

2018



TOUR OF THE GREAT SOUTH COAST

August 15 - 19

HISTORY MADE FOR CYCLIST AND TEAM ON STAGE 4.

PERENNIAL workhorse Jason Thomason and his team Van D'am celebrated their first success in Cycling Australia's National Road Series with a stunning Stage 4 success in the Campolina-Visit Victoria Tour of the Great South Coast.

Thomason became an unwitting chaser during the climb from Heywood to Casterton and eventually was rewarded with his and his team's first success in their third year of competition.

"I usually find myself at the back but today I had the chance to chase and before I knew it we were in a four-rider breakaway and destined for a podium finish. I'm just stoked to actually win it, not only for myself but for my teammates. This has been years in the making and to finally have success is just super," the 24-year-old said.

Thomason and Patrick Burt (Drapac) set about catching tenacious high-baller Samuel Hill (Phoenix Cycling Collective) and Chris Miller from Nero and bridged the gap without a chase from the main group.

"It was hard work in the crosswinds after the mountain climbs and it took about 15km to catch the leaders," Thomason said. "But when we did I realized we had a three-minute lead with only 10km to ride and that I would be in the finish.

"I was feeling really good and went for home coming to the final stretch. This is my first big win and I'm really stoked. It just shows that if you stick at it long enough then good results will come your way.

"I have never won anything like this before. Usually I don't go out by myself so it is nice to get a shot (at victory) and to clinch it."



2018



TOUR OF THE GREAT SOUTH COAST

August 15 - 19

Thomason had 3s to spare over the courageous Samuel Hill, who collected the Fulton Hogan Most Aggressive Rider award for the second time in four days. Burt shared the same time, while big guns Sam Welsford (sixth) and Ayden Toovey (9th) came in with the main group at 26s.

Welsford, the eight-time world champion and dual Gold Coast Commonwealth Games gold medallist, won the third stage around Port MacDonnell's 128.5km circuit yesterday and continued his good form with wins in the opening two of four sprints today. However, the 22-year-old could not deplete Toovey's lead in the general classification, remaining 40s adrift in fifth place with only two stages remaining.

The third race in Cycling Australia's National Road Series continues on Saturday with a 121.4km circuit around Cape Bridgewater before ending with a Criterium at Portland on Sunday. Toovey, who is riding in great form and has the support of a powerful Bennelong Swiss Wellness Cycling team, is favourite to become the overall Campolina-Visit Victoria champion.

The winner of the recent Battle Recharge, Toovey is looking to make it two Cycling Australia National Road Series wins in a row.

He holds a 34s advantage over Nicholas White and German international Raphael Freienstein. "It was a tough day and I must say I felt it today," Toovey said.

Freienstein, who now resides in Melbourne, extended his lead in the Carlin & Gazzard-Logans Cycles-Gordon Hotel Sprint Championship to 11 points, with Michael Freiberg on 17 points doing the chasing.



2018



TOUR OF THE GREAT SOUTH COAST

August 15 - 19

Nicholas White leads the Scody King of the Mountain Championship by only three points from Samuel Hill (14 points) while young Victorian Cameron Scott (Australian Cycling Academy) has taken the lead in the CFMEU Rising Star award, nudging 5s ahead of Jarrad Drizners.

PHOTO LINK (Stage 4) https://www.dropbox.com/sh/t3fhwzm27tp5r17/AAADs6fHKVNJHla_KxCzLDT2a?dl=0
Pictures: Con Chronis

FURTHER INFORMATION:

KIPP KAUFMANN

Manager, Sport: Cycling Australia.
0430 303 577

JOHN CRAVEN

Caribou Publications & Events
0408 558 469

ROD NICHOLSON

Media Officer
0417 134 673

