

# NSW GRAND PRIX CYCLING

DECEMBER 8 - 12



**Action stations:** Sutton and Gilmore head list of stars

## FAST & FURIOUS

Picture: Jeff Herbert



# Cycle series to lure the cream

Amanda Lulham

GRAND Prix series director Phill Bates says one of cycling's fastest men on two wheels — the Manx Missile Mark Cavendish — will be racing the roads of NSW next year as Australia becomes a must-stop destination for the big names of the sport.

A conflict with a training camp in Europe this year meant Cavendish was unable to race in this week's event, but Bates believes the UK rider's relationship with his Aussie lead-out man Mark Renshaw will lure the multiple Tour de France stage winner Down Under.

Cavendish, who hails from the Isle of Man, is due to make his first visit to Australia in January, when he will ride for Britain's Team Sky at the Santos Tour Down Under in Adelaide.

"Mark Cavendish is only 12 months away," said Bates, who has founded the five-race series which kicks off in Renshaw's home town of Bathurst tomorrow before moving to Parramatta, Gosford, Coogee and Cronulla.

"We would have had him here except they had a training camp."

## The schedule

- Race 1:** Bathurst, tomorrow  
Women 20km 6:15pm; Men 30km 7pm  
**Race 2:** Parramatta, Thursday  
(W) 20km 6:40pm; (M) 30km 7:15pm  
**Race 3:** Gosford, Friday  
(W) 20km 8:15pm; (M) 30km 8:50pm  
**Race 4:** Coogee, Saturday  
(W) 20km 2:20pm; (M) 36km 3:05pm  
**Race 5:** Cronulla Sunday  
(W) 24km 12:10pm; (M) 40km 1pm

While his field is already bulging with world and Olympic champions from a range of countries, Bates believes the establishment of the five-race criterium series around the state will entice even more big names chasing some early season racing at a summer venue.

The NSW Cycling Series has been brought to life 10 years after the demise of the famous Commonwealth Bank Cycle Classic, a road tour which became a launch-pad for numerous riders, including Tour de France winner

Jan Ullrich. But unlike the Commonwealth Bank Classic, female riders will share the billing with the men in the NSW Grand Prix. "I have always backed the women and ran the first ever women's World Cup," Bates said.

"They need and deserve equal billing on events of this nature. They are world class, world champions and the best in the Commonwealth."

The women's field is bulging with world-class riders such as Josephine Tomic and Sarah Kent, who won gold at the recent World Cup in Melbourne, former world points champion Kate Bates and criterium specialists including Kirsty Brown, Chloe Hoskins and Rochelle Gilmore.

The men's field is equally impressive, featuring Team Sky sprinters Chris Sutton, from Sydney, and New Zealander Greg Henderson, UK world omnium champion Ed Clancy, Australia's dual Olympic gold medalist Graeme Brown and the world under-23 champion, Canberra's Michael Matthews.

Sutton believes the series could quickly cement itself as a must-do series for the world's top riders.

## The top 20 men and women

### The Men

#### 1 BEN KERSTEN

(Fly V Australia)  
Cronulla Criterium defending champion; 1st Boise Twilight Crit USA 2010; 1st OCBC Cycle Singapore Crit 2010; 1st Sunny King Crit USA 2010; 1st Tour of Somerville USA 2010; 1st Pro Men National Crit Championships USA 2009, 2006  
Commonwealth Games Gold Medal in the 1km TT

#### 2 CHRIS SUTTON

(Sky)  
1st Final stage Tour Down Under 2010; 2nd Cancer Council Classic 2010 South Australia; 4th Road Race Commonwealth Games India 2010; 2nd Jayco Herald Sun Tour Victoria 2009  
**3 GREG HENDERSON**  
(Sky)  
1st Stage 1 Paris-Nice 2010; 1st Stage 4 Eneco Tour 2010; 1st Stage 3 Ster Elektrotoer 2010; 1st Cancer Council Helpline Classic 2010; Scratch Race World Championship 2004

#### 4 ED CLANCY

(United Kingdom)  
World Track Champion Omnium 2010; 2nd World Championships Team Pursuit 2010; 1st British National Criterium Championships 2010; 1st Teams Pursuit World Cup 2009  
**5 GRAEME BROWN**  
(Rabobank)  
Winner of Inaugural Cronulla International Grand Prix 2006; 2nd Stage 1, 2



2nd Stage 1 Ster Elektrotoer Netherlands 2010; 2nd Stage 1, 2 & 5 Tour of Murcia 2010  
**6 MICHAEL MATTHEWS**  
(AIS)  
World under-23 road champion; 1st U23 road race UCI World Championships 2010; 1st Stage 1 Tour of Japan 2010; 1st Stage 1 & 3 Tour de Langkawi Malaysia 2010  
**7 WES SULZBERGER**  
(FDJ)

1st Grand Prix de Plumelec-Morbihan France 2010; 2nd Young Rider Classification Santos Tour Down Under ProTour 2010; 1st Stage 2 Paris-Correse 2009  
**8 BERNARD SULZBERGER**  
(Fly V Australia)  
Winner 2008 Cronulla Grand Prix; 1st Stage 2 Joe Martin Stage Race USA 2010; 2nd US Pro Criterium National Championships Illinois USA 2010  
**9 JULIAN DEAN**  
(Garmin Transitions)  
3rd National Road Race Championships 2010; 2nd Stage 18 Giro d'Italia 2010; 3rd Stage 10 Giro d'Italia 2010; 2nd Stage 4 Tour de France 2010; 2nd Stage 18 Tour de France 2010  
**10 ALEX MARKOV**  
(Russia)  
3rd Individual Pursuit 2008 World Championships; 3rd



2nd Australian Open 2010; 1st Criterium Championships 2010  
**11 MATTHEW**  
(Garmin Transitions)  
1st KOM classified Jayco Herald Sun Tour 2010  
**20 RICHARD**  
(Jayco AIS)  
2nd Stage 2 Tour of Gippsland Victoria Track Championships

### The women

#### 1 ROCHELLE GILMORE

(Honda Dream Team)  
Defending champion of the Cronulla International Grand Prix; 2010 Commonwealth Games gold medal women's road race  
**2 KIRSTY BROU**  
(Virgin Blue RBS)  
2010 1st overall Sprinters Jersey Tour of New Zealand  
**3 KATE BATES**  
(AIS)

Multiple Australian Cyclist of the Year; Won World Cup in Melbourne  
**4 EVGENIA ROMANYUTA**  
(Russia)  
1st World Cup Team Pursuit 2007  
**5 COURTNEY LOWE**  
(New Zealand)  
Winner 2010 Auckland 1000  
**6 JOSEPHINE TOMIC**  
(Western Australia)  
Current World Champion Team Pursuit  
**7 TIFFANY PEZZULO**  
(USA)  
Winner CU Boulder Criterium 2010  
**8 JENNIFER REITHER**  
(USA)  
3rd San Pedro Grand Prix 2009  
**9 SARAH KENT**  
(Western Australia)  
Current World Champion Team Pursuit  
**10 TIFFANY CROWMELL**  
(South Australia)  
Winner mountains classification Redlands Classic USA 2009



Marison 2008 Olympic Games SY  
**11 TOM SCULL**  
(Garmin Transitions)  
2010 1st Stage 3 Bay Classic, Geelong  
**12 SIMON GEL**  
(Sky)

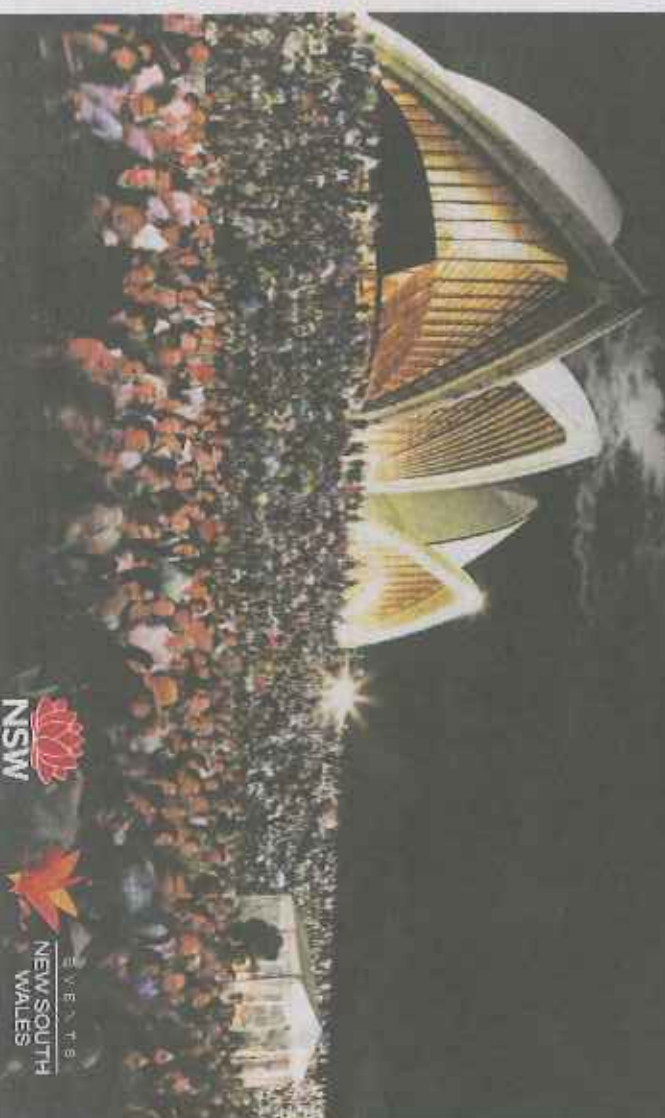


(Sky)  
10th Stage 10 Giro Poland 2010; 25th Games Road Race  
**15 JACK BOB**  
(Garmin Transitions)  
Dual gold medalist Eneco Tour Nether Australian Track C  
**16 JEREMY H**  
(Cervelo)

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mpic Games; Beijing, 3rd Points Race 2000

they

Classic Geelong; 2010 Green Jersey,  
1st 2009 Scratch Race; Melbourne World Cup

**IRVANS**

1st GP Ouest-France 2009; 1st  
Stage 14 Giro d'Italia 2009; 1st  
Stage 10, Vuelta a España 2009;

1st Stage 1 Bay Classic 2009

**13 CAMERON MEYER**

(Garmin Transitions)

Dual World Champion and Triple  
Commonwealth Games gold  
medallist in Delhi 2010; 1st  
National Time Trial Champion  
2010; 1st Points Race World  
Track Championships 2010

**14 MATTHEW HAYMAN**

(Italia 2010; 7th Stage 4 Tour de Pologne

Paris-Roubaix 2010; 2006 Commonwealth

Champion

**RIDGE**

2010 Commonwealth Games; 1st Stage 5

ands 2010; 1st Individual Pursuit

Championships SA 2010; 1st Points Race

Championships SA 2010

**UNT**

1st Stage 4, Tour of Denmark

2009; 3rd Kuurne-Brussels-

Kuurne 2009

**17 BEN GREIDA**

(Genesys Wealth Advisers)

1st Overall 2008 Canberra

Junior Tour; 1st Launceston

Wheel Race 2006; Winner of

Sprint Class, 2009 Tour of

Bright

**18 DEAN WINDSOR**

(Rapha Condor Sharp)

in Elite Men's Criterium Championship

Sprint Championship at National Road

C-1st Final round Tour Series England

**WILSON**

on Tour of Ireland 2009; 3rd Stage 2

pur VIC 2009

**LANG**

Gippsland Victoria 2010; 2nd Stage 5

Victoria 2010; 3rd team pursuit Australian

ops SA 2010

**OSKINS**

ional Grand Prix 2010

**LINS**

e Tour of Adelaide 2008

**13 STARLA**

**TEDDERGREEN**

(USA)

4th Realty Gateway Cup USA

2010; 9th Tour de Nez 2010

**14 ASHLEE**

**ANKUDINOFF**

(NSW)

2010 World Champion Team

Pursuit Denmark

**15 PETRA MULLENS**

(Victoria)

1st Noosa International Grand Prix

2010

**16 EMMA MACKIE**

(Queensland)

3rd Criterium Series

**ETTO**

ore, 2005

**COIT**

d NZ

**HOPEK**

ce 2010

**M**

Queen's Birthday Tour Taranaki 2009

Big stars: Ben Kersten and  
(above) from top) Graeme Brown,  
Tam Scully, Cameron Meyer and  
(below) Rochelle Gilmore



## Gilmore to lead charge by Aussies, says Dunn

Amanda Luhman

SHE crashed out of contention even before making it to the start line of the first race of the NSW Grand Prix series, but top cyclist Megan Dunn believes it will still be Australian riders who race off with the top honours in the new event.

Dunn, considered one of the rising stars of world cycling, was a late scratcher for the series after crashing on the track in last week's Oceania championships in Adelaide and breaking her wrist.

It was a major blow to the Dubbo-born rider, who just two years ago won the Jayco criterium series when just 16, and who had hoped to make a big impression on home roads during the series.

But multiple world junior track champion Dunn believes fellow Australians will be the ones to excel in the series with the woman to beat Commonwealth Games road champion Rochelle Gilmore.

But Gilmore, riding for the Honda Dream Team, yesterday said her form was unknown after more than a month of hard training following a post-Commonwealth Games break from her bike.

"I've been training like crazy the past month so I guess I'll find out Wednesday if I have trained a



Comeback: Kate Bates has beaten her injury

little too hard or not," said Gilmore, who last year won on the Cronulla course which will be raced again on Sunday.

"It's hard to predict because I haven't done any racing for so long."

The NSW rider, who won the Commonwealth Games road title in Delhi on her third attempt, said she anticipated the women who rode the World Cup track meet in Melbourne at the weekend could bring strong form into the series, which kicks off tomorrow in Bahurst and concludes on Sunday afternoon at Cronulla.

The Australian women's pursuit team of Josephine Tomic, Kate Bates and Sarah Kent, who won gold at the World Cup meet, will all race the series along with a host of international track stars.

Bates, also from Sydney, is making a comeback to elite racing after a long lay-off with injury.

One of the international riders who could put a spoke in Australia's bid for success in the new series is Russian Eugenia Romanyuta.

"I was talking to her coach [Hanko Salzwedel] and he thinks she could be hard to beat," Gilmore said.

The 22-year-old Russian has come to NSW direct from the World Cup in Melbourne and reportedly boasts good form leading into the series.

An Australian known to be in good form is Gilmore's Honda Dream Team teammate Petra Mullens, who won the Noosa Grand Prix criterium just over a month ago.

The 23-year-old Victorian is a well-respected road rider, having won the Australian under-23 road race crown last year.

Also considered a contender is Queenslanders Kirsty Brown, who rides for Virgin Blue and who won the Queensland criterium title in 2009, along with the Jayco criterium series in Melbourne. Earlier this year the 31-year-old also claimed the sprinters jersey at the Tour of New Zealand.



# Unfinished business

## Sutton plans Paris attack

Amanda Lulham

HE'S the original son of a gun — a second-generation cyclist who, just like his world championship-winning father, has a need for high speed and a penchant for success.

But Sydney cyclist Chris Sutton has his heart set on something even his track great father Gary was unable to achieve during his stellar career on a bike — winning, arguably, the toughest, craziest and most painful bike race in the world, the famed Paris-Roubaix in mid-April.

"I've ridden it three times and every time it hurts but you just get the hunger for it," Chris Sutton said of the race known as the Hell of the North and the Queen of the Classics. "You give your whole body a thrashing on the pavé, the cobblestone sections.

"You have to tape your wrists and finger joints because of the vibration. It's crazy."

A stablemate of Australians Mat Hayman and Tour de France stage winner Simon Gerrans and Mick Rogers on Team Sky, Sutton will be one of the headline acts in this week's Grand Prix series after returning from a six-day meet and greet camp in the United Kingdom, with his pro team last month.

The NSW International Grand Prix series, starting tomorrow, features

some of the top local and international stars of the road, including Olympic world and Commonwealth Games champions.

For Sutton, it presents a way to conclude his first season with the high-profile Team Sky on a winning note.

"We don't get a lot of opportunities to ride at home so I don't want to waste it," said Sutton, who kicked off the year with victory in the final stage of the Santos Tour Down Under in Adelaide in January.

"I'd love to win this. It would mean a lot."

The five-day series will comprise twilight and daytime races at Bathurst (twilight), Parramatta (twilight), Gosford (under lights), Coogee (afternoon) and Cronulla (luncheon) with up to 80 riders in the men's events and 60 in the women's.

Sutton's Team Sky teammate Greg Henderson is also considered a major contender for race wins during the NSW Grand Prix after a steady season of podium finishes.

Other favourites include former track star Ben Kersten, world omnium champion Ed Clancy from the UK and dual Olympic and Commonwealth Games gold medalist Graeme Brown.



Road warrior Chris Sutton (right) will race in the NSW Grand Prix starting tomorrow and the Paris-Roubaix next year

## The high five of two-wheel action

### BATHURST

Staged in the heart of Bathurst around Federation Square with the finish line located adjacent to the council chambers, this 560m circuit will be the tightest of the series.

The circuit is a relatively flat one, with just a small rise to the finish line that will hardly affect any cyclists coming out of the final corner.

The course has been selected by Bathurst's greatest cyclist Mark Renshaw, who feels the pace in the final four to five laps will be frantic.

### PARAMATTA

The egg-shaped circuit at Parramatta Park will be in stark contrast to the opening race of the series, with the cyclists encountering a short climb followed by a quick descent.

Staged at the main entry to the historic Parramatta Park, the finish line is positioned on an uphill stretch just past the first residence of the NSW governor.

### GOSFORD

Gosford is a hot dog-style circuit and is positioned on the Central Coast Highway adjacent to Bluetongue Stadium and Gosford Park.

The 860m circuit will be raced on a wide dual carriageway with a roundabout to encounter at one end and a U-turn at the other.

### COOGEE

Coogee is already one of the most recognised cycling circuits in Australia, having played host to a multitude of Sydney stages during the 19-year reign of the Commonwealth Bank Cycle Classic.

However, it will be the first cycle event staged at Coogee since the final bank race in 2000 and is sure to attract a very large crowd.

Slightly longer than the Gosford circuit at 900m, it will also have a U-turn and a roundabout for the cyclists to encounter. But this time they will be racing clockwise and will have to endure a climb of 400m from the roundabout to the finish



line. It will be the first event to gain five coverage on the Nine Network, with the races included in a two-hour national coverage from 2pm.

### CRONULLA

The circuit that borders on Wanda, Eloviera and North Cronulla beaches has been a great course and has attracted large crowds and interest.

The biggest circuit of the series, it will also play host to the longest distances with the women racing over 18 laps (24km) and the men 30 laps (40km).

The circuit has everything to encourage a breakaway. It requires skill, speed and strength and the finish straight offers a long, fast sprint for the big gear riders, coming off a downhill run before racing the final 200m on the flat.

The day will also cater to additional races before the Honda Insight Women's Grand Prix start at 12.10pm, coinciding with the two-hour national coverage by Channel 9 with the men's event commencing at 1pm.

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