



### **Northern Territory Presidents Report for 23/24:**

We are nearing the end of the first three years of our agreement to operate as part of Aus Triathlon, rather than as a separate entity as we did in the past. This model has clearly been in the best interests of both the Northern Territory and the sport, and I believe it's crucial that we continue in this direction. I'm also pleased to share that just last week, we formally welcomed the ACT into the Aus Triathlon management model—a very exciting development for them. I'd like to extend my thanks to the board of Aus Triathlon, including President Michelle Cooper, and to the Presidents of the other states for their ongoing commitment to advancing the sport.

I'm also pleased to announce that we have secured NT Government funding for the next five years, from 2024 to 2029. We owe a great deal of thanks to Alex Anasson for her dedication, time, and energy in making this happen. I'd also like to acknowledge NTG Sport and Rec, led by Mitch Hardy, for their instrumental support in finalising this agreement.

This year has seen the state racing series aligned across all states and territories. This development has made it easier for our members to access competitions and be recognized for their achievements, and it's also resulted in cost savings for our clubs, as Aus Tri now provides the medals. We've also had great success with World Qualification Events, which offer NT athletes a pathway to international competition. For the Sprint and Standard events, we had 30 interstate competitors travel to Darwin, which is the largest number we've ever hosted. My thanks go to DTC for organizing these events and providing your members with such valuable opportunities.

We've enjoyed the World Multisport Championships in Townsville in 2024 and look forward to the World Triathlon Championships in Wollongong in 2025. These events are a testament to the great work being done by the Aus Tri board to bring world-class competitions to Australia. As we approach Brisbane 2032, we anticipate even more international events, and I encourage all our NT athletes to aim for selection and make the most of these opportunities.

On a related note, I'd like to wish good luck to Bronwyn, John, Steph, and Ben, who will be representing the NT in the World Triathlon Championships in Torremolinos, Spain, next week. We're incredibly proud to have them on the world stage.

Our juniors continue to go from strength to strength. From our junior development camps, organized with the help of Brendan Cochrane, Kate Bramley, and Ross Young, to the amazing work of our coaches who dedicate their time and energy to teaching the fundamentals of swimming, biking, and running through the Mov3 Program, which engages 320 kids per year—your efforts are laying the foundation for the future of triathlon in the NT. Special thanks also to Tim Harradine, Aus Tri CEO, for recognizing our investment in the NT.

This year saw the return of the International Women's Day Aquathlon at Nightcliff, with 102 girls and women participating, was a highlight, and due to the overwhelming positive feedback, we're planning to host this event annually. We want to see more women participate in our sport and hope more opportunities like this will allow for this. Well done to Lucy for this bringing this initiative back to life.

I want to express our sincere gratitude to our major supporter, the Northern Territory Government. Without their funding, our local clubs simply would not be able to run events at the affordable prices they do. Your continued support is invaluable, and we thank you for helping make these opportunities accessible to our athletes.

I would also like to extend a special thanks to Maximise Physio for generously providing prizes and discounts to our members. Additionally, Laneway and Besser have been fantastic in donating vouchers for our juniors and volunteers. Your ongoing support strengthens our community, and we truly appreciate it.

During the year, Darwin Triathlon Club received \$10,000 from Jacana Energy, and I'd like to give a special mention to Ang Libro for her hard work in securing this support. Katherine Multisport Club received over \$20,000 from Nitmiluk Tours to support the Ultra Challenge event. Without their generous contribution, the event simply would not have been possible. Congratulations to the committees for their excellent stakeholder engagement in making this happen.

Thirteen athletes represented the Northern Territory at the World Multisport Championships in Townsville—the largest team we've ever had at the event. Our athletes performed brilliantly, with Tim Ellison securing a 3rd place finish in the Aquathlon. I'd also like to take a moment to wish Michael Ninneman a speedy recovery after his unfortunate accident. We look forward to seeing him back in training soon.

I'm also proud to highlight that NT Triathlon is a co-signatory of the Swimming in Schools Alliance, alongside seven other NT organizations. This partnership is working closely with the NT Department of Education to ensure that by 2025, all government school students in the Northern Territory will have access to free swimming lessons. This initiative is a commitment made by the CLP during the election, and we're excited to see it rolled out.

Although it is technically in this year's reporting period, Ali Fitch had the incredible opportunity to serve as the physio for the Australian Triathlon team at the Paris Olympics in July 2024. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to her for this remarkable achievement.

Next weekend marks the return after a six-year hiatus, that triathlon will be returning to the Alice Springs Masters Games! With 70 registrations already confirmed for next weekend's event, it's fantastic to see such strong support for the sport in Alice Springs.

In closing, I'd like to thank our dedicated board members—Steve, Shannon, Dave, Bec, and Liesa—for their hard work and commitment throughout the year. Your contributions have been invaluable, and I wish the next board continued success as we move forward.

I would also like to thank Lucy for all the hard work she has done in her role over the time I have been in the Presidents role. Thank you again for this.

Thank you,

Lucas Hayden

NT Triathlon President 2023/2024