

PRESIDENTS ANNUAL REPORT

VIC TRIATHLON

What a great season for Victorian triathlon in 2023/24!

Race starts were up: we had a 17% increase in race starts from the prior year. This included about 25,000 race starts at 64 events, which is happily back to pre-pandemic levels. Membership of AusTriathlon also continues to grow, with a 2% increase on the previous season, at 2,109 members. Well done to all the clubs and squads for continuing to attract and engage members!

We are grateful to all race directors for hosting outstanding events in Victoria, from the smaller local club and regional races to the big IRONMAN and O2 events. The professionalism and energy have been fantastic.

We have conducted several coaching courses in Melbourne this year, with our coach numbers staying steady at 103. We are keen to deliver a regional program for Coaching and Technical Officials soon – which will be enabled with some helpful funding support from Sport and Recreation Victoria.

Our excellent Technical Officials have worked tirelessly to service events and provide safe and fair racing environments. We are proud to say that we have a 50% gender split in our strong team of 54 TO's. However, we are always looking for more, so please contact info@vic.triathlon.org.au if you're interested in joining the TO team!

The 10th Annual VIC Triathlon Awards took place at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre on Saturday 1st June, where we recognised the outstanding achievements and contributions of our athletes, club volunteers, coaches, technical officials, and members make to triathlon in Victoria. It was an excellent event with over 200 people in attendance.

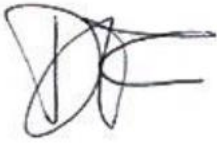
We had a successful season for over 40 Victorian athletes in the National Pathway Network, with camps, specialist training programs, and great racing opportunities.

I've just returned from an awesome Age-Group World Championships in Townsville, joining over 250 Victorian members in the 1200-strong Australian team! We had some excellent performances from Victorians, with 14 gold medallists, 14 silver medallists, and 9 bronze medallists. It was the first time that a World Triathlon championship event has specifically

recognised athletes with an intellectual impairment, and it was no surprise to see our Victorian team dominate, with Georgia Powning and Cameron Marshall taking gold medals in the sprint distance Duathlon; Montana Whiteley and Carlo Manolitsas picking up silver, and Clara Campillos and Andre Ascui taking bronze. Cameron Marshall and Montana Whiteley also received a gold medal in the standard distance Duathlon. Well done IST team! On behalf of the non-medallist contingent, I must say it was fantastic just to get out on the beautiful courses and be part of it.

Our second year of combined operations under AusTriathlon continues to provide benefits of cost savings, continuity of staff, and streamlined strategy execution. We are confident these benefits will be embedded and enhanced over the coming years.

Thank you to the tireless staff in Victoria, and thank you to all our wonderful clubs, passionate members, race directors and stakeholders for another great season.



Deborah Friedlander