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## Sport History

### *Cycling – Road*

#### **Origins and the sport today:**

France is the birthplace of road cycling, with the first recorded road race won in Paris by British rider James MOORE in May 1868, while a city-to-city race was held between Paris and Rouen on 7 November 1869. Official road racing soon spread through continental Europe and the first Tour de France took place in 1903.

Today, at the elite level competitors take part in one-day or stage races. One-day competition is generally over a distance of about 200km for men and 120km for women. Stage racing often includes individual time trials.

The Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) WorldTour is the leading men's series of races, while the women race the UCI Women's WorldTour.

#### **Road cycling at the Commonwealth Games:**

Road cycling is an optional sport at the Commonwealth Games, meaning it is up to the host federation to decide whether it should be on the program.

The sport has developed since first appearing at the British Empire Games in 1938. However, it wasn't until the Brisbane 1982 Commonwealth Games that the men's team time trial joined the men's road race. At Gold Coast 2018 there are two events for both men and women: individual time trial and road race.

The past two Commonwealth Games have seen road cycling medals shared among several countries, although England, Australia and New Zealand have been particularly successful. Lizzie ARMITSTEAD (ENG) won gold in the women's road race at Glasgow 2014 and silver in Delhi 2010. New Zealand's Linda VILLUMSEN won Commonwealth Games gold (Glasgow 2014) and silver (Delhi 2010), in the time trial. Australia's most successful Commonwealth Games was Melbourne 2006, where its riders won nine of the 12 road cycling medals on offer.

The cycling road race on the Gold Coast is an 18.7km loop from Currumbin beachfront to Elanora, and out through the Currumbin Valley. The women's event will complete six laps for 112km; the men nine laps for a total of 168km.

The women's time trial will see competitors take on a 24.5km course; the men's event adds a loop out to Currumbin rock pools for a total of 37.8km.

#### **Road cycling in Australia:**

Cycling Australia (CA) is the national governing body across road, track, mountain bike, cyclo-cross and BMX. In 2013, there were almost 50,000 members.

Probably the most famous Australian road cyclist is Cadel EVANS, who won the Tour de France in 2011 – he also competed in mountain biking, winning the World Cup in 1998 and 1999.

Other standout performers include Simon GERRANS, who has won the Tour Down Under four times and worn the Tour de France yellow jersey. Stuart O'GRADY took part in a record 17 Tours de France, while Rochelle GILMORE won Australia's most recent Commonwealth Games road cycling gold, at the Delhi 2010 competition.