



25 April 2012

Portland Sustainability Group

MEDIA RELEASE

Future Spark Bike Project Community Launch

Portland residents are invited to channel their inner Cadel Evans or Anna Meares by helping to launch the Future Spark Bike Project in Portland next Monday evening at the Portland YMCA from 5am onwards.

The free community launch marks the beginning of a 5 day event supported by the Glenelg Shire Council, Portland Sustainability Group, YMCA and Portland Cycling Club bringing the Future Spark Bike Trailer to Portland schools and the wider community.

At the heart of the project is the Future Spark Bike Trailer which transports 12 stationery bikes that convert pedal power to electricity. This is real electricity that can be plugged straight back into the grid.

Portland Sustainability Group member and event organiser Sally Jensen explains;

“This is human powered renewable energy,” Ms Jensen said.

“When the bikes are ridden clean, green energy is created and this can be measured and fed back into the grid.

“I’d encourage anyone interested in bike riding, renewable energy or sustainability to attend the free community launch. This is your chance to see and ride the bikes, ask questions and learn more about renewable energy,” she added.

Highlights of the launch include the 5pm Freestyle bike class led by a YMCA instructor. At 7pm members of the Portland Cycling Club will get competitive, racing each other for 30 minutes. The energy they produce will be measured against the Guinness World Record for the most human generated power produced in a given time period.

There will also be open rides with some great prizes on offer.

For those who prefer to spectate rather than compete there is still plenty to do with food stalls and musical entertainment.

The Future Spark Bike Project launch will be held Monday April 30 from 5 – 9pm outside the Portland YMCA. This is a free community event and all are welcome.

Following the launch event the Future Spark Bike Trailer will tour Portland schools offering educational workshops that demystify energy use in a tangible way and encourage young people to ride bikes.

For more information about the event please visit www.psg.org.au. For more information about the Future Spark Bike Trailer please visit www.futurespark.com.au

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