



**GRAFTON TO  
INVERELL  
YOU WERE  
BRUTAL!**

**BRYAN COOK AND  
AMANDA KYNEUR  
LAST WEEKEND**



des Femmes Team Classification Champions

Pia Smith , Kylie Adair  
Brooke Sheppeard & Vikki Burr

Humble & Tough Champions





## **Grafton to Inverell des Femmes Continues to Grow in Strength**

MAY 2018

The 2018 David Reid Homes Grafton to Inverell Cycle Classic will again feature a category for female riders following the success of the inaugural Regional Australia Bank Grafton to Inverell des Femmes in 2017. The event provides an opportunity for women to take on Australia's toughest one day cycling race of 228km under the same conditions as the men.

Event Director Chris Thompson says the women's race was a great success last year and organisers are committed to developing the race into one of the most prestigious races in the country for women.

"This is the hardest one-day cycling event in the country and a rare opportunity for women to compete at this distance," said Chris.

"We were able to establish a women's category last year through the support of the Regional Australia Bank and we are very pleased that they have extended their partnership again this year."

"We're proud to encourage equality and diversity in such a prestigious Regional event and it's fantastic to be able to play a part in the evolution of the race in this way" says Darren Schaefer Chief Marketing Officer at Regional Australia Bank.



**Event Director Chris Thompson**  
**NB Chris is the Event Director & Owner of the popular**  
**Tour de Valley and Kirra Criterium Events - September**

The race has attracted a quality field who will look at challenging the course record of 7 hours, 7 minutes and 30 seconds set by Queensland rider, Bree Wilson last year.

Although the competition for the podium will be fierce, many of the women will be taking on the challenge for the first time. Their aim will be to complete the epic journey in under the 9 hours 30 mins cut-off time.

To help some of these girls reach their goals, the Regional Australia Bank provides an opportunity to participate as an ambassador for the new category. This year Brooke Sheppeard, Pia Smith and Kylie Adair will join experienced rider, Vickie Burr for their first attempt at the race.

“It is a great opportunity for the girls to experience the camaraderie that goes with participating in the race. Especially representing new women’s category as ambassadors and having support to achieve their goals. It makes the experience so much more enjoyable and memorable.” Said Chris.

“The bank also gets to share the experience through supporting the girls and following their progress on the road.”

The 58th Grafton to Inverell Cycle Classic will be conducted on Saturday 12 May. The race will be broadcast live on radio Sta FM 91.9 which is also streamed live on their website.

Event details can be found at [www.graftontoinverell.com.au](http://www.graftontoinverell.com.au) .



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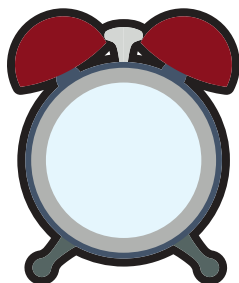
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