



MEDIA RELEASE

26 November 2020

Bring on 2021! - Launch Ballarat Cycle Classic 2021

Announcements made at the launch include:

- ***Ballarat Cycle Classic will go ahead in 2021***
- ***New challenges- Virtual ride and Off the Bike***
- ***On the Road, In the Bush and online***
- ***To be held on Sunday 21 February 2021 from Ballarat's Lake Wendouree***
- ***Registrations Open – www.ballaratcycleclassic.com.au***

On Friday 26 November, the annual Ballarat Cycle Classic will be launched, and the community challenged to get on board and support cancer research in Ballarat in 2021.

Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute will announce that the Ballarat Cycle Classic will go ahead next year on Sunday 21 February 2021.

Professor Kannourakis, Institute Director, encouraged the community “join us on the road, in the bush and online and help raise important funds for cancer research. We will run a COVID Safe event so you will see a few changes, but we are excited to still deliver the 14th Ballarat Cycle Classic.”

“This is an important fundraising event for the Institute. The 2020 event supported the establishment of our new Breast cancer research program, raising \$300,000.00” he said

To support cancer research, community members are urged to take up the challenge for cancer research with events on and off the bike for all ages. Event line up includes distance road rides, mountain bike course, virtual rides, fun rides for the family, family lake walk and run and for the first time the larger challenge of a half marathon and 16km run.

The 2021 Ballarat Cycle Classic event will see the second year of the SPUD100 (160km) distance road ride named after long term Ambassador, local boy and AFL legend, Danny Frawley. A fitting way to pay tribute to a man that had been a supporter of this community event since the start.

The 160km SPUD100 mile ride is a true test of grit and determination and participants are encouraged to challenge themselves.

Cycling Youtuber and event Community Committee member, Shane Miller commented “Ballarat Cycle Classic is thrilled to offer two new virtual rides to showcase our beautiful city around the country and indeed the world. Online cycling has seen extreme growth during Coronavirus, so it made sense for us to partner with FulGaz to

develop our rides virtually. We're excited at the opportunity to share the quality rides we are lucky to experience every day with others outside our city and fundraise for cancer research."

Off the bike there is also a new challenge. Ballarat legend and long-term event ambassador, Steve Moneghetti said "The new Petstock Half Marathon and 16km runs will be a great addition for the Ballarat Cycle Classic. There is a large community of distance runners in Ballarat and with many events being cancelled this year, the run will be good timing for those wishing to get back in on the fun of an organised run"

Ballarat Cycle Classic Events include:

- Distance Road Rides
 - Eclipse Ford 160km SPUD 100 mile ride
 - Protect 100km, 85km, 60km and 50km road rides
- BJT Legal Mountain Bike Challenge
 - 30km, 40km and 50km
- Virtual Rides.
 - Road ride 60km
 - Mountain bike 40km
- Eclipse Ford Fun Rides
 - Lake Ride around beautiful Lake Wendouree
 - 28km Adventure ride
- Petstock distance Runs
 - Half Marathon 21.1km
 - 16km
- *Petstock Family Lake Walk and Run*

Registrations are now open at www.ballaratcycleclassic.com.au

About the Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute.

The Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute is a world class cancer research facility based in Ballarat, Victoria. As Australia's only regionally based cancer research centre, we are non-government, and rely on the generous support of the community to continue research into more effective ways to diagnose and treat cancer.

Opened in 1998, the Institute was inspired by Ballarat teenager, Fiona Elsey who lost her fight with cancer in 1991. Today, led by Professor George Kannourakis, the Institute is making a world class contribution to cancer research, with recent recognition for achievements into immunotherapy targets for ovarian cancer and histiocytic disorders.

The research is focused on the role of the immune system and how it relates and can be used to treat cancer. It is hoped that by identifying these proteins on the surface of cancer cells, druggable targets can be developed to allow the immune system to attack the cancer, without chemotherapy and radiation.

The research aims to help patients with a broad range of cancers – from Leukemia, Bowel, Ovarian, Breast, Renal, Lung, Melanoma and Pancreato-Biliary cancers, as well as haematological cancers.

Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute currently has 8 PhD students from Federation University and 13 senior scientific staff.

Photo opportunities and interviews available.

All media enquiries, please contact Sally Walsh – Marketing and Events Coordinator at FECRI on 0409 572 671 or sally@fecri.org.au