



GREAT VIC
BIKE RIDE

Snowy to Sea

GREAT VIC SCHOOLS GUIDE 2023



**GREAT VIC
BIKE RIDE**

SAT 25 NOV – SUN 3 DEC 2023

THREE, FIVE & NINE DAY OPTIONS

Orbost — Inverloch

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Mark this date in your school calendar – don't miss out!

To get the best value for your school through early bird pricing, ensure your riders have registered and paid prior to **11.59pm on Sunday 13th August 2023**. The savings can be up to \$138 per rider!

Key Dates

+ 12.00am Monday 24 April 2023
School early bird entries open

+ 11.59pm Sunday 13 August 2023
School early bird entries close
After this date only full entries will be taken.

+ 11.59pm Thursday 26 October 2023
Final day for refunds or ride extras.



Why it's great for students

Featuring crowd favourites and hidden gems, the 2023 route will take your school group to all the best parts of Gippsland! We'll pedal alongside the Snowy River before heading west and taking in the very best of Gippsland on-route to Inverloch. You won't want to miss it!

The ride makes for an ideal school camp environment and is a challenging, yet fun experience with people from all age groups and walks of life. As a school camp, it is unique. Bicycle Network takes care of food, campsites, medical and en-route support allowing schools to focus on educational and developmental goals.

As one of the largest, fully supported bicycle event in the world, there is no better way for students to see Australia and learn about themselves and what they're capable of.

Benefits for students

Physical fitness and cycling skills

- ✦ Practical bicycle maintenance skills.
- ✦ Road cycling skills including balance, signalling and pedalling techniques.
- ✦ Spatial awareness skills honed from riding and communicating in groups.
- ✦ Better physical fitness, from preparing for and undertaking the ride.
- ✦ Improved mental and emotional health outcomes through physical fitness.

Life skills and experiences

- ✦ The sense of achievement from completing the ride can lead to improved confidence, resilience and personal growth.
- ✦ Improved teamwork skills from working in groups to achieve both a personal and joint challenge of completing the ride together with peers.
- ✦ Exposure to greater social diversity by mixing with a large group of students from other schools as well as riders from the general public.
- ✦ Improved social skills from living in a dense and closely knit moving community.
- ✦ Time away from technology and instead, exploring what the outdoors has to offer.



“There’s a really strong sense of achievement that they (the kids) get out of that challenging experience,” says Kevin Purvis, who, with fellow teacher Wendy Scott, is organising a contingent from Old Orchard Primary School to go on the upcoming Great Vic. It’s the third year the school has participated in the event, and Kevin and Wendy have been involved from the start.

“It enabled us as teachers to develop a rapport with some of the kids for whom school was a bit challenging,” Kevin continues. “This was an event where they could get in there and be really physical and really active. That had a spin-off in terms of getting alongside those kids and getting engaged with them more.”

Kevin Purvis
Teacher at Old Orchard Primary School



Where are we going this year?

The 2023 Great Vic Bike Ride will take you cycling from the Snowy to Sea! Showcasing all the best parts of Gippsland, you can expect amazing riding, charming host towns, incredible scenery, and of course good company.



540km total distance

| **4,325m** elevation

Where you'll go

DAY 1

Saturday 25 November

Arrival - Orbost

It's been over 25 years since we've been to Orbost on the Great Vic! While there's no official riding scheduled for today, once you've set up camp you can hop on the bike and uncover everything this town has to offer. Explore the Snowy River, pedal a section of the East Gippsland Rail Trail or visit the town's pubs, cafes and shops. There's something for everyone!

Day 2

Sunday 26 November

Orbost to Buchan (58km)

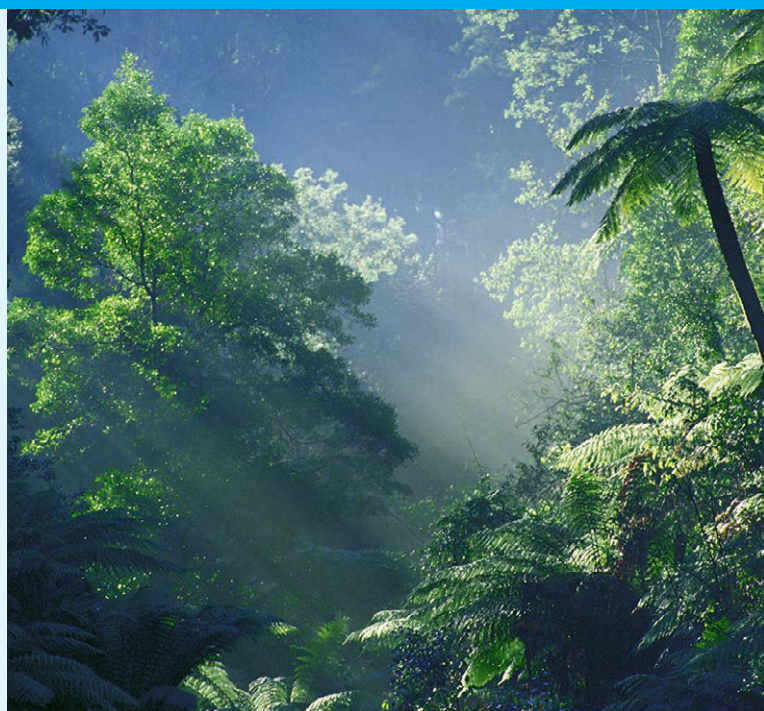
This first day of riding will be one to remember! Begin your day following the Snowy River before tackling the secluded and windy road to Buchan. You can expect stunning views of East Gippsland and the Snowy River National Park. Spend your afternoon exploring Buchan Caves or stretch your legs on one of the Buchan Caves Reserve walks.

Day 3

Monday 27 November

Buchan - Lakes Entrance (84km)

Leaving the Snowy River National Park behind you, your day will begin with a steady climb before descending towards the coast with spectacular scenery everchanging throughout the day. Arriving at Lakes Entrance - where the Gippsland Lakes meets the sea - you can spend the day indulging in local seafood, enjoy a quiet afternoon fishing or exploring the township and waterways.



Day 4

Tuesday 28 November

Lakes Entrance - Paynesville (76km)

Kick off day four tackling rolling hills, immersed in bushland and exploring the back roads to Bairnsdale before finishing with a cruise along the Mitchell River to Paynesville. Nestled amongst lakes, canals and inlets, Paynesville is the hotspot for regional boat and water sport lovers but if you prefer your feet on the ground, Raymond Island is the perfect spot for koala and bird spotting.



Day 5

Wednesday 29 November

Paynesville - Sale (82km)

Today we say goodbye to the rolling hills! Say hello to the classic country roads we know and love on the Great Vic, as we pedal our way through the back roads to Sale. Featuring plenty of countryside views and changing scenery, before you know it you will arrive to the hustle and bustle of Sale. Here, we'll say goodbye to our 5-day riders and hello to our 3-day riders.



Day 6

Thursday 30 November

Sale (Rest Day)

Sale has a big heart and plenty to offer for everyone on the rest day! The town is home to plenty of trendy restaurants, cafes and various walking trails. Spend time in nature exploring the Botanic Gardens, Lake Guthridge and Lake Guyatt. Or learn about Sale's indigenous history by checking out the town's local art galleries and museums.



Day 7

Friday 1 December

Sale - Port Albert (101km)

Time to tick-off the 100km (just!) challenge day, with a pedal to the charming town of Port Albert. Today's riding is mostly flat, and will feature plenty of quiet country roads, and leave you pleasantly surprised as you cruise into town. First time in Great Vic's history, we'll visit Port Albert which is one of Victoria's oldest fishing ports, established in 1841.



Day 8

Saturday 2 December

Port Albert - Fish Creek (78km)

This is sure to be a favourite, with a spectacular route, featuring stunning views of South Gippsland. The riding features quiet, windy roads, rolling hills and offers plenty of photo opportunities throughout the day. There is a small section (4km) of riding on hard compact unsealed road, but don't let that deter you, we promise it's where the Gippsland magic is! Arriving in Fish Creek, you'll be in awe of the picturesque township featuring boutique stores, galleries and cafes.



Day 9

Sunday 3 December

Fish Creek - Inverloch (61km)

To finish our journey through Gippsland, we will travel south through Walkerville, before making our way to the finish line in Inverloch. Our last day of riding has it all with fun, winding roads through bushland, green paddocks and coastal views. Located only two hours away from Melbourne with a lively town centre, Inverloch is the perfect spot to meet and celebrate with family and friends.



Entering as an official school

We're here for you

The Great Vic Bike Ride is staffed by a dedicated team of professionals, volunteers and contractors; all of whom are focused on making it easy for everyone to ride.

Each day, this team moves our tented community from one town to the next. This includes transporting a kitchen, toilets, showers, covered seating, café, and your luggage. Our team also provides a range of entertainment options and activities at camp, while marshals, police and medical staff provide support and guidance while you're out on the road.

There's an Information Hub that's open from camp set-up to sundown, keeping you informed of what's going on with the ride and the activities going on in whatever town we're bunking down for that night.

Extra support for schools

Organising school excursions takes a lot of work and can be complex. Bicycle Network has a designated schools team. Contactable either via greatvicschools@bicyclenetwork.com.au or via our friendly rider services team on 1800 639 634.

They can assist at all points in the process, from registering and booking tickets, paying deposits and balances, finalising rider lists, confirming meal preferences and particular rider details, arranging transport and dealing with any other issues as required.

Easier Registration for 2023

Great Vic Bike Ride registrations are all managed through Register Now. This online platform makes it easier and simpler for schools to register including managing rider details, changing rider names, or managing payments.



Daily school briefings

The Ride2School team maintains a hub in the schools camping area that acts as a meeting point for teachers, students and accompanying adults as well as the location for the daily school briefings.

School briefings are held on all ride days at 5:00pm at the Ride2School zone. Representatives from Bicycle Network's Ride2School team and School Co-ordinators frequently attend. These recap the day's ride and discuss the following day's route. The briefing is also a great chance to communicate with other school groups and acts as a forum to discuss any issues that arise over the course of the ride.

Attendance at the briefings is compulsory, as it is the venue for discussing all relevant information that needs to be communicated to school groups.

Reserved camping area

Children are vital and active participants in Bicycle Network's rides and programs, so we're proud to have developed a child safe culture that promotes the wellbeing and safety of children. Our Child Safe policy is designed to keep children safe when they interact with us, and as part of this policy, we do have some operational requirements in place on the Great Vic Bike Ride:

- ✦ Children are not permitted to use the Toilet and Shower Trucks. Instead, they must use the Toilet and Shower Pod units. A Toilet Pod unit will always be located adjacent to the Schools camping area, and a number of Shower Pod Units are available in the shower area
- ✦ Children must not be left road-side alone. Schools are encouraged to develop a buddy system for all riders, so if one child stops (to wait for the SAG bus, etc.) they have someone to wait and travel with them at all times.

These requirements help to create an environment where children are safe, happy and empowered, so we know you'll support them too!

Bicycle Network's Child Safe Policy is available at bicyclenetwork.com.au



Talent quest

The annual talent quest night on the evening before rest day is a chance for students to showcase their special talents for the Great Vic Bike Ride community. Students can enter at the Information Hub from Day 3 of the Ride.

Sporting equipment and games

The Ride2School zone area also has a range of sporting equipment available for use. Students are welcome to borrow the sporting equipment, all students have to do is leave behind their 'rider passport' as an insurance the equipment will be returned. There are also other games and activities available in the catering area every night.

Additional Benefits for schools in 2023

- + No charge for special meal options for students
- + Opportunity to book a school information night available for parents, teachers and students
- + Recommended Training plan for students
- + Schools specific E-news informing you of all the great stuff planned for the ride as well as the key information you need to make it the greatest Great Vic Ever!
- + Rewards for School Captains (aka you) for all the hard work you put into building and managing your school group!

What's included?

- + Pre-event organised training rides and online preparation tools
- + All meals
- + Daily luggage transport
- + On-route support
- + Toilets and showers
- + On-site medical team
- + Daily live music and entertainment
- + Campsite licensed cafes and vendors
- + Campsite security
- + Outdoor cinema



Ride Options

9 DAY RIDE Orbost-Inverloch 540km			5 DAY RIDE Orbost-Sale 300km			3 DAY RIDE Sale-Inverloch 240km		
Ticket type	EarlyBird	Standard	Ticket type	EarlyBird	Standard	Ticket type	EarlyBird	Standard
School Student	\$896	\$995	School Student	\$671	\$745	School Student	\$530	\$589
Adult	\$1247	\$1385	Adult	\$905	\$1005	Adult	\$671	\$745

Suitably Qualified Adults and the ratio system

What is a Suitably Qualified Adult and who can be one?

Schools are required to bring along a certain number of supervising adults that will be responsible for the conduct, behaviour and well-being of the students making up their group. Such a supervising adult is known as a Suitably Qualified Adult (SQA). Any teacher or adult member (parent or other adult aged 18+) of the riding group can be considered an SQA. It is at the discretion of each participating school to select which teachers or extra adults from their group will be considered SQAs.

SQAs attend the ride free of charge. SQAs that a school group can bring on the ride depend on the number of students attending. Schools must provide the allocated number of SQAs to supervise the group. More adults are always welcome. SQAs ratios apply for the full ride, the 5 day ride option and the 3 day ride option.

SQAs Ratios apply for all ride options including both 5 day ride options and the 10 day ride option.

Consult the table below to determine the number of SQAs:

Number of students in group	Number of SQA's required to attend and free of charge
4-20	2
21-30	3
31-40	4
41-50	5
51-60	6
61-70	7
71-80	8
81-90	9
91-100	10
100 or more	11 + 1 for every 10 students above 100

What do I need to know?

How do I enter my group?

You can register for the Great Vic Bike Ride from April 24th. Select the appropriate numbers of tickets and choose a ride option. If you need help with any part of the registration process, please email our friendly rider services team at greatvicschools@bicyclenetwork.com.au or call on 1800 639 634.

School groups are entitled to free tickets for suitably Qualified Adult riders.

When should I register my group?

As early as possible. There are a number of tickets on the Great Vic Bike Ride reserved specifically for school groups, but due to high demand these often become limited. It's best to book your group as soon as you can once school group bookings open.

Is it better to book only the riders that are fully committed to coming, or my maximum potential group size, even if I'm not sure they'll all come?

When entering, please only book tickets for riders for which you have a high degree of confidence will be joining you on the ride. At the time of registration you will be required to confirm riders first and last name and date of birth. Yes, you can always cancel tickets later, but cancellation and refund rules come into play.

What do I do if I have any riders drop out of my group?

The best option is to replace your rider with another one. You can make unlimited transfers online through your ride management page. It's very easy to do. However, riders need to be finalised by 26 October, so make sure you complete any transfers prior to that. If you can't find any replacement riders for those that are dropping out of your group, cancellation and refund rules apply (see page 16). You can only swap a ticket for a ticket of the same value.

What are the key dates I need to remember?

- ✦ Early bird price closes at 11.59pm AEST
Sunday 13th August
- ✦ Standard registration closes at 11.59pm AEST
Friday 24th November

How do I handle meal preferences and special diets?

Bicycle Network offers multiple meal options on the Great Vic Bike Ride: standard, vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free standard and gluten-free vegetarian. You can select meal preferences for all your riders on your ride management page on our website.

To ensure the correct meal choice, finalise all selections prior to 26 October. Any riders that do not nominate a meal preference known by 26 October will be provided with the standard option.

Students and SQA's who are attending the ride are eligible for free upgrades to special meals in 2023. All other accompanying adults will incur additional charges for meal preferences other than standard or vegetarian.

Please read carefully!

Bicycle Network is unable to accommodate special diets outside the five meal options provided. Bicycle Network will publish the nutritional content of each meal option on our website in advance of the ride. If any riders in your group have special dietary needs, please have them carefully review the nutritional content and select the option most appropriate to their needs. Riders are always welcome to decline individual food servings, but must make up any supplementary requirements themselves, either by bringing extra food or purchasing it in any of the campsite towns. Any additional food must be accommodated in the baggage allowance of the individual rider or school's extra allowance. No cooking equipment is allowed on site, and Bicycle Network cannot cook or refrigerate any extra food.

How much baggage can each of my riders bring?

Each rider in your group can bring a maximum of 20kg of luggage. This must be split into two 10kg bags.

Schools are entitled to one 20kg communal bag each (bag to be supplied by Bicycle Network). Please note Pop up marquees are not permitted and will not be transported.

How do I get to the start of the ride and home again?

Most schools arrange their own transport to and from the ride. If you need to book transport with us, you can do this in one of two ways:

- + Book one of our standard transport options online
- + Contact us to discuss a charter arrangement that will pick you up from your school campus

I have a number of parents that want to join our group, what do I do?

Parents are welcome to be a part of any official school group. If parents intend to ride with you, make sure they are booked under your group booking and that they do not book their own individual tickets. Any adults representing a school group on the Great Vic Bike Ride need to be registered as a member of that group.

Claiming GST input tax credits

Schools may be able to claim an input tax credit on meal expenses on the Great Vic Bike Ride.

The cost of this component is \$23.50 per rider per day..

What kind of camping etiquette and riding behaviour are expected?

All school group participants need to respect the noise curfew of 10pm. Riders in school groups, as in the general public, are required to abide by all road rules and laws, and obey any instruction given by ride staff, volunteers, marshals or Victoria Police. All riders should strive to be good citizens by demonstrating exemplary behaviour while riding. This includes communicating respectfully, riding safely and predictably and helping others.

What kind of gear and equipment do my riders need to bring?

The following list is not exhaustive, but riders must be certain to bring the following:

- + A bike
- + Wet weather clothing for riding in the rain, including a jacket and appropriate shoes
- + Bright or otherwise noticeable clothing to ride in
- + Suitable changes of clothes and footwear for camp and town
- + Tents, sleeping bags and other sleeping requirements
- + Re-usable cutlery and crockery

Emergency contact information

Please ensure that all your student and adult riders have a working mobile phone number for the lead teacher or nominated representative for your school group that is easily accessible at all times, both on the road and at campsite. Students often write this number on their bike tag or rider passport. The lead teacher or nominated representative should be contactable at all times in case of emergency. Medical care for students can be delayed considerably if we are unable to contact supervising teachers.

Terms and conditions

The Terms and Conditions for the Great Vic Bike Ride contain more information on all aspects of the ride and your booking. Please read the Terms and Conditions carefully when booking, these will be available when you book for your group and the act of booking accepts the Terms and Conditions on your own behalf and also on behalf of all riders that will eventually join your group.

Great Vic Bike Ride terms and conditions can be viewed here: <https://s23705.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/GVBR23-T-and-Cs-v2.pdf>

Payment

Making payments

After creating your School Group via Register Now, you will have two options to process payment:

Option 1: The School Group members pay for their own registration fees. This can be paid by card when you send out the Registration Link to parents to register their children.

Option 2: The School Group pays for all registration fees. If an invoice is required, please contact us via email at greatvicschools@bicyclenetwork.com.au and we will happily generate one for you. Once received, give this invoice to your accounts payable department and ensure its paid by the relevant deadline.

Adding riders

You can add riders into your group at any time.

When logging into Register Now you will be requested to create a team (Choose your school name or whichever unique name you like!)

Following your initial registration, you can head back to Register Now and either:

- + Add your rider names and details to your team
- + Or send out the Registration Link so parents can register their own children

Cancelling tickets

We really, really don't want anyone to cancel their tickets, but we understand that sometimes riders need to drop out for a variety of reasons. Depending on when one of your riders needs to drop out of the ride, some amount may be available to refund:

Item	Up to 30 days prior to event	Under 30 days prior to event
Event entry or balance payment	Full refund (excluding deposits)	No refund
Extras (transport, child tix, valet, postage, tents, phone charging) excludes merchandise.	Full refund	No refund
Merchandise	As per Hub's policy	
Upgrades	Anytime - just pay the difference	
Downgrades	Full refund of difference	No refund of difference

Any refunds requests must come from the school. Bicycle Network will not process refund requests directly from riders. Any refunds will be sent back to the school for disbursement.

As we get closer to the ride, Bicycle Network incurs more costs associated with any ticket sold. Therefore, the amount of available refund decreases as we get closer to the ride.

Bicycle Network members may be able to claim the full amount of any ride costs due to cancellation under the membership insurance scheme. Membership is encouraged for all riders. If any of your riders are interested membership, give us a call or have a look at our website, bicyclenetwork.com.au/membership

Transferring riders

Instead of cancelling a ticket, we recommend transferring it to another rider. Bicycle Network will facilitate the transfer of purchased tickets to new riders as late as possible. Ticket transfers can be made at any time prior to 26 October. After 26 October, we require all ticket information to be completed and confirmed so we can print rider passports and finalise any meal options. Transfers required after 26 October will be processed on the ride at the Information Hub.

Rider Information

What information do I need to provide when assigning riders in my group?

You will need to provide the following information to Bicycle Network for each of your riders:

- + Rider name
- + Rider gender
- + Rider birth date
- + Rider meal option
- + Rider emergency contact details

Enter this information when assigning your tickets to the riders in your group. You do not have to input information for all riders at once, though once you know who is making up your group it is advantageous to enter in as much data as possible, to avoid having to submit it all at the last minute.

Tickets and rider information must be finalised by Thursday 26 October 2023, so that rider passports can be printed correctly and meal preferences ordered accurately.



Volunteering

Students and parents as volunteers

Occasionally, students or parents that would otherwise join a riding school group may not be able to participate. Another option for these people who still wish to experience the ride and travel with your group is to work as a volunteer on the event. The ongoing success of the Great Vic Bike Ride relies on the dedication of over 350 volunteers over the full course of the ride. This option is available for students 16 and over, though those students who are under 18 will need consent from a legal guardian to volunteer.

Event volunteers do not ride on the event. Instead, they help out in various roles each day, often at camp. Students are typically assigned to the catering team or the general site team allowing them to help make the event run smoothly while receiving valuable work experience in a fun and friendly environment. Event Volunteers do not pay registration.

For more information on volunteering, please contact Sarah Cunningham, the Great Vic Senior Volunteer Coordinator on (03) 8376 8814 or check the volunteer page on the Great Vic Bike Ride website at greatvic.com.au





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