

## DO IT

## On the road in Ballarat

In January, Ballarat builds on its cycling reputation by hosting the 2009 Scody Australian Open Road Cycling Championships for the third consecutive year. World-class cyclists including Australia's Tour de France cyclists Cadel Evans, Robbie McEwan, Stuart O'Grady and Baden Cooke, along with Australia's top female cyclists, Kate Bates, Sara Carrigan, Oenone Wood and Kathryn Watt, are expected to take part. You may, however, have to bribe someone to score accommodation with about 10,000 to 15,000 spectators expected to attend the spectacle in Buninyong, named after an Aboriginal word meaning "man reclining with bended knee". And bended the cyclists will be as they tackle the challenging 10.2km circuit in and around Buninyong.

Affectionately known among Australia's elite cyclists as "the Nationals", the route has been described by Robbie McEwan as "a bit selective and always hard". Its uphill climbs, fast

winding downhills and fast flat sprint to the finish line are great for cyclists and spectators alike.

Previous male winners include Matthew Lloyd (2008), Darren Lapthorne (2007), Robbie McEwan, (2005 and 2002), Stuart O'Grady (2003). Previous female winners include Oenone Wood (2008 and 2004), Katie Mactier (2007 and 2001) and Lorin Graham (2005).

For more information, go to [www.aorcc.com](http://www.aorcc.com) or to find out more about Ballarat, including accommodation, go to [www.visitballarat.com.au](http://www.visitballarat.com.au)



## COOL

## Basil bags

Those crazy Dutch, with all their bike paths and facilities, and everyone commuting to work. Now they've made panniers that don't look like panniers. Made of high-grade polyester, the Preston Shopper (\$109) looks all the world like a cool computer bag with a soft lining, 19-litre capacity and carry straps. Look closer, however, and there are double reflective stripes on both sides and rack hooks that hide inside a zipper pocket when not in use. As for the Audrey Hepburn-inspired



Mitre Shopper (\$115): a pannier that looks like a handbag when it's off the bike? What will they think of next? More information at [www.basil.nl/gb/assortment](http://www.basil.nl/gb/assortment)

## DID IT

## Go for Gold

Almost 8000 cyclists took part in the Wilson HTM Brisbane to the Gold Coast Cycle Challenge on Sunday 12 October, making it the biggest bike ride held in Queensland.

The huge turnout resulted in just over \$227,000 being raised for Diabetes Australia Queensland and the Heart Foundation.

Some stats from the ride:

- 7806 riders (an increase of 35% from 2007).
- 96% were very satisfied (58%) or satisfied (38%) with their experience on the day.
- 99% said they would

recommend the event to others. • 76% said they did the ride because it was a challenge, 57% because it was a mass event and 44% because "the Busway is such a blast". (The survey allowed more than one answer.)

Congratulations to Anna of Taringa who won the \$500 Epic Cycles voucher for being the individual highest fundraiser! Anna raised \$5000 for the Heart Foundation.

The 2009 Wilson HTM Brisbane to the Gold Coast Cycle Challenge will be held on Sunday 11 October.

## RIDE IT

## Ride to Work (every) Day

Making every day Ride to Work Day is the key message of the Cycling Promotion Fund's \$800 million submission to Infrastructure Australia, launched on National Ride to Work Day. The CPF has called for a bicycle infrastructure package of national significance. "Climate change, spiralling fuel costs, crippling congestion and the obesity epidemic are all important reasons for the Commonwealth to start investing in cycling" said Elliot Fishman, spokesperson, CPF.

Bicycle infrastructure in Australian cities is well behind best practice and community expectations, he said. "Our infrastructure proposal is able to be rolled out quickly and will more than pay for itself through reductions in emissions, rates of obesity and diabetes, traffic congestion and fuel costs.

"With rising transport costs and a slowing economy, now is the right time for the Commonwealth to get behind

this sustainable, healthy and affordable form of transport."

Australians are starting to appreciate the benefits of pedal power. In 2007, 1.47 million bicycles were sold, outnumbering car sales for the eighth consecutive year, with bicycle use to work up by 28% between Census 2001 and 2006. Research indicates that many more Australians would choose to cycle if our streets became more bicycle-friendly.

More information at [www.cyclingpromotion.com.au](http://www.cyclingpromotion.com.au)

