



# Brave inclination

## CYCLISTS AIM TO SCALE MT LOFTY... WITH JUST THREE GEARS

Tim Williams

CYCLIST Rebecca Bendall is determined to conquer Mt Lofty on a heavy, three-gear City Bike, in a local version of a British man's stunt on one of the Tour de France's most famous mountain climbs.

Last October Matthew Winstone and two mates hired a "Boris bike" – named after London Mayor Boris Johnson – and took it by van through the Eurotunnel to France, where Mr Winstone rode it up the 1912m Mont Ventoux.

They had the bike back in London with one minute to spare on the 24-hour limit, avoiding a £150 (\$273) fine.

Ms Bendall plans to lead a group of cyclists up Mt Lofty on free City Bikes as part of the new Velo-fringe cycling themed festival in May. The city resident, 28, said she and her riding buddies were

inspired by Mr Winstone's feat.

"We thought it would be really funny if we rode up Mt Lofty on City Bikes," she said.

"It just started rolling from there and the guys I cycle with are up for a challenge."

Checking out the City Bikes this week, she realised how hard it would be. "They were a lot heavier than our bikes, about 20kg when ours are about 8kg," Ms Bendall said.

"They have three gears and ours have 22."

Ms Bendall, who looks after hundreds of students as property manager of the Urban Nest apartments on Bank St, took up cycling a year ago when she moved to Adelaide from Brisbane.

Such is her zeal for the sport that not even a terrify-

ing collision with a truck in the Blue Mountains on Christmas Eve could dampen her enthusiasm.

She was in New South Wales visiting her parents when a truck pulled onto a highway in the Blue Mountains, knocking her off her bike and crushing it.

Ms Bendall suffered a fractured pelvis and shoulder and ankle injuries, but now laughs about how her biggest concern was for her bike.

"The police on the scene said I kept asking 'What's happened to my bike?'"

About 30 people had pitched event ideas for Velo-fringe, a joint Adelaide City Council and State Government venture, even before registrations opened this month.

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**Rebecca Bendall with other cyclists Michael Lange, Graham Lord and Peter Short.**

Picture: SIMON CROSS