14.

“This is a really big year of cycling for me so to win the race is really quite special,” she said.

Johnstone finished just ahead of Kathryn Woolston and Wanda Jansen Van Vuren.

It was a race which had the spectators on the edge of their seats as the handicapper appeared to get their timings spot on as A grade only only got sight of the lead pack with 15km to go.

As the crowd caught sight of the riders at the final bend before town the cheering focused on D grader, and former race director Wayne ‘Wino’ Douglass who had been on a breakaway and did his best to hold of the A graders.

But the pack was too strong and caught him with just minutes to spare.

The riders enjoyed festivities with the locals in Menzies tonight including a community dinner and fireworks.

They set off early tomorrow for the final leg, Leonora Golden Wheels, to chase Goldfields Cyclassic glory.



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Photos and vision will be available on Sunday June 3.

About the Goldfields Cyclassic

The 2018 Goldfields Cyclassic is a two-stage handicap race (the Menzies Classic and the Leonora Golden Wheels) across the Goldfields from Kalgoorlie-Boulder to Menzies and on to Leonora. Riders will race across the beautiful and historic West Australian Goldfields as they vie for line honours in one of eight grades.

Non-competitive riders can compete in the Kalgoorlie Miner Community Challenge where riders complete the 132 km between Kalgoorlie-Boulder and Menzies in a four-person relay. Heading off from Kalgoorlie-Boulder before the Cyclassic participants and arriving in Menzies to cheer on the winners, the Community Challenge has opened up the day to a wider variety of riders and groups. Individual riders are also welcome.

The 2018 Goldfields Cyclassic gets under way on Saturday 2 June and finishes the following day.

Event History

Originally raced from Menzies to Kalgoorlie, the race has a magnificent history. It had its origins in 1928, following a discussion at a race club meeting where there was a concern at the lack of distance races on the Goldfields. Messrs J. Richards, JC Walsh, Chas Egan along with a small committee set about organising a long distance event.

Their choice of starting point was the small mining town of Menzies, 81 miles north of Kalgoorlie. Many businessmen of the Goldfields supported the venture and, on the King's birthday, June 1928 at 8.00am, the limit men were sent away for the first "Menzies". Twenty four riders started in this event.

From its inauguration in 1928 until 1932, the race was known as the Menzies-Kalgoorlie Road Race, but two days before the race of that year, Charlie Egan, the well liked and highly respected secretary of the club, tragically died, and all riders in the race that year wore black armbands as a token of respect. It was decided later that the race should, in future, be known as the "Chas Egan Memorial Race".

From that time on, the race grew in popularity, and its prize list increased until it finally became Western Australia's richest handicap road race.