

Fact Sheet

EVENT OVERVIEW

Tour Partners



Herald Sun



Government Partner



WHAT: The **Jayco Herald Sun Tour** is Australia's oldest stage race, now in its 58th year. It is one of Australia's heritage sporting events, supported and revered by generations of Victorians and created by Australia's largest daily newspaper, the Herald Sun.

The Tour is a rolling festival of community events reaching across Victoria and is a superb showcase for our beautiful State, creating a travelogue highlighting the historical towns, vineyards, forests, fields and mountains.

For more than 50 years, the 'Sun Tour' has captured the attention of sports fans throughout Victoria. The Tour is ranked on the world calendar, and is sanctioned by the world governing body for cycling, the Union Cycliste International (UCI). Riders from around the world compete in the Tour, with past winners including Tour de France sprint champion Baden Cooke, Tour de France stage winners Simon Gerrans and Neil Stephens and many international riders who dominated the event in the 1990's.

In 2005 the Tour took a significant step forward with a new Race Director and significant support from the Victorian State Government elevating the event to Hallmark status under Victoria's major events program. With the involvement of the Victorian Major Events Company, the financial support of the State Government and tour major sponsors the Herald Sun and Jayco, the Tour is now recognised as the most significant international event for regional Victoria.

In 2008, Olympic gold medallist and Australian cycling legend Stuart O'Grady produced a stunning ride, highlighted by a barnstorming individual time trial in the Yarra Valley, to become the first South Australian to win the tour and add his name to the long list of Australian cycling stars to have captured the coveted title.

THE BEGINNING: The first 'Sun Tour' was held in October 1952 and was the first professional stage race held in Victoria since the 1934 Centenary Thousand Classic.

An estimated 500,000 people throughout Victoria witnessed the event. Of the 56 starters only 18 finished the six-day event.

The winner was Keith Rowley, a Maffra sheep farmer, in a time of 42hr 57min 55sec. He beat his brother Max by 49sec to win. At the back of the peloton, 19-year-old Roy Underwood, the youngest rider in the field, spent five of the six days arriving at the finishing towns in the dark. His father made a £50 bet with him that he would not finish. After finishing the last day's stage his father handed him 10 crisp £5 notes. The total prize money was £1500.

WHEN: The 58th Jayco Herald Sun Tour is scheduled for 11-17 October 2009.

WHERE: The 2009 Jayco Herald Sun Tour will travel a spectacular course, beginning in Ballarat on Sunday 11 October and visit Colac, Warrnambool, Apollo Bay, Anglesea, Barwon Heads and Geelong before a twilight final stage circuit race on Lygon St in Melbourne on Saturday 17 October.

WHO: Fifteen international and domestic professional cycling teams, each composed of seven riders, will be invited to compete in the 2009 Tour.

Official Website: www.jaycoheraldsuntour.com.au



Unit 6, 37 Pine Street, Hawthorn, VIC 3122
Phone 03 9862 0200 Fax 03 9852 8991