

Triathlon Tasmania

President's Report 2010-11

Triathlon Tasmania had a successful 2010-11 season. The season saw increased membership and participation, with each affiliated club holding full programs of events.

2010-11 saw the implementation of a new board structure for Triathlon Tasmania, with the board focussing on broad governance issues with the clubs able to develop participation in their regions. Strong and viable clubs are the backbone of the sport in the state. At the same reform to membership of Triathlon Tasmania has given Triathlon Tasmania a great base.

The calendar provided a great range of events and keen competition. The return of Devonport Triathlon to the national race calendar was a major highlight. The Coles Bay 100 continues to grow and provided competitors and spectators a chance to race in one of the most scenic sports in the country.

The Schools Triathlon Challenge again provided a great vehicle to introduce the sport, and the event also continues to grow, almost reaching capacity in its current form in Hobart. This event was a finalist in the Minster's Award at the Tasmanian Sports Awards in 2010-11.

The Triathlon Tasmania State Series again provided a focus for the season. Despite having to cope with unseasonal weather in January 2011 affecting Devonport and Latrobe events (and the Tasmanian aquathlon championships in Launceston) the series was a success. Good fields took part in events at all venues: Devonport, Latrobe, Beauty Point; Coles Bay and Seven Mile Beach. The Coles Bay 100 was part of the national long course series this year, and Seven Mile Beach part of the sprint distance national series. The opportunity to compete in events across different distances was also an innovation in 2010-11. The State Decathlon Championship (part of the national series) was held October 2010. I congratulate our Tasmanian champions and places getters in all categories in the state series.

I would also like to recognise those Tasmanian triathletes who have competed in national and international events, including those members who made the Australian teams to the 2011 worlds. In other events Dylan Evans gained a podium finish in the Oceania ITU Junior Championships. James Hodge performed exceptionally to win the Australian age group championship and gain top selection to the worlds in Beijing, and returned with a gold medal in the 18-19 age group. Amelia Pearson was first Australian woman (and Australian champion) in the Australian Ironman championship at Port Macquarie, Joe Gambles won the Australian Half Ironman championship also at Port Macquarie and Hayden Armstrong again had a fantastic performance at Kona.

At the 2010-11 awards dinner we were able to recognise a number of longstanding servants of the sport with Life Memberships awarded to Craig Redman and Steve Oliver, with Joe Pearson awarded the Royce Fairbairn Award. The awards evening provided a great opportunity to recognise contributions to the sport and I would like to thank the Launceston Triathlon Club for the hosting of the event.

James Hodge and Amelia Pearson were Male and Female Athletes of the year; Dylan Evans the junior athlete of the year; Matt Gaby most improved junior athlete.

The outstanding Triathlon achievement for athletes under 40 was awarded to Hayden Armstrong, with Benny Parsons the award for outstanding Triathlon achievement for athletes over 40. We recognised significant contributions to the sport with the award for volunteer of the year going to Juliet Plumb; the president's Award to Bob Vandavelde and the Technical officer of the Year to Peter Adams. The Triathlon Tasmania Race of the Year was awarded to Coles Bay 100.

Our junior programs through each club saw increased numbers of junior triathletes participating thanks to sponsorship from the Fairbrother Group. A team was selected and sent to School Sports Association National Junior Triathlon Championships in Queensland. March 2011. Tasmanian junior athletes attended a development camp linked to Triathlon Australia's National Talent Identification Program and the junior development pathway expanded with support from Triathlon Australia for an Elite Junior (ITU) Coaching Program and ongoing liaison with the Tasmanian Institute of Sport. I would like to thank Casey Mainsbridge for his work at the ITU development camp and Wayne Gale for his work with the State Junior Team.

Our technical program continued to develop. Suzie Bower has provided great leadership and commitment to this program. Technical Officials training and development has been ongoing and Suzie has provided mentoring of Technical Officials through review of performances as the Technical Chair, Triathlon Tasmania. This season saw the retirement of Bob VanderVelde from the technical program after many years of service and his expertise and commitment will be hard to replace. I encourage all to take a TO course and don a green jacket for a different view of the races course.

I would like to acknowledge the ongoing support from Sport and Recreation Tasmania, and recognise an increased grant to support our activities in 2010-11 and to Fairbrother Group for their sponsorship of our junior program. Royce and Thea Fairbrother's ongoing support and commitment to our sport has been unsurpassed. Southern Cross has again been our primary media partner.

Volunteer-based organisations rely on commitments from all. In concluding I would like to acknowledge the work of the Triathlon Tasmania Board over the past year. This work is necessary and often demanding for volunteers, but we are fortunate in having considerable expertise within our clubs and on to the board. In particular I would like to thank Andrea Wolfert for her work as part-time Executive Officer from October 2010-February 2011 and acknowledge the contribution made by Tracy Doherty who has been part-time Executive Officer from March 2011. Tracey also continued her role as treasurer and helped ensure Triathlon Tasmania continued to consolidate its financial position.

Marcus Haward

President
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