

Shaw takes Southern Grampians tour

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MORE than 250 riders competed in the Southern Grampians Cycling Tour in Coleraine on the weekend, with Ballarat's Patrick Shaw taking line honours.

Shaw, a member of the Ballarat Sebastopol Cycling Club, won the four-stage event in a time of six hours 52 minutes and 48 seconds.

Horsham Cycling Club's Mark O'Brien came in second with a time of six hours 52 minutes and 54 seconds, while Caulfield/Carnegie Cycling Club rider Nathan Wise came in third with a time of six hours 53 minutes and 49 seconds.

The four-stage event saw riders complete a gruelling 265 kilometres.

The B grade men's event was taken out by Bendigo and District's Jamie Cross, who finished the 230 kilometre division in a time of 6 hours 14 minutes and 23 seconds.

Albury Wodonga's Daniel McIntyre claimed victory in the 198 kilometre C grade division in a time of five hours 22 minutes and 43 seconds.

Geelong's Rudolf Schmidt was victorious in the 164 kilometre D grade division.

Caulfield/Carnegie Cycling Club rider Peta Mullens took line honours in the women's division in a time of five hours five minutes and 12 seconds, completing the 164- kilometre event 31 seconds ahead of second placed Lisa Friend, also of Caulfield/Carnegie Cycling Club.

The tour saw riders complete two road and mountain stages, a four kilometre trial and a street criterion.

Organiser Paul Bosch was thrilled with the event, with entry numbers up more than 60 riders on last year.

"It was magnificent, it couldn't have been better," Bosch said.

"With this year's numbers the event will almost certainly go ahead next year."

Bosch said the level of rider entries was impressive with the A grade field ranking amongst Australia's best.

He said riders travelled from interstate, including Sydney and Cairns, to compete in the event.