



LAKES OIL N.L.

Lakes Oil Tour of Gippsland 2011

JULY 22 - 31

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John Evans - PBE Real Estate



SHAW AIMS AT SECOND GIPPSLAND BIKE TOUR

Defending champion Patrick Shaw will go into the Lakes Oil Tour of Gippsland from July 27-31 with great respect for a course which he describes as “challenging and demanding.”

The Ballarat-based Shaw, 25, proved himself to be Australia’s best home-based bike rider last year with victories in the five-day Gippsland tour, the brutally-tough Elgas Launceston to New Norfolk Classic and the four-event Scody Cup, the country’s most prestigious road cycling series.

It was a brilliant season for the plucky Shaw and led to a team contract this year with the powerful Tasmanian outfit, Genesys.

Shaw believes the course for the nine-stage Tour of Gippsland is the toughest in the event’s seven-year history.

“There are a select few days that if you’re not right up there you won’t win the tour,” he said.

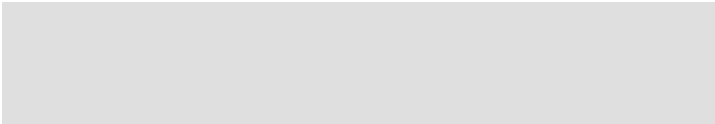
“Most days will present their challenges and some of the hill-climbing stages are really difficult and demanding.”

Shaw singled out stages two, four and eight as the road races that threatened to spredeagle the anticipated 150-strong field of professional riders from all Australian states and territories, New Caledonia, New Zealand and Malaysia.

Stage two, on Wednesday, July 27, is a 68.2km trek in the Wonthaggi region, taking in Cape Paterson, Inverloch, Mt Misery, Moyarra, Kongwak and Korrine.

The stage, which will start and finish in Wonthaggi, was raced in last year’s tour and won by New Zealand Rico Rogers from the Budget Forklifts team. Shaw was third.

Stage four is a new addition to the tour – a 102km trek on Thursday, July 28, from San Remo to Warragul, via Kilcunda, Dalyston, Archies Creek, Korumburra, Loch, Poowong, Ranceby, the Strzelecki Ranges and Ellinbank.





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Stage eight, a 69.3km road race from Lakes Entrance to Metung, will also be conducted for the first time.

Tourism Victoria



The stage will take in beautiful countryside through Kalimna, Swan Reach, Wiseleigh, Bruthen, Upper Tambo and will decide the outcome of the Hotondo Homes King of the Mountains championship.

Shaw said he was hopeful of retaining his Gippsland crown but pointed out that the Genesys team also had other worthy contenders in Canberra's Nathan Haas, Melbourne's Steele Von Hoff, West Australian Anthony Giacoppo and Gippsland's own Kane Walker.



"It will take a rider of great quality and great strength to overcome the challenge of the Gippsland tour and hopefully the Genesys team will have that rider," he said.

The 570km Tour of Gippsland will begin with the 33km PBE Real Estate criterium in Wonthaggi at 11am on Wednesday, July 27.

There are five Credit Collect criteriums in the tour – culminating with the event's grand finale finish – a 44km waterfront street race in Paynesville at 12.30pm on Sunday, July 31.

The tour is backed by Tourism Victoria and the municipalities of Bass Coast, Baw Baw, Latrobe City and East Gippsland.

The tour will feature a record 79 intermediate sprints which will determine the SP AusNet sprint championship.

The 2011 Gippsland Tour and Scody Cup will be launched at Lakes Oil Headquarters in Melbourne on Tuesday, July 19.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

John Craven

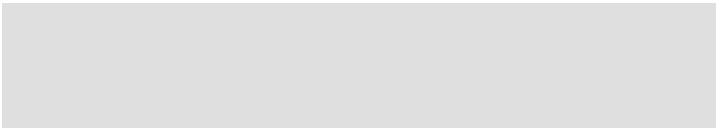
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