



Media Release

Date: Friday 4 June 2021

INAUGURAL BIKE RACE EVENT TO SHOWCASE TENTERFIELD'S GRANITE TERRAIN AND BOOST LOCAL VISITOR ECONOMY

Tenterfield Shire Council is partnering with its local mountain bike club to take advantage of the emerging gravel cycling scene with a three-route race event taking place in August.

Gravel n Granite will take place on Saturday 21 August, 2021, catering for all levels of experience for participants aged 13 years and over, with three route options - 28km, 65km and 102km.

The event will be run by Tenterfield's Saddlers Mountain Bike Club and will cater for riders seeking a challenging adventure-based experience, taking them off the bitumen roads but without the higher level technical aspects of traditional mountain bike events. Not to be outdone, traditional mountain bikers are also attracted to these events, presenting an opportunity to challenge road riders on their own terrain.

Chris Thompson of *cyclesense=excellence* has worked with the club to prepare an event management plan, ensuring a professional and experienced approach is applied to planning and implementation.

"Cycling NSW has identified the potential of this new type of 'hybrid' event and has extended its traditional focus from road and track cycling to include a gravel event on its calendar for the first time," he said.

"The region's scenic, challenging gravel roads interspersed with quiet bitumen sections presents potential to attract a wide-range of participants from around the country".

Thanks to government grant funding received as a result of the region being hit hard by bushfires, it is intended that *Gravel n Granite* will generate enough momentum and attendees to become a highlight of Tenterfield's annual event calendar, attracting hundreds of participants from near and far and providing a boost to the local visitor economy.

Mayor Peter Petty said Council supports the future of gravel cycling and mountain biking in the region, following a business case presented by Regional Development Australia – Northern Inland in October 2020 in support of the *Angry Bull Mountain Bike Trails* proposal. The proposed concept would see the construction of 150km of varied trails to suit riders of all abilities, including disabled riders and walking trails, placing Tenterfield as the first year-round mountain biking destination on this scale in Australia.

“This was the first step in establishing Tenterfield Shire as an adventure tourism hub,” he said.

Early-bird registrations are open now until 11pm Monday 5 July. General registrations will close 11pm Monday 16 August.

To register: <https://thesaddlersmtbclub.com.au/gravel-n-granite>

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/GravelnGranite

Facebook Event link: <https://bit.ly/34wfnIb>

Instagram profile: www.instagram.com/gravelngranite

This event is receiving funding through the Regional Tourism Bushfire Recovery (RTBR) grant program and the Bushfire Community Resilience and Recovery Fund, Australian Government bushfire recovery initiatives.

