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This year's 50th McDonalds Grafton to Inverell Cycling Classic is going to be bigger and better than any before it. With a record field of up to 400 competitors expected to take on the 228km's of the toughest one-day race in Australia, featuring Australia's best cyclists. The Grafton to Inverell is also the last and deciding round of the National Road Series for teams.

The Grafton Cycling Club is hosting a Carnival to welcome the competitors and their supporters to Grafton on Friday 22nd October before they set off to tackle the mighty Gibraltar Range the next day. The carnival will coincide with the race Sign-on from 4pm to 8pm and is being held in Memorial Park, near the Crown Hotel, Prince St Grafton.

There will be food, music, displays, demonstrations, celebrities and a presentation of the elite teams competing in the National Road Series and local riders during the afternoon.

The morning of the race, there will be a free barbeque for spectators there to cheer on the riders at the start line.

The celebrations will continue when the race reaches the finish line in Inverell, with a committee of students from Inverell High School taking charge of the festivities.

Inverell High School's Year 10 Commerce class has been given unprecedented opportunity to experience the business world first hand. For the past 12 months the class has been working in conjunction with the Grafton to Inverell Committee to produce a celebratory carnival to welcome riders in this year's race.

The carnival will be held at the vacant block on the corner of Evans and Otho Sts, near the finish line, kicking off at 11am on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. There are a number of stalls which will be operating on the day offering refreshments as well as loads of entertainment. A highlight for the kids on the day will be the Ronald McDonald Magic show which will be staged at 12 noon and 12:45pm. Children will also have an opportunity to meet Ronald McDonald and Hamburglar throughout the afternoon.

This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the iconic race and with a record number of entries it will be a one off opportunity for people of Grafton and Inverell to see not only see some of Australia's elite cyclists in action but also cheer on a few of the local riders as well. Come and enjoy a fun filled action packed day.

*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](mailto:petersunderland@bigpond.com)*

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