

1984 2024

The Greatest Road Trip



GREAT VIC SCHOOLS GUIDE 2024



**GREAT VIC
BIKE RIDE**

23 NOV ——— 1 DEC 2024

**WODONGA TO
HEALESVILLE**

THREE, FIVE & NINE DAY
RIDE OPTIONS

greatvic.com.au



Contents

- 3** Key dates
- 4** Why it's great for students
- 6** This year's route
- 10** Entering an official school group
- 13** Ride options
 - 13** Suitably Qualified Adult
- 14** What do I need to know?
 - 14** School Entry
 - 15** Dietaries
 - 16** Training
 - 16** Transport
 - 16** At the campsite
 - 17** Payments & Registration
 - 17** Other
- 18** Rider information
- 19** Volunteering

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

Key Dates

- **11.59am Sunday 12 May**
Early bird first release (with FREE commemorative t-shirt) ends
- **11.59pm Sunday 18 August**
Early bird second release (same price as early bird first release)
- **11.59pm Friday 27 September**
Final day for refunds or cancellations.
- **11.59pm Friday 25 October**
Final day to make changes to registration
e.g. ride extras.



Why it's great for students

To celebrate 40 years of Great Vic, we're taking it back to where it all began in Northeast Victoria. Providing the greatest road trip since 1984, it's certainly the year you won't want to miss!

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.

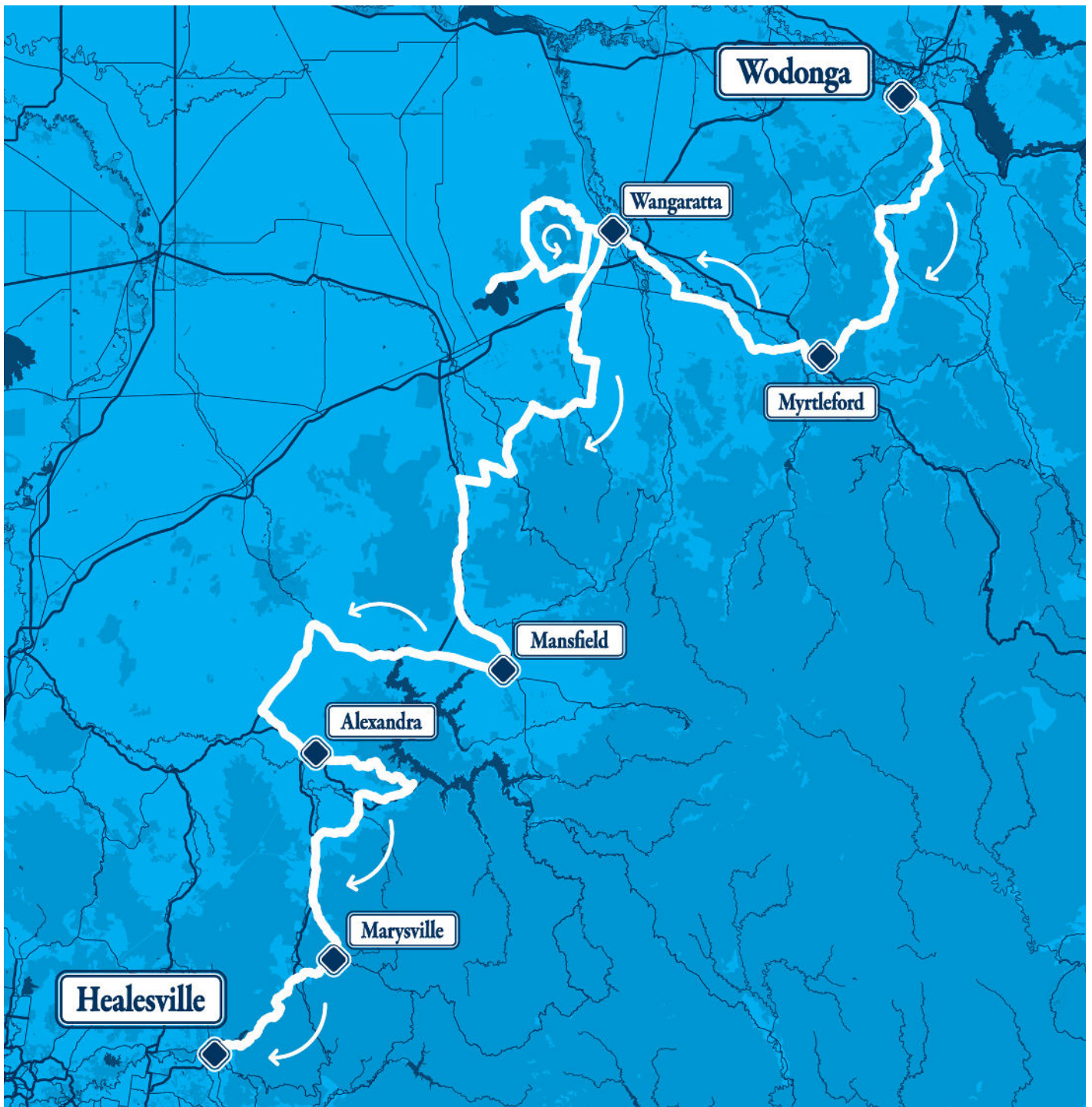
“It enabled us as teachers to develop a rapport with some of the kids for whom school was a bit challenging,” Kevin continues. “This was an event where they could get in there and be really physical and really active. That had a spin-off in terms of getting alongside those kids and getting engaged with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

Kevin Purvis
Teacher at Old Orchard Primary School



Where are we going this year?

To celebrate 40 years of camaraderie, camping and cycling, we're taking it back to where it all began in Northeast Victoria. Providing the greatest road trip since 1984.



Where you'll go

Day 1 - Saturday 23 November

Arrival - Wodonga

Head back to where it all began 40 years ago in 1984, in Wodonga.

This iconic regional town right on the Victorian border has a variety of things to see and do on arrival day, whether it's an outdoor adventure, connection with culture & history, a visit to the town's cafes, shops and markets, there's something for everyone.

Day 2 - Sunday 24 November

Wodonga - Myrtleford (67km)

With fresh legs, you'll kick off the 40th year celebrations with a stunning ride to Myrtleford. Featuring rolling hills, valley views and a stop in Yackandandah, a charming crafty town known locally as "the Yack," it will be impossible to keep the smile off your face the entire ride.

Our new home for the night, Myrtleford is nestled in a picturesque valley known for its Italian heritage, cellar doors, local produce and gourmet cafes and restaurants to experience.

Day 3 - Monday 25 November

Myrtleford - Wangaratta (52km)

Back in the saddle for your second day of riding exploring more of the region known for its mesmerising valley views and fine food and drink. Your legs will appreciate today's much flatter rider and your tastebuds will enjoy a stop in Milawa to sample some of the local produce before pedalling to Wangaratta.



Day 4 - Tuesday 26 November

Wangaratta loop (81km/60km)

That's right – today is a loop day! This year, you can choose your own adventure with two route options. Make your way through the Warby Ovens National Park with a few pinchy, rolling hills along the way. Enjoy the quite roads and quintessential Australian scenery before deciding if you want to ride the extra kilometers to get a stunning view of the Winton Wetlands.



Day 5 - Wednesday 27 November

Wangaratta - Mansfield (110km)

It's challenge day! At a whopping 110kms, day five is one of the furthest rides Great Vic's had. This may sound daunting but we know you're up for the challenge on the last day before rest day. Weave through small country towns like Lurg, Tatong, Swanpool and Lake Nillahcootie en-route to Mansfield with plenty of spots to rest along the way.

Mansfield is a nature lovers' paradise located alongside the impressive Lake Eildon. Soak up the Alpine scenery as the local community of Mansfield welcomes the Great Vic family for the next two nights.



Day 6 - Thursday 28 November Mansfield (Rest Day)

Mansfield has a big heart and plenty to offer for everyone on rest day. If you're feeling adventurous, you can take a day trip to Mount Buller, explore Lake Eildon, or take to the skies on a helicopter tour.

If you're looking to stick closer to town, Mansfield has plenty of local shops, activities and historical buildings to explore, including golf, an art trail, walks, parks & gardens and Mansfield Zoo.



Day 7 - Friday 29 November

Mansfield - Alexandra (73km)

It's time to hop back on the bike for a 73km ride alongside the Great Victorian Rail Trail to Alexandra. On your way, enjoy picturesque views of Lake Eildon and pedal across the Glad Phillips Bridge into Bonnie Doon where you can rest your legs and enjoy the serenity.

Alexandra embraces small town life, with tree-lined streets and local arts and crafts. Perfectly situated along the Great Victorian Rail Trail near Lake Eildon, the Goulburn River Valley and state forests.

Day 8 - Saturday 30 November

Alexandra - Marysville (73km)

Day eight is sure to be a memorable one. A pedal uphill out of Alexandra is rewarded with more incredible views over Lake Eildon. Make sure to stop for a photo before cruising downhill to Eildon itself. After a break, you will meander your way along the Goulburn River, continuing along Gould Memorial Drive past sites like the Cathedral Ranges before reaching the town of Marysville, our destination for the final night of Great Vic 2024.

Marysville is surrounded by natural beauty with lush forests, impressive waterfalls and native wildlife. 15 years on from the Black Saturday bush fires which devastated the town, the resilient community has rebuilt and is ready to welcome riders and your support.

Day 9 - Sunday 1 December

Marysville - Healesville (34km)

An incredible week comes to an end – but not without a spectacular day which includes a rare opportunity to ride the picturesque Black Spur car-free. You will be transported to another world, as you travel along its twists and turns among the iconic tall mountain ash trees and ferns. Emerging from this breathtaking wonderland you will arrive at the final destination, the finish line Healesville as our 501km journey comes to an end. Celebrate your achievement at this regional food hub, surrounded by friends and nature.



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, booking tickets, paying balances, finalising rider lists, confirming meal preferences and particular rider details, arranging transport and dealing with any other issues as required.

New Registration portal in 2024

Great Vic School registrations will now be managed through our new portal, Race Roster. This online platform makes it more intuitive 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 2024

- 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!
- Schools with 80+ students will have their own reserved area within the School Camping area.
- Opportunities for students to fundraise for our First Nations Fund - raising funds to allow young First Nations Australians to experience the Great Vic Bike Ride.

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

Teacher rewards

We want to reward you as School Captain for all the hard work you put into getting your school Great Vic ready!

20+

Build a team of 20+ riders and receive:
\$50 x Anaconda voucher

\$50 VOUCHER

40+

Build a team of 40+ riders and receive:
\$100 x Anaconda voucher

\$100 VOUCHER

60+

Build a team of 60+ riders and receive:
\$150 x Anaconda voucher

\$150 VOUCHER



Ride Options

9 DAY RIDE Wodonga - Healesville			5 DAY RIDE Wodonga - Mansfield			3 DAY RIDE Mansfield - Healesville		
Ticket type	EarlyBird	Standard	Ticket type	EarlyBird	Standard	Ticket type	EarlyBird	Standard
School Student	\$941	\$1035	School Student	\$705	\$775	School Student	\$557	\$612
Adult	\$1309	\$1440	Adult	\$950	\$1045	Adult	\$705	\$775

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 wellbeing 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 9 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?

Here are the answers to your most common Great Vic School Questions.

For more event specific questions, check out our full FAQ page here:

bicyclenetwork.com.au/rides-and-events/great-victorian-bike-ride/event-info/faqs/

If your questions aren't in the list, please contact us via email at **greatvicschools@bicyclenetwork.com.au** or call us on 1800 639 634.

School Entry

Is Great Vic right for my school group?

Bicycle Network provides a safe and supportive environment for your students to thrive given students have trained and prepared well for the event. Bicycle Network's commitment to inclusive and diverse events means we cater for riders of different ages, genders, backgrounds, abilities and from different walks of life. It is essential for schools to bring along enough supervising adults or Suitably Qualifying Adults (SQA) responsible for the conduct, behaviour and wellbeing of their students. We are a Child Safe event committed to our rider's safety as number one priority.

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.

How do I enter my group?

You can register for the Great Vic Bike Ride from through our registration platform, Race Roster. Please follow our Registration Guide here: **greatvicschools.com.au** or contact our friendly 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 registration page up until 14 days from the event. It's very easy to do. However, riders need to be finalised by Friday 27 September, so if you need to cancel a registration after not finding a replacement, cancellation and refund rules apply (as per our Terms and Conditions). You can only swap a ticket for a ticket of the same value.

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.

What are the key dates I need to remember?

- **19 Feb – 12 May**
Early bird (first release) – everyone receives a FREE commemorative t-shirt (excluding infants)
- **13 May – 18 Aug**
Early bird (second release) – same price, no commemorative t-shirt
- **19 Aug – 23 Nov**
Standard – price increase from Early Bird (second release)
- **Friday 27 Sept**
Last day to make cancel any registrations.

Dietaries

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 registration page on our website. To ensure the correct meal choice, finalise all selections prior to 25 October. Any riders that do not nominate a meal preference known by 25 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 2024. 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.

Training

Do we need to train? What does it look like?

Training is essential for the rider's experience on Great Vic and a great way to build rapport with the students and help them build healthy habits prior to Great Vic. Each school has a different way of facilitating training but if you're new or need some inspiration, we recommend you following any of the below:

- Kickstart training in Term 3 for the best experience
- Start with skill sessions to teach the basics and build confidence.
- Schedule in monthly training rides e.g. Every 3rd Sunday, 9am to create a consistent schedule.
- Increase distance and/or gradient each training ride.
- Did you know Bicycle Network can help support you?
- Invite us and we'd be happy to deliver a Road Safety Session before your training commences or just prior to Great Vic.
- Bicycle Network ride leaders or WARBYs (riding mechanics) can join you for a training ride to give the students tips and share what to expect.

Transport

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

Each school is different in their transport requirements, however based on school relationships we often find the below two options the most effective:

- 1. Own transport:** Your school is responsible for transporting students and their bikes to and from the event using private coaches/school buses.
- 2. Bicycle Network coaches:** For an added fee to each registration, we offer Bicycle Network Coaches at various pick-up locations across metro/regional

areas that will take your school and their bikes to and from event. For information please visit here: greatvic.com.au/event-info/ride-extras/#transport

If you have any questions about transport, don't hesitate to contact our Great Vic Schools team or get in touch with our School Champions – seasoned teachers who have participated in Great Vic for many years – for advice.

At the campsite

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?

Check out our packing guide here: greatvicschools.com.au

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. Please note Pop up marquees are not permitted and will not be transported.

Payments & Registration

Making payments

After creating your School Group via Race Roster, 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. Please follow our Registration Guide here: greatvicschools.com.au

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. Please check out our official Terms and Conditions here: bicyclenetwork.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/GVBR24-T-and-Cs-v3-1.pdf

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 no later than 14 days out of from the event. After this, we require all ticket information to be completed and confirmed so we can print rider passports and finalise any meal options. Transfers required after this will be processed on the ride at the Information Hub.

Other

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: bicyclenetwork.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/GVBR24-T-and-Cs-v3-1.pdf

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.

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 **Friday 25 October 2024**, 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 Manager on (03) 8376 8814 or check the volunteer page on the Great Vic Bike Ride website at greatvic.com.au





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