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TOURISM NORTH EAST

7 Peaks Ride 2016/17 set for *grand départ*

Road cyclists from around Australia and overseas are limbering up for the *grand départ* of Australia's alpine ascent challenge, the 2016/17 **7 Peaks Ride** season in Victoria's High Country, kicking off tomorrow - **Friday 14 October -** and **continuing through to 31 March**.

The popular summer event challenges road cyclists to climb the seven Victorian peaks of **Mt Baw Baw**, **Mt Buffalo**, **Mt Buller**, **Dinner Plain**, **Falls Creek**, **Mt Hotham** and **Lake Mountain**. At the top of each peak conquered, riders can record their achievements with a stamp in their special **7 Peaks Passport** or enter results on **Strava** using the official ride segments at **Strava.com/Clubs/7peaksride**.

Eight thousand passports have already been sent to registered cyclists with many more expected to sign on via the new **7peaks.com.au** website launching tomorrow.

This year the <u>7peaks.com.au</u> site will acknowledge and celebrate the <u>extraordinary growth in women's</u> road cycling with 100 Women's Stories. Fifty of these real-life stories by women who have completed one or more of Victoria's 7 Peaks will feature on the new site, with 50 more to be added by women tackling the challenge throughout the 7 Peaks season.

Cyclists tough enough to ride and register four or more peaks will be in the running for the **grand prize** of a European cycling holiday for two coinciding with the 2017 *Tour de France* with Wide Open Road Cycling Tours, and anyone completing all seven peaks will be eligible for the highly sought-after 7 Peaks jersey.

And those looking for a perfect way in to the new riding season should look no further than the *Domestique Ride* at Lake Mountain on Sunday 13 November. New and seasoned 7 Peakers alike will enjoy the support and encouragement of this fun social ride - a great event to start the challenging cycling season ahead. More information and to register: domestiqecycling.cc/rides

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