



## **Triathlon ACT President's Report 2024**

The Triathlon ACT 2023-24 season highlighted the dedication of our 698 members, spread across 6 affiliated clubs, as well as coaches, volunteers, technical officials and partners.

I had the great pleasure of taking the reigns of the ACT Triathlon Board in November 2023, after our long-term President Sally Hamilton stepped. Sally's contribution and leadership of ACT Triathlon during some of the most challenging times for our sport, including the COVID-19 pandemic was immeasurable, and I thank her for her relentless commitment to and advocacy for our sport in the ACT.

At the 2023 Annual General Meeting, we welcomed three new members to the ACT Triathlon Board, Rod Harrod, Katie Binstock and Samantha Shields. Their passion for triathlon and growing the sport in the ACT has ensured they have all had an immediate impact on the Board.

This year we saw the return of long course racing in the ACT with Challenge Canberra drawing some of the best Australian and international talent to our nation's capital, including our own Penny Slater. Penny continues to achieve on the international stage, most recently finishing 7th at the IRONMAN World Championships in Nice, France.

We would like to acknowledge local race director Canberra Multisport Events which not only delivered Challenge Canberra, but also Try a Tri and Little T's Triathlon. These events contributed to the almost 1900 race starts over the 2023-24 season.

We continue to pride ourselves on our community-driven approach to triathlon, and in the delivery of our flag ship events including the Capital Duathlon, Jackie Fairweather Memorial Triathlon, and Aquathlon series athletes from across our Clubs competed for vital World Championship selection points. As a result, we saw our age-group athletes compete in Pontevedra, Spain and Hamberg, Germany, as well as qualify for the 2024 Multisport World Championships in Townsville, Queensland.

We would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the ACT government for their continued support of ACT Triathlon. As predicted, following a change to the Government's funding model for State Sporting Organisations, the way ACT Triathlon is funded has changed to focus on project and governance outcomes. As a result, we have received funding for 2024-25 to undertake a review of our Constitution to align it with sports governance best practice, as well as to deliver a kid's triathlon.

While this change in funding will present new challenges for the Board, thanks to the work of our Treasurer Leeanne Tennant we have built this change into our budget and forward planning.

In 2023-24, we reviewed our Interclub Series and Awards including the retirement of three Special Awards – the Darren Luskey Award for Ironman Achievement, Rachel Baker Memorial Award for Outstanding Achievement in Triathlon, and the Simon Thompson Award for Most

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Outstanding Performance by a Junior. The ACT Triathlon Board has not made this decision lightly, but with a deep sense of respect for the achievements and legacy of Darren, Rachel and Simon.

As ACT Triathlon continues to evolve and grow, we believe it is important to streamline our recognition efforts to better align with our current mission and values. We remain committed to honouring excellence, celebrating accomplishments and contributions of our members in new and meaningful ways moving forward. As such, we introduced four new Special Awards - Endurance Spirit Award, Spirit of Triathlon, Multisport Rising Star, and Athlete's Athlete. We received nearly 90 nominations across all our Special Awards and we acknowledge the achievements of all our individual major award winners and age group champions.

A special congratulations to Females in Training for being crowned Interclub Champions for the first time.

A special thank you to Steve Bingley for his expertise, energy and vision he brought to the ACT Triathlon community. Steve's enthusiasm, as well as the unwavering support of his wife Mel, has reinvigorated our local events and set us up for success for the future success.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the ACT Triathlon Board - Vice President Katie Binstock, Treasurer - Leeanne Tennant, board members - Mary Sietsma, Chris Allison, Samantha Shields and Rod Harrod. In particular, I would like to thank Mary and Chris for their contributions to the Board as they have both decided to step down, we wish them both well and look forward to seeing them continue to race and contribute to triathlon in the ACT.

In 2023-24 we have continued to grow our sport, share triumphs and importantly share an unwavering commitment to excellence. As we turn our attention to the 2024-25

season, the ACT Triathlon Board seeks to nurture an environment where we collaborate in the spirit of sportsmanship for the betterment of the sport in the ACT.

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