



MEDIA RELEASE

11 November 2022

Huge Two-Day Event for Ballarat Cycle Classic 2023!

Announcements made at the launch include:

- ***Huge two-day event in 2023***
- ***Dirt, Gravel, Road***
- ***A new BJT Legal Enduro Jam will be held at Black Hill Mountain Bike Park on Saturday***
- ***In response to public demand, gravel grind will expand to three distance events on Saturday***
- ***Goal – Raise \$240,000 for cancer research***
- ***Goal – 1000 LOCAL road riders***
- ***Event dates - Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 February 2023 from Ballarat's Black Hill Mountain Bike Park on Saturday and Lake Wendouree on Sunday***
- ***Registrations Open – www.ballaratcycleclassic.com.au***

On Friday 11 November, the annual Ballarat Cycle Classic will be launched, and the community challenged to get on board and support cancer research in Ballarat in 2023.

Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute will announce that the Ballarat Cycle Classic has grown into a huge two-day event on Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 February 2023.

Professor George Kannourakis, Institute Director, encouraged the community “join us in the dirt, on the gravel and on the road and help raise important funds for cancer research. We are excited to bring the community together and deliver the 16th Ballarat Cycle Classic.”

“This is an important fundraising event for the Institute. The 2022 Ballarat Cycle Classic raised \$230,000 for our cancer research program, our 2023 goal is \$240,000! Adding a new full day of riding in the popular growth disciplines of gravel riding and gravity enduro events is testament to the event’s longevity and delivering what participants want.” he said

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, gravel grinds, additional gravel grind routes, adventure and fun rides for the family, a pet friendly lake walk and for the first time a much-anticipated gravity enduro jam has been added to the offerings to be held on Saturday 18 February 2023 at the Black Hill Mountain Bike Park in Ballarat.

Saturday will be all about the gravel and dirt as an event village is created at the bottom of the Black Hill Mountain Bike Park with music, food and drink for the CycleScape Gravel Grind and BJT Legal Gravity Enduro Jam.

Gravity Enduro riding is a worldwide trend with the goal of racing multiple downhill tracks recording a time for each within a session, the fastest of all competitors declared the winner of each category. Participants will ride the Black Hill Bike Park circuit of three tracks in Session 1 as many times as they wish in two and a half hours before a break. Then a new three tracks will be ridden for Session 2 in the same format. An overall winner will be announced for each category at 4:30pm.

Ballarat Cycle Classic are partnering with Club MUD to deliver the BJT Legal Gravity Enduro Jam. Club MUD run the esteemed King of Ballarat at Black Hill Bike Park and are thrilled to support the event. "Joining Ballarat Cycle Classic to host a gravity enduro jam is an opportunity for the club to highlight the brilliant facilities here in Ballarat, have fun with a sport we love, whilst encouraging people to support cancer research. We all have people in our lives affected by cancer and investment in research to find improvements is crucial. Cancer treatments are changing for the better with facilities such as the Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute." says Grant Newell, President Club MUD.

In response to the success of the first CycleScape Gravel Grind in 2022, two additional routes are planned to thrill and delight bike enthusiasts on the mixed surfaces through beautiful national parks and forests. On offer for the 2023 CycleScape Gravel Grind will be 30km, 47km and 63km.

The 2023 Ballarat Cycle Classic will see the third year of the Eclipse Ford SPUD100mile (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 Eclipse Ford SPUD100mile (160km) ride is a true test of grit and determination, and participants are encouraged to challenge themselves.

Generous support from our sponsors ensure 100% of registrations and donations go to cancer research.

Ballarat Cycle Classic 2023 Events include:

SATURDAY – BLACK HILL MOUNTAIN BIKE PARK

- BJT Legal Gravity Enduro Jam – Five hours of gravity enduro fun over six trails that all start and finish at the highly rated Black Hill Mountain Bike Park
- CycleScape Gravel Grind 30km, 47km and 63km

SUNDAY – LAKE WENDOUREE

Road Rides

- Eclipse Ford Spud100mile (100km) road ride
- Protect Road Rides 100km, 85km, 60km, 50km

Fun rides

- Eclipse Ford 28km Adventure ride
- Eclipse Ford 6km Lake ride

Lake Walk

- PetStock 6km Family Walk around Lake Wendouree

Registrations will open at 10:30am on Friday 11 November 2022 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.

The Institute currently has 5 PhD students and 15 staff with key projects in: Immunology, Breast cancer, Bowel cancer, Ovarian cancer, Chronic lymphocytic leukaemia, Renal cancer, Langerhans cell histiocytosis and Brain tumours.

Recent additional research results include:

- Identification of proteins involved in chemo resistance in Ovarian cancer that can potentially be used as targets to prevent progression and circumvent chemoresistance in patients.
- World first work in describing the behaviour and function of a pregnancy associated plasma protein (PAPPA), in triple negative breast cancer. This research has led to understanding the mechanism for progression of cancer during pregnancy.
- Bowel cancer research team reported discovery on a subset of immune cells in the bowel that can misbehave and release chemical messengers that promote cancer and inhibit other immune cells.
- Identification of a new immune cell subset in histiocytic disorders.

Photo opportunities and interviews will be available at the Ballarat Cycle Classic Launch

Event: Ballarat Cycle Classic 2023 Launch
Time: 8:15am
Date: Friday 11 November 2022
Location: CycleScape
111 Sturt Street, Ballarat
RSVP: Sally Walsh – 0409 572 671

For more information:

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