VICTORIA’S PREMIER CYCLING EVENT

JAYCO HERALD SUN TOUR 2019
JANUARY 30–FEBRUARY 3

PORTÉ

POWER

RICHIE’S ON THE ATTACK TO MAKE A SPLASH

WORLD CLASS
NEW COURSE, MORE THRILLS

THE TEAMS
ALL THE RIDERS VYING FOR GLORY

STAGE MAPS
BEST SPOTS TO SEE THE RACING

GOLDEN RUN
AMANDA SPRATT’S STUNNING SEASON
Welcome to Victoria, the events capital of Australia and proud hosts of the Jayco Herald Sun Tour. The Tour travels across our state, showcasing the natural beauty of Phillip Island, Gippsland and the Mornington Peninsula before finishing in Melbourne’s iconic Royal Botanic Gardens. The Jayco Herald Sun Tour is a favourite on Victoria’s Summer of Cycling calendar, which includes the 2019 Bay Cycling Classic, the 2019 FedUni Road National Championships, the Cadel Evans Great Ocean Road Race and Six Day Melbourne. With more local and international visitors travelling to regional Victoria than ever before, these events give us a great opportunity to showcase our beautiful regions to new people and we’re proud to support them. Since 2014, the Victorian Government has supported over 180 regional events. These events draw visitors from far and wide keeping our bars, restaurants and hotels busy and boosting local economies. That is why the Victorian Government is so proud to support and stage the Jayco Herald Sun Tour. I hope you enjoy this fantastic event and I encourage everyone to explore everything that Victoria has to offer.

Hon. Martin Pakula MP
Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events

Aussie cycling stars to showcase our great state

World cycling’s big guns Richie Porte (Trek Segafredo) and Amanda Spratt (Mitchelton-SCOTT) headline the talent pool at this year’s 66th edition of the Jayco Herald Sun Tour. The Australian pair will take on a range of terrain from Gippsland to Arthurs Seat when the Tour begins this week.

Four men’s World Tour teams and five UCI women’s teams and a host of local teams will compete for the honour of winning Australia’s oldest stage cycling race – an event where the aspirational meet the elite. A highlight of this year’s Tour will be the gruelling day 4 when the cyclists climb Arthurs Seat no fewer than four times. The Tour begins and ends on circuits around Phillip Island and the Royal Botanic Gardens. A new feature will be the introduction of Ride Melbourne, a concept to encourage more people to cycle and give the public a chance to ride on the same course as the professionals. At the Herald Sun, we’re privileged to have more than a third of our readership living in regional Victoria and we know the tour coming through their towns means a lot to those residents. During the race, you can rely on the Herald Sun’s comprehensive coverage of the Tour in the newspaper and digital platforms at heraldsun.com.au. I would like to thank the Victorian Government for its support of this great event and Jayco owner Gerry Ryan for his continued backing of this race and cycling in general. The Tour would also not be possible without the support of other sponsors such as Lexus of Blackburn and the host of councils along the route. We’re proud to be involved in this iconic event and I wish all riders and teams the best of luck.

Peter Zavecz
Managing Director – Herald & Weekly Times Commercial

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Porte’s on a mission

Bad breaks make our best stage rider keen to complete big race hat-trick

RICHIE Porte knows the four words are coming. Like a rival attacking him on a big European mountain, the star Australian cyclist is ready and waiting for the conversation to turn to it. The Tour de France.

Such is life when you’ve won almost every week-long tour, sit comfortably among the best cyclists in the world, but bad luck has conspired against you in the past three editions of the world’s biggest bike race.

For the gritty Tasmanian, it’s not the elephant in the room, it’s the stampedelephants in the room.

Everyone knows the story — a puncture cost him a podium place in 2016, there was the life-threatening crash on Stage 9 in 2017 and a broken collarbone on the same stage last year I don’t have the bad luck.”

“Already it’s a different perspective and it takes the pressure off a little bit. You’re always going to go to the Tour in the best condition you can, but hopefully races like the Jayco Herald Sun Tour and the Tour of California help by just getting out of Europe for a bit.”

“I’ve also got my good mate Will Clarke on the team and guys like Koen de Kort I’ve always got on well with, which makes it easier.”

Porte will be on the Jayco Herald Sun Tour start line in Phillip Island eager to leave his mark on Australia’s oldest stage race.

“I’ve won the Tour of Tasmania and the Tour Down Under, and I think the one race missing here is the Jayco Herald Sun Tour.”

“I’d love to add that to the palmarès. It will be nice to go there with some good form and try to challenge for the win.”

Porte has his sights set on Stage 4 — the queen stage that sends the peloton up Arthurs Seat four times. It will be his first serious assault on the Mornington Peninsula’s steep 3km climb, with his only glimpse of it coming at an off-season corporate ride back in 2013.

“The last time I did Arthurs Seat I had a few too many beers the night before. I had a ripping hangover and we sat at the top and had a few beers as well,” he said.

“But I don’t think Victorians want to be outdone by the South Australians. Willunga Hill and the Tour Down Under is a brilliant atmosphere, so I’m looking forward to seeing the same on Arthurs Seat.”

“The Aussie cycling fans have to be the most dedicated. The number of people who stay up all hours to watch Tour de France stages is pretty impressive, so hopefully we can put on a good show for everyone.”

SAM EDMUND

Trek have,” Porte said. “They have all the bases covered.”

The Herald Sun has travelled to Launceston to find him on a familiar road to restoration — mentally as well as physically — after another up and down European season.

There was the overall victory at the Tour de Suisse, but disaster a month later when he was caught in the wrong place at the wrong time at the Tour de France and forced to abandon with more broken bones.

We catch Porte at home on a Sunday afternoon after he’s signed off on another 100km week in the saddle in preparation for the Aussie summer of cycling and Jayco Herald Sun Tour, which he returns to race for the first time since 2011.

He will do it in the new colours of Trek-Segafredo after a three-year stint at BMC, something he says injects fresh enthusiasm.

“I just need it. I need a new motivation, a new team, a new set-up and I’m excited for that,” Porte says.

“In my discussions with Luca Guercilena (Trek-Segafredo general manager), he said: ‘We’re not signing you (just) to go to the Tour, we want you to win the races you’ve already won.’

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Porte has his sights set on Stage 9 at last year’s Tour de France. Main picture: MICHAEL KLEIN

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FOR Scott McGrory, it may well be cycling’s version of Willy Wonka’s golden ticket.

The new race director of the Jayco Herald Sun Tour is about to wave the flag on a 66th edition that will see the strongest field in its history racing on a thrill-a-minute course that leaps off the page.

McGrory said he was inheriting something special.

“It’s down to the team, who have been working really hard for a number of years now; not just because they’ve done something special this year,” he said.

“It’s years of building and forming relationships with the best teams on the planet so they’re happy to come here and race. ‘They want to race in Australia and stay as long as they can. It’s a great time of year to be here and the racing we put on they enjoy.’

McGrory, an Olympic gold medalist on the track, steps into the shoes vacated by three-time then Sun Tour winner John Trevorrow, who becomes general manager and race director of the Lexus of Blackburn Women’s Herald Sun Tour.

SAM EDMUND

“I’m excited. I trust the team we have around us,” he said. “Knowing John Trevorrow is still around means I’m not just jumping in the deep end and I know the team have done a great job and we’ve all been working hard behind the scenes.”

McGrory said the five-stage men’s tour would flex its muscles — guaranteeing the winner would be one of the stars of the sport and the underprepared exposed.

“Having now been around the course a couple of times, for me, it’s one of the most exciting Jayco Herald Sun Tour courses I’ve ever seen — whether it be riding, working or watching,” he said.

“The stage mix we have really does mean the overall winner has to be a world-class contender.

“That’s not just the four times up Arthurs Seat, which obviously you have to be a standout climber to win, but also the stage to Churchill, which has a climb that is going to surprise almost everyone because it’s so tough not even the locals go near it.”

That Stage 2 climb starts at the little-known Jeeralang Junction and finishes 3.5km up the road at the end of a 1.8km gravel section, with an average gradient of 10 per cent.

“Throw in (Stage 1) at the MotoGP circuit, which is purely for the sprinters, but if there’s crosswinds could be anything,” McGrory said.

“It’s a course that has a real mix, but the riders who get through to the very end will have done all the training and preparation they need to for this time of year.

“(The Tour) may finish in a park (at the Royal Botanic Gardens), but it’s certainly not a walk in the park.”

It’s a course that also sets the scene for an elite battle between the likes of Australia’s best stage racer, Richie Porte (Trek-Segafredo), Michael Woods (EF Education First), 2017 winner Damien Howson (Mitchelton-SCOTT) and Kenny Elissonde (Team Sky).

“This is definitely the best field we’ve ever had because we’ve got four WorldTour teams,” McGrory said.

“We’ve had the likes of Brad Wiggins (2009), Chris Froome (2016, 2017) and Esteban Chaves (2017, 2018).

“But in terms of depth of field in the peloton, this is certainly the best field. I can’t wait for it.”
Spratt hits top gear

IT was the sort of season that proved it was possible to have a breakout season at 31.

In her 13th season, everything Amanda Spratt touched in 2018 turned to gold. Mitchell-Scott’s pint-sized Australian has always punched above her weight, but this was something else.

Five wins, including the Tour Down Under title, came with a second at the world championships, a second at Liège-Bastogne-Liège and a third at the Giro d’Italia.

“I’m so happy with it, it just felt like everything came together. I had these goals and we just kept ticking them off and moving to the next,” Spratt said.

“I did a lot of good things, but there’s a lot of areas I can improve on, and that’s what I want to take out of the year more than the results.

“But I think in the women’s, we’re still peaking and getting better into our 30s now. It’s the culmination of years and years of hard work.

“I also look at someone like my teammate, Annemiek Van Vleuten. She’s 36 and it’s only a matter of time and it’s one I definitely want to support. I think it’s great they’re making the effort now (with women’s cycling) and the Victorian Government as well,” she said.

“Spratt liked what she saw in last year’s Herald Sun Tour.

“I was quite keen to do it last time and it’s one I definitely want to support. I think it’s great they’re making the effort now (with women’s cycling) and the Victorian Government as well,” she said.

“I’m also really happy they’ve now got a second decent road stage. I think it’s great they’re making the effort now (with women’s cycling) and the Victorian Government as well,” she said.

“It has such history in the men’s race so I think it’s one that can really grow.”

Spratt was coy on her chances of overall victory despite the course — a sprinter-friendly Phillip Island Stage 1 followed by a climbers’ Churchill loop on Stage 2 — appearing to suit her talents.

“I’ll be in good shape, but I know teammates Lucy Kennedy, Grace Brown and Georgia Williams have all targeted this, so I’ll be happy to play a support role depending on how it plays out,” she said.

“We all want to make it a hard race though. We won’t go in with one clear leader, we’ll definitely want to use our numbers and that’s the advantage we’ll have — three or four riders in great shape on a course with climbs.

“It will be more about being aggressive and making the race, and supporting whoever does get up the road.”

Once back in Europe, Spratt will again set her sights on the Ardennes classics, Giro d’Italia and world championships.

It begins the question: How can she be so good in Australia in January and somehow maintain the rage overseas in a long and gruelling season.

“I definitely don’t peak for January, but, mentally, I love the racing in Australia and I think I just really know how to put it in,” Spratt said with a laugh.

“I’m ready to suffer and enjoy it. I’m building form and it works for me. I don’t necessarily try to peak, but it’s like my body wants to be in good shape so it just remembers.”

Such was Spratt’s 2018 season, it might be impossible to forget.

SAM EDMUND on in preparation for a big summer of cycling.

She will make her debut at the Lexus of Blackburn Women’s Herald Sun Tour — the last race in a hectic Aussie program that has also included the Bay Crits, national championships, Tour Down Under and the Cadel Evans Great Ocean Road Race.

“It’s going to be big and we’ve got a chasers one, but I’m looking forward to it. I love racing in Australia, so it’s not a burden, it’s a good thing,” she said.

Spratt liked what she saw in last year’s Herald Sun Tour.

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LYCRA, LONG RIDES, CLEATS, CLIMBS AND TIME TRIALS. VICTORIA IS CELEBRATING ALL THINGS CYCLING, WITH A CALENDAR OF EVENTS TO INSPIRE YOUR NEXT RIDE.

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BREAK AWAY

SUMMER OF CYCLING VICTORIA RIDE HIGH COUNTRY

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Racing kicks off for the women at the world-famous Phillip Island Circuit before the men take their turn later in the day. Home to the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix and the Australian round of the Superbike World Championships, the circuit will play host to a different type of bike come tomorrow. A super smooth surface will see some fast racing, however the potential for strong winds off the Bass Coast blowing straight across the circuit could see the race split up. A day for the sprinters.
Churchill to Churchill
91.5km

**Thursday, January 31, 2019**

**Start:** Gaskin Park, Churchill, 2.30pm

**Finish:** Gaskin Park, Churchill, 5pm

Following the incredible racing from the inaugural stage of the Women’s Herald Sun Tour in 2018, Stage 2 in 2019 sees the hills come into play again for the women. Using the same exciting but extremely tough finish climb and descent as the men, the race is sure to be decided on this section of course.

Not to be let off lightly however, earlier in the stage the riders will tackle an 8km climb to get the legs ready for what is to come. This incredible course for the final stage of the Lexus of Blackburn Women’s Herald Sun Tour will be sure to rival the excitement of the 2018 Healesville stage.

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**GoFish Nagambie Men’s Stage 3**

**Sale to Warragul**
161.6km

**Friday, February 1, 2019**

**Start:** Cullinan Park, Sale, 10am

**Finish:** Bowen St, Warragul, 2.15pm

In the middle of two tough climbing stages, this lumpy course over a longer distance won’t be an easy day for the men. Another chance for the sprinters, however a number of short, hard uphill pinches in the final 8km will see riders make a move for stage glory. Narrow roads and open farmland could see the race split apart early if windy, before undulating roads present a chance for a breakaway group to gain time on the peloton and make for a hard chase closer to the finish. A technical final 3km with slightly uphill straight finish will make this stage definitely one to latch.
Wonthaggi to Churchill
127km

**Thursday, January 31**

**START**: McBride Ave, Wonthaggi, 10am

**FINISH**: Gaskin Park, Churchill, 11:50pm

This first road stage for the tour sees a flat tart as riders head away from the coast, however this will soon be forgotten as the race heads deep into the hills of South Gippsland. A short relief as the riders drop into the edge of the Latrobe Valley before heading towards the Category 1 climb of the day. Only 12km from the finish and finish, the best climbers out to play. However, the race isn’t over here: a winding 7km descent followed by a relatively flat 4km run into the finish will see the race come right to the wire and make for an extremely exciting finish.

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**Arthurs Seat Eagle Men’s Stage 4**

**112.9km**

**Saturday, February 2**

**START**: Cape Schanck Lighthouse, 1:30pm

**FINISH**: Arthurs Seat Eagle, 4:22pm

Returning to the iconic Arthurs Seat climb, the stage will be set for a battle of the climbers and the potential to decide the tour winner. In 2019, the riders will tackle five ascents of the gruelling 3km Arthurs Seat climb. Starting out of the stunning Cape Schanck and historic lighthouse, the riders will make their way through the undulating terrain of the Mornington Peninsula before hitting the base of the climb for the first time. The stage then travels three laps of the 16km circuit, before the final ascent to the finish in what will be a climax showdown not to be missed.
The 2019 Jayco Herald Sun Tour concludes with an exciting new circuit in the heart of Melbourne, around the beautiful Royal Botanic Gardens and along the banks of the Yarra River. A part of the course used in the 2006 Commonwealth Games, this 4.05-kilometre circuit won’t be particularly easy for the riders, with 22 times up the Anderson St hill to test the riders’ legs after four tough days of racing. Likely another chance for the sprinters, however with the Anderson St hill in the final kilometre and a technical finish, the race could be anyone’s with the right timed move.

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Passion. Determination. Drive. The 3 values that encapsulate the Lexus of Blackburn brand. They're also values shared by Australian cyclist, Amanda Spratt, who we're proudly supporting in her 2019 championship quest. Be inspired by champions like Amanda during the Lexus of Blackburn Women's Herald Sun Tour, which commences January 30, 2019.

Lexus of Blackburn
146 Whitehorse Road, Blackburn
(03) 9877 2788
lexusofblackburn.com.au
LMCT 10093
IT is not only the Jayco Herald Sun Tour riders and Lexus of Blackburn Women’s Herald Sun Tour who get to have all the two-wheel fun.

Ride Melbourne and Ride Phillip Island are two free community cycling events giving anyone up for the challenge the chance to experience the same course some of the world’s best riders will navigate during the 2019 Tour.

Cycling fans will have the unique opportunity to gain exclusive access to the Phillip Island circuit between the elite men’s and women’s Stage 1 events tomorrow.

“Everyday riders can enjoy the world famous Phillip Island circuit and experience the fast, sweeping turn of Doohan’s corner and the drop of Lukey Heights,” race director Scott McGrory says.

Then just hours ahead of the men’s final stage this Sunday, riders of all abilities will again be given the opportunity to gain a rare insight into what’s in store for the elites by riding on the official Jayco Herald Sun Tour Royal Botanic Gardens circuit.

“Cyclists of all abilities are encouraged to come along and take part in what promises to be an entertaining day on and off the bike,” McGrory says.

As well as getting to witness some thrilling racing among the professionals, the event will feature an amazing festival hub with live music, kids’ activities, cycling safety workshops, education sessions, food vans, a bar and so much more,” he says.

Ride Melbourne is proud to partner with the Amy Gillett Foundation as the official charity to help provide a safer cycling environment.

To Donate, visit AMYGILLETT.ORG.AU/DONATE
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Jayco her ald sun tour 2019

Women's teams

01 Madison Chapman AUS 27

The defending Women's Herald Sun Tour champion will be a周边 rider

02 Amy Croghan AUS 23

Finished top 5 overall at last year's Women's Herald Sun Tour AUS 25

03 ELSA BROOKS NZL 27

A talented rider regularly on the podium in national road series

04 Shannon Mullaney AUS 24

The 2018 national road champion is a strong contender

05 Ellen Stevens USA 32

Returning from injury, Stevens is one of the top cyclists in the world

06 EFFIE GEORGE GBR 23

Rising star with a bright future in the mountains classification

07 Grace Brown AUS 25

Promising young cyclist for the future

08 Grace Brown AUS 25

A developing climber from Tasmania

specialized Women's Racing

gusto to step fWd kompo WeRed BY suzi k

@specializedrH

sYdne Yuni-staminate

@SydYuni

kom finan Cia d'viCe RaCing team

@MGHCycling

mike gReehomes Women's CYCLING team

@MGHCycling

mit Chel ton-Scott

@MitchelltonSCOTT

11 mad at yall

AUS 31

Named Roof Crawl by his teammates, Spratt will be the top cyclist in Australia

12 gracie a vin

AUS 30

A two-time national champion and an exceptional classicist, Elvin will add fire to the team's lead-out

13 Olivia WYNN NZL 25

New Zealand time trial champion, will add speed to the team's lead-out

14 Keely HARGREAVES AUS 26

Allen has over seven years' experience in the professional peloton and will be the team's lead-out rider in every aspect

15 Estee kNEDY AUS 30

Her strong and hungry ability will see her be Spratt's lieutenant in the hills

16 Grace Brown AUS 26

Claire's young star to watch in the mountains classification

17 Grace Brown AUS 25

A developed climber from Tasmania

18）
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