



## MEDIA RELEASE

#GFCyclassic

May 26, 2016

### **Cyclassic Wide Open as Top Riders Pedal for \$40,000**

Olympics hopeful Sam Welsford is part of the top line-up of talented and title-hungry cyclists set to pedal for a total prize pool of \$40,000 in this year's Minara Resources Goldfields Cyclassic.

Proudly billing itself as Australia's richest handicap cycle race, the 2016 Cyclassic has a top quality field, with some of Australia's top teams and riders competing, including Satalyst Verve's Henry Pennell who won line honours in the 2015 Menzies Classic.

Also racing again this year is 2014 Cyclassic winner Rebecca Mackey of Arbitrage Racing's Wormall Civil CCS team.

Teams competing in the two-stage Cyclassic include OTOC Vault, JML Racing, Satalyst Verve, Eddy Holland's Bicycle Services, Dome Coffees, Arbitrage Masters, Wormall Civil and OTOC Niche Living Vault.

Among male riders to watch are Welsford, Pennell, Luke Ledger, Conor Sherwin, Jackson Mawby, Darcy Pirotta and Craig Wiggins. Meanwhile, women riders Jen Davis, Stefanie Van Amerongen, Sabine Bird and Brie Rogers will be pitting their pedal power against Mackey.

Cyclassic race director Wayne Douglass said late registrations were still being taken for the 2016 event.

"We are looking forward to one of the best line-ups of competitors this historic event has ever seen," Mr Douglass said.

"Since 1928, cyclists have been racing on this route linking towns and mines in Australia's greatest gold-producing region. I am confident that this year's talented riders will do this iconic event proud, showcasing some of WA's richest country during Australia's richest cycle race."

The Minara Resources Goldfields Cyclassic comprises two stages – the Menzies Classic and Leonora Golden Wheels – and annually draws elite cyclists from throughout Australia, including a dedicated group of hand cyclists. A parallel event, the Community Challenge, encourages local cyclists to take part for fun and fitness.

The 2016 race runs from Kalgoorlie-Boulder to Menzies on Saturday June 4 and ends in Leonora on Sunday June 5 to coincide with the finish of the Leonora Golden Gift foot race.

Now in its 88th year, the Menzies Classic, also known as the Chas Egan Memorial Race, has seen generations of cyclists pedal the 132km route north from WA's

famous Golden Mile to the former mining centre of Menzies. Today the Shire of Menzies Cycle Carnival is the biggest event on the small town's calendar, with locals and visitors lining the main street to cheer the winners across the line. A sprint competition, community races and children's events round out the carnival.

On Sunday morning the teams leave Menzies on the second leg of the Minara Resources Goldfields Cyclclassic, the five-year-old Leonora Golden Wheels race over 105km.

OTOC Vault team manager Brad Hall is looking forward to a hefty field of competitors in what is set to be one of WA cycling's biggest races for 2016.

"There haven't been many competitions this year and, beyond the State title, this is one of the major events for cyclists," Mr Hall said.

"This year we're going to see a very young crop of riders across the two days. This is exciting because we're giving way to the next generation of cyclists. It's going to be better than ever."

To lodge a late registration for the Minara Resources Goldfields Cyclclassic, visit <http://www.cyclclassic.com.au>

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## About the Goldfields Cyclassic

The 2016 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 2016 Goldfields Cyclassic gets under way on Saturday 4 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 business men 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.



[www.cyclassic.com.au](http://www.cyclassic.com.au)