

# Nelson tours on the road

By Simon Bloomberg

New Zealand track squad riders dominated the first stage of the Tour de Vineyards cycling race near Nelson while Canterbury's Annalisa Farrell secured the leaders jersey on the opening day of the Tour de Femme.

Canterbury's Hayden Roultson won yesterday's 13-lap, 60km Hope circuit stage in the Tour de Vineyards. Roultson recorded a fast one hour 36 minutes 10 seconds to hold out track squad team-mate Hayden Godfrey, also of Canterbury, by just 4sec.

The two Haydens applied the pressure from the outset, attempting to break away on laps two and three. It was Roultson who eventually made the winning move two laps from the finish.

Follow national track squad members Greg Henderson, of Dunedin, and Lee Vertongen, of Palmerston North, were third and fourth respectively with Dunedin's Anthony Chapman fifth.

A chasing group of 32 riders, including Nelson mountain bike exponent Tim Vincent and Riwaka junior Ben Robson, finished in sixth equal just 14 seconds behind Roultson.

The B grade race over 40km was won by Canterbury veteran Glenn Fuller in 1hr 4min 32sec. United States-based professional Susy Pryde won the women's section finishing in the same time as Fuller in fourth.

Takaka's Lisa Savage was the second women rider home also finishing in the same time in sixth equal.

The race was scheduled to continue today with an 80km second stage that will take competitors around the Reay Saddle and Spooners Range.

The tour ends on Sunday with the Hill St Circuit.

Canterbury's Farrell won the

tour leaders jersey and the respect of other 34 women riders after an impressive 10km time trial in the Tour de Femme.

Farrell finished the day 20 seconds ahead of Wellington's Susie Wood after yesterday's second stage. Jennie Stenhouse, also of Wellington, was a further 37 seconds back in third.

Earlier in the day, the opening stage was won by Robyn Wong of Wellington. Wong produced the best sprint of seven riders in the leading bunch to win the 70km out and back stage to Golden Downs in 1hr 53min 5sec.

Toni Bradshaw, Johanna Buick and Wood had sprinted clear on the Reay Saddle but Wong, then Farrell, Stenhouse and Nicky Solomon rejoined the pacemakers on the return leg.

Nelson's Rebecca Cullen and Amanda West both rode well, Cullen ending the day in the top 10 on general classification with West just over a minute behind.

Riders were due to start today's time trial from the Riwaka Hotel to the top of the Takaka Hill at 10am. Stage four, a 35km Motueka Valley circuit, was scheduled to start from the Motueka Airport at 2.30pm.

The tour ends tomorrow with an 80km ride over the Moutere Hill into the Waitahero then Neudorf valleys.

Top five placings in yesterday's stages:

**Tour de Vineyards:**  
 Race 1 stage 1: Hayden Roultson (Canry) 1:36:00 1, Hayden Godfrey (Canry) 1:36:06 2, Greg Henderson (Dunedin) 1:36:14 3, Lee Vertongen (Palm Nth) 1:36:14 4, Anthony Chapman (Dunedin) 1:36:14 5.

Race 2 stage 1: Glenn Fuller (Canry) 1:04:22 1, Brent Ferigo (Canry) 1:04:32 2, Steve Sanderson (Canry) 1:04:32 3, Susy Pryde (Auck) 1:04:32 4, Dennis Cooper (Nelson) 1:04:32 5.

**Nelson Tour de Femme:**

General classification: Annalisa Farrell (Canr), 2:06:55 1, Susie Wood (Wgtn) 2:06:15 2, Jennie Stenhouse (Wgtn) 2:06:52 3, Johanna Buick (Canr) 2:06:58 4, Nicky Solomon (Palm Nth) 2:07:03 5.



**BIG PUSH:** Riders in the Tour de Femme warm up for yesterday's time trial event from Nelson North to Founder's Park.