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With just over a week until entries close for the 50th McDonalds Grafton to Inverell Cycle Classic a record field has nominated.

A total of 359 riders have already lodged their nomination for the October 23 race with Cycling NSW. With last years record field of 330 already eclipsed organiser's forecast of 380 competitors looks likely. Eight different categories will be contested with four grades tackling the 228km course from Grafton and four will start in Glen Innes.

Riders in this year's race will vary in age from 17 in the Junior Glen Innes to Inverell race to the Masters 8 category for 65-70 year olds in the Grafton to Inverell.

One of Australia's finest cyclists from the 1970's and 1980's Danny Clark will be on the start list. Clark won five World Championships on the track between 1980 & 1991 and won a silver medal in the 1972 Olympics. Clark now lives on the Gold Coast and rides CATS cycling club.

Queensland's Bryan Ferris won the Grafton to Inverell in 1974 and will be on the start line again this year. Ferris will be starting the race for an incredible 28th time. Bryan will be one of the many former winners who will be honoured at the ceremony to unveil a monument and winners walk on the Sunday after the race.

Three times world super bike champion Troy Bayliss is also amongst the riders that have nominated. Troy who earlier this year won the Queensland masters 3 road championships will be having his second start in the classic and rides for the Gold Coast Goldstars Cycle Club.

Riders in the Celtic Classic de Femme women's race will have to contend with three teams that have been training under the guidance of 2004 Olympic Games gold medallist Sara Carrigan. Sara now runs the Sara Carrigan Cycling School on the Gold Coast and has riders from 7 to 65 years of age under her guidance. Sara said that they will have one team in the A grade race and two teams will contest the B grade. Carrigan will also be competing for the first time in this event and is looking forward the race. Sara was the special guest for the 2004 Grafton to Inverell where she was very popular with the crowds signing autographs and displaying her Olympic gold medal.

For more information, interviews or photo's contact Peter Sunderland, Media Liaison, Grafton to Inverell Cycle Classic, on 0402 983 438 or email petersunderland@bigpond.com

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