

SPORT

Northcote riders shine on Tour

NORTHERN TOUR ROAD CYCLING

NORTHCOTE cyclists featured prominently in the Eric Hall Memorial Cycling Tour over the Queen's Birthday weekend.

A field of 138 riders from 10 northern-suburbs clubs raced in the annual Tour, which takes in four stages for a total of 250km. One of Northcote's leading road cyclists, Graham Carlson, put in a strong performance in A-grade.

He finished third overall and third in the King of the Mountain placings (for which points are awarded from various climbs throughout the course). He also won the 95km stage three on Sunday afternoon.

The Tour was won by Melbourne Premier's Marcel Gono, with Melton's Tristan Priem second. The race finished dramatically, with the Italo-Aust pair disqualified for taking pace from behind their team car.

Two Northcote wheelmen at vastly different stages in their careers also impressed in A grade: Cadel Evans was the best-placed young rider and Geoff Duke was the best-placed older rider.

In B grade, Peter Johnston was Northcote's best, finishing strongly in the third and fourth stages for an overall second placing.

The Tour's B-grade winner was Coburg's Rhys Brooks, Rupert Walsh (Brunswick) third. Preston's Steve Gilbert rode strongly throughout the race but dropped out of contention when a puncture cost him dearly on the final day.

Perhaps the most outstanding rides by Northcote cyclists came in C grade, where Russell Collett and Chris Neale dominated from the outset.

They streeted the 53 C-grade riders in the opening stage on Saturday, opening up a formidable one-minute break from third-placed Marc Lochere (Italo-Australia).

The Northcote duo also collected most of the C-grade King of the Mountain points.

The women's race was an all Melton affair, with club mates Gina McVica, Michelle Clarke and Vanessa Cockerell filling the first three places. Coburg's Peta Probert was the best placed junior woman.

FINAL PLACINGS A-grade: M Gono (Melbourne Premier) 6hrs 21min 26sec; 2nd: T Priem (Melton) at 11 sec; 3rd: G Carlson (Northcote) at 26 sec.

B grade: R Brooks (Coburg) 5hrs 21min 59sec; 2nd: P Johnston (Northcote) at 15 sec; 3rd: R Walsh (Brunswick) at 36 sec.

C grade: R Collett (Northcote) 5hrs 18min 04sec; 2nd: C Neale (Northcote) at 18 sec; 3rd: D Hobbs (Melbourne Premier) at 1min 58sec.

Women: G McVica (Melton) 5hrs 58min 41sec; 2nd: M Clarke (Melton) at 23min 1sec; 3rd: V Cockerell (Melton) at 24min 52sec.

Juniors: U17 A grade: C Rivette (Brunswick); 2nd: D Mayne (Gisborne); 3rd: Gary

Mueller (Brunswick); Best young rider: Scott Williams (Melton). U17 B-grade: C Mak (Forte-Knox); 2nd: G Hunter (Melton); 3rd: L Robertson (Gisborne).

U17 C grade: M Quarrell (Sunbury); 2nd: S Anderson (Brunswick); 3rd: J Leonard (Coburg). Best young rider: Joel Leonard (Coburg).

KING OF THE MOUNTAIN FINAL PLACINGS A-grade: T Priem (16 points), M O'Keefe (9pts), G Carlson (7pts).

B grade: T McDonough (11pts), S Gilbert (6pts), R Brooks (5pts).

C grade: R Collett (9pts), C Neale (8pts), M Locherer (4pts).

STAGE 1 RESULTS (54km road race) A grade: M O'Keefe (Italo-Aust) 1hr 20min 53sec; 2nd: T Priem (Melton) at 3 sec; 3rd: G Carlson (Northcote) at 9 sec.

King of the Mountain leaders: T Priem (3 points), M Gono (2pts), M O'Keefe (1pt).

B grade: S Sansonetti (Brunswick) 1hr 30min 40sec; 2nd: S Gilbert (Preston) at 2 sec; 3rd: R Walsh (Brunswick) at 8 sec.

King of the Mountain leaders: S Gilbert (3pts), T McDonough (2pts), C O'Brien (1pt).

C grade: C Neale (Northcote) 1hr 29min 26sec; 2nd: R Collett (Northcote) at 2 sec; 3rd: M Locherer (Italo-Aust) at 57 sec.

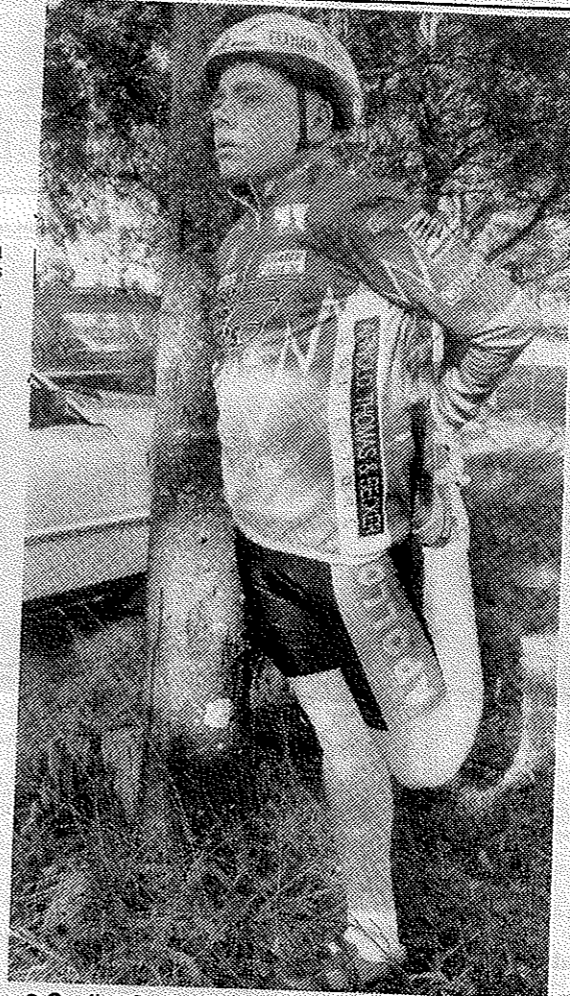
King of the Mountain leaders: R Collett (3pts), C Neale (2pts), M Locherer (1pt).

STAGE 2 RESULTS (10km indiv. time trial) A-grade: M Gono (Melb Premier) 14min 05s; 2nd: M O'Keefe (Italo-Aust) 14min 23s; 3rd: M Jackson (Forte-Knox) 15min.

B-grade: R Brooks (Coburg) 15min 22s; 2nd: P Robinson (Forte-Knox) 15min 26s; 3rd: P O'Callaghan (Forte-Knox) 15min 42s.

C-grade: R Collett (Northcote) 15min 39s; 2nd: C Neale (Northcote) 15min 54s; 3rd: M Locherer (Italo-Aust) 16min 07s.

STAGE 3 RESULTS (95km road race) A grade: G Carlson



● Cyclist Cadel Evans: best-placed young rider in A grade of the Eric Hall Memorial Cycling Tour. 351CJ505

(Northcote) 2hr 33m 59s; 2nd: M Jackson (Forte-Knox) at 5 sec; 3rd: M O'Keefe (Italo-Aust) at 8 sec.

King of the Mountain leaders: T Priem (10 points), M O'Keefe (9pts), M Cooper (5pts).

B grade (62km): P Johnson (Northcote) 1hr 39m 30s; 2nd: P Robinson (Forte-Knox) same time; 3rd: Steve Gilbert (Preston) same time.

King of the Mountain leaders: T McDonough (7pts), S Gilbert, T Hobbs (3pts).

C grade (62km): D Hobbs (Melb Prem) 1hr 48m 18s; 2nd: Klaus Mueller (Brunswick) at 5 sec; 3rd: Simon Watson

(Preston) in the same time. King of the Mountain leaders: R Collett (6pts), C Neale (5pts), M Locherer (4pts).

STAGE 4 RESULTS A-grade: T Priem (Melton) 2hr 11min 08sec.

2nd: G Carlson (Northcote) at 1min 7sec; 3rd: B Sherwell (Melton) same time.

B grade: D Monk (Gisborne) 1hr 56min 17sec; 2nd: P Johnston (Northcote) same time.

3rd: P Robinson (Forte-Knox) same time. C grade: D Hobbs (Melbourne Premier) 1hr 44min 33sec; 2nd: R Collett (Northcote) at 17 sec; 3rd: L Baldwin (Brunswick) at 20sec.

Good fishing at 'station'

CATCH OF THE DAY PETER VOUTHAS

PORT PHILLIP BAY: Station Pier is fishing well, with big schools of Barracoutta being caught.

The barracoutta are biting throughout the day, but most fish have been encountered at sunrise and sunset. Fish up to 2kg have been caught using pilchards or blue bait.

Lures imitating fleeing bait fish trailed in various areas and also proved effective, in particular the lazer flash and the wonder pilchard lures.

Sandringham through to Black Rock has produced a mixed bag of whiting, red mullet and small snapper. The best baits have been pippies and pilchards. Queenscliff has provided King George whiting throughout the week on the rising tide. The best bait has been squid.

The squid have made a small appearance this week at Pt Cook. Fishing with green or pink yo-zuri squid jigs covered with some catch scent has had the best results.

SURF FISHING: Anglers fishing at Eastern and Levies beach at Warrnambool have caught nice-sized Australian salmon and the odd yellow-eyed mullet.

Fishing the top of the tide has produced the larger fish. Kilcunda and Woolamai continue the good catches of salmon. Pilchards and white bait have been the best baits.

■ For fishing trips on Port Phillip, Western Port or Bass Strait phone 772 4227.

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