

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

VIC TRIATHLON

What a great season for Victorian triathlon in 2024/25!

The sport continued to demonstrate strong growth and engagement with 27,543 race-starts, which is a 10.2% increase for the season. Mirroring this we had an impressive 77 sanctioned events (an 18% increase) split between 28 metro and 49 regional events. The re-introduction of the VIC Regional Series, which comprised of six races scattered around the state, was a key contributor to the sanctioned events and increase in participation.

Our membership continued to grow, with a 3% increase on the previous season, with our membership for the year at 2,169. We proudly supported 41 affiliated clubs and squads, including the return of Bendigo Triathlon Club and the establishment of two new clubs (one regional and one metro), further strengthening our grassroots network and expansion of our community.

Our amazing clubs and squads, who provide positive environments for triathletes to train, race, socialise and embrace our great sport, are the reasons for our continued growth in membership. We are also extremely thankful to all race directors putting on events, including smaller events, local club and regional races, as well as IRONMAN and O2events, who always provide unique and exciting opportunities for our community to enjoy.

Our team of 33 active technical officials worked tirelessly to service events and provide safe and fair racing environments. We hosted our first ever Regional technical official course in Bendigo in October 2024, which resulted in 10 new TO's completing the course and Field of Play assessment. 7 of them went onto being regular TO's at our races throughout the 2024/25 season.

Coach development remained a focus in Victoria, with 154 accredited coaches' (spanning from Foundation to High Performance) last season. A feeder in this space came from the delivery of three Foundation Coach courses and one Development Coach course. An upskilling program was also delivered to 10 of the Inclusive Sports Training coaches (ie, coaches in the Intellectual Impairment space) building on their knowledge from the Foundation course they undertook in 2023. All these programs continue to strengthen coaching capability and build a skilled workforce across the state.

The 2024/25 season marked another successful year for the VIC State Pathway Program, continuing its mission to identify and support emerging triathlon talent across Victoria. The program supported a total of 65 athletes, with a strong representation of both genders: 31 female and 34 male athletes. In addition to the program, 6 athletes were selected for the prestigious Target Talent Program, a program which looks to support athletes' progression towards the High-Performance pathway. This program provides a clear and structured pathway for young athletes aspiring to elite competition.

The 11th Annual VIC Triathlon Awards were held on Saturday 31 May at Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre, celebrating the outstanding achievements and contributions of our athletes, members, volunteers, coaches and technical officials. We were fortunate to have ex-Winter Olympian, now turned triathlete, Britt Cox entertain our 170 or so attendees with stories of her past achievements and future goals.

The season saw strong funding outcomes, with a strategic emphasis on Regional Victoria. Investment supported the delivery of coaching and technical courses, regional event support and foundation work to deliver Inclusive and First Nations programs next season. These initiatives are ensuring equitable access to triathlon participation and development opportunities across all communities. Toward the end of the season, we secured a new 2-year funded Workforce Development grant which will focus on the development and upskilling of our current volunteer Technical Official network.

We extend our sincere thanks to our dedicated staff, affiliated clubs/squads, passionate members, race directors, volunteers and stakeholders. Your ongoing commitment continues to elevate triathlon and multisport in Victoria.

Here's to another exciting season ahead!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Walsh'.

Damian Walsh.