



## Triathlon NT Presidents Report 2014/2015

This year was the first year the committee operated under the new constitution and while this may not appear as a significant event to the untrained eye, many hours of work went into this process which sees our governance at the forefront of sports in the Northern Territory as well as compared to the other state and territory Triathlon bodies. The structure gives Triathlon Northern Territory the advantage of being small and nimble, much like the sport of triathlon itself and most often noticed in comparison to those of the larger bodies. We have the freedom to adapt easily, but with this flexibility we must be the clear goals and operational framework.

### Our Main Programme

- The Junior and Coach Development Program has gone from strength to strength, with support from the NTIS as an Academy Sport. Highlights of the Development Camps were-
  - the recognition and subsequent professional filming of junior athletes' bike skills to be used as a training resource for the Triathlon Australia coaching program.
  - Increasing capabilities and level of service of coaches within the program
  - Increase the practical experience of TO with real regional conditions
- The 2014/2015 season saw the Northern Territory achieve a record number of junior participation. The Junior Program is delivered throughout the year, to juniors aged from 5 to 19, across the NT in a variety of participation and development sessions that are designed to develop the fundamental skills of running, riding and swimming. 2015 saw the introduction of the 'Active Feet' program in Katherine which boomed to its current capacity of 75 participants per week within two terms.
- Saturday 10 April saw 'Super Saturday' which incorporated the Ray White Bayside NT Sprint Distance Championships, NT Junior Championships and Kids Triathlon. The action-packed day expertly managed under trying traffic conditions.
- The NT Standard Distance Championship and the NT Long Distance Championships were both held in the second half of the season with solid competitor numbers and performances. The boutique NT Long Course Championships saw the return to the traditional Lake Bennett course. We hope the relationship between Lake Bennett and Triathlon continues to grow stronger as such facilities are precious.
- The NT Technical Program was re-invigorated with a highly successful Level 1 course being run by David Williams from Triathlon NSW, which saw a tripling of the Technical Officials in the Northern Territory.
- There was a wide range of participation events for those wanting to try triathlon, with all Triathlon NT events being opened to non-Triathlon Australia members in 2014/2015 (Ray White Bayside NT Sprint Distance, NT Junior, NT Standard Distance & NT Long Course). Alice Springs and Darwin

Triathlon Clubs gave non-members the opportunity to join in the fun in a number of their events across a number of distance and formats.

- Department of Sport and Recreation provided fantastic support to Triathlon NT and with their continued support we are able to support and grow the sport of Triathlon within the NT and again encouraged as being on the very cusp of being granted tier two sport status. Securing a permanent safe facility for the sport has become a strategic target given the changing nature of sport in the Northern Territory.

Department of Sport and Recreation are also in the process of producing a Sports and Active Recreation Master Plan which Triathlon has been asked to be involved with. The Executive officer and President made submissions on behalf of Triathlon Northern Territory. Each club will also get an opportunity to contribute to this process.

- For some time now it has been rather obvious that our events within our community, even ones as small as Darwin, is facing more and more challenges in terms of participant safety and traffic management. The traffic density is increasing as well as the economic cost of management of these events. It is one of the challenges this committee has faced through finding and running Olympic and Long course events. Securing long term permanent facilities is the challenge that is faced by this incoming committee. The advantage we have is that we have identified this issue well before it has become critical.

It continues to amaze me that we find and produce quality triathletes, I just wish they weren't in my age group. The success that we see today is a continued reflection of the coaches and participants that engage and foster new competitors. We are also lucky that our sport also allows us to compete just with ourselves, so the pathways are defined and that the only limiting factor is how far we wish to pursue this sport.

- The national commentary I will raise would be that of unification, the direction of Triathlon Australia and what the members of Northern Territory expect of this body. This model is proposed to engage benefits as a whole of sport, and the benefits of such a model should be delivered across the whole of the country and the sport. If you do not know much about this process I would encourage to seek understanding from your committee, from your President and from your fellow athletes. We need to be part of this conversation, but not just to say we were there, but to influence how this unification model is going to be implemented. After all you paid for this.
- Finally as the budget says we managed to more or less break even this year, \$743 loss in a set of programs that had diminished expected funding from Triathlon Australia and Sport and Rec, but increased contributions from other sources of income.

Finally I would like to thank the Executive officers Anna Goat and Ange Castle who really do so very much for the sport of Triathlon in the Northern Territory. The committee who have taken the sport from strength to strength through the transition period, especially the treasurer whom managed the accounts, a job, a second child and an Ironman.

Regards James

President Triathlon NT