



## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

FEBRUARY 2021

Dear All,

It goes without saying that triathletes love challenges and throughout 2020, we had a few.

However, I am pleased to report that despite those challenges Warringah Tri Club has continued to be successful and achieve key goals in our aim to be greatest Triathlon Club in the world!! Notably over the last few months:

- WTC Won the 2020 NSW Club Champs in Forster
- WTC Won the 2019/20 NSW Interclub Division 1 Championship and got Promoted to the Premier League 
- WTC is a growing club, with an increased current membership to over 380 members, up from 350 at the end June 2020.
- Our North Head Club race participation levels are increased, with the last few races sell outs!
- WTC successfully introduced the West Head TT races in conjunction with MWCC.
- The general training participation is up at all events, midweek and Saturday cycling and Smithy's run proving very popular.
- Our Covid management and compliance has been robust.

### NSW Club Champions 2020

With a very different 2020 and the Club Champs having been postponed twice the opportunity to get the "Team" together for mid-November became a key goal for the club.

We benefited from the fact that our engagement level throughout COVID with the virtual races, exercise of the day, Strava segments and getting back to our own races since August had kept us comparatively well connected.

The fact that we had more members racing than any other club was tremendously satisfying (81 starters, 15% of all competitors) and credit to Deanna for her work messaging and following up members to get our age groups filled.

To win the NSW club champs a club must get consistency across the age groups and have a big team. For the first time in years, we had representation across every age group in every age group 16 to 75+. Having one of the youngest athletes in Logan Campbell (16) and the oldest (The Legend) Geoff Thorsen (77) and the biggest club team!!

Thanks to Graham Latta for his time and effort arranging the accommodation at Belle Villa, with the changes in dates Graham had to arrange three weekends of accommodation and last-minute changes, it was terrific for us to have the Team Warringah base at Belle Villa motel and support for many of the team to just turn up and race.

Another highlight was the goodie bags that were pulled together at short notice by the Vickerys (Alex and Lis), not only were there Warringah Triathlon Club bags, caps and drink bottles, but the socks were absolute genius.

If that was not enough the super couple stayed out in the mega storm on Friday evening to issue the bags, a sterling effort! This unselfish level of commitment did not go unnoticed with so many commenting to me how great the bags were and how wonderful Alex and Lis were that evening, I hope they know how their input was appreciated so widely and fuelled our team spirit for the next day!!

The proliferation of WTC kit and the fluoro socks on course were magnificent, the weekend was all about the team!! Team Warringah! The other clubs were already in awe of the WTC turnout.

A big thank you to our volunteers, to all those who raced and congratulations to our five AG winners, Nicole Ward, Miriam Orr, Chris Grenvold, Logan Campbell and Michael Smith.

Our NSW championship win was dominant and restamped the Warringah Triathlon Club as the club to beat!

COVID response – We set our goal in May last year, to get through the COVID pandemic with optimism, resilience and whatever is necessary to ensure we remain healthy and assist each other in life and triathlon. I have been continually impressed with our members at the sheer ingenuity of how we stayed connected through last year. The virtual races, exercise of the day, Strava segments and the Triopoly were brilliant initiatives, driven and supported by so many.



It is at these time that we must prioritise that we are primarily a community club and offer a support network to our community and peers. It's apparent as individuals and as a club we have done just that and continue to do so.

Through our training and racing we have demonstrated a high degree of Covid compliance and common sense, with races returning with full Covid Plans we have targeted to be exemplary in how WTC conduct ourselves. We were one of the first clubs back racing from August 2020 and are looking to maintain the good practice as long as we need.

We apologise that we had to take the decision to cancel the January 2021 club race and postpone training whilst the Northern Beaches bubble was in force, it was the only option. Again, we have bounced back with training and racing in full swing.

### WTC Club Races

Club races have continued since August with a great deal of additional planning, but I am delighted to report that participation is at an all-time high and the quality of the races is continually improving.

WTC sets a benchmark for club races, with our committee goal to host the best club races in Australia, with a focus on being safe, professional, low pressure events and providing an atmosphere that encourages all levels to participate.

We have invested in updated timing equipment, post-race on site results, traffic safety equipment and had the club trailers rebranded.

Thanks to NSW Office of Sport's 'Her Sport Her Way' program, WTC has been able to organise four women's-only, beginner-friendly events which emphasise 'Finish Lines, Not Finish Times'.

We decided at the clubs cost to provide free photos to competitors from our events. We have engaged Freshie photography for club races and every other TT, the photos to have been superb. We want to show case the club races and encourage you all to share your race day photos.

We are expecting good numbers at our last two triathlon races at North Head on 14<sup>th</sup> March and 11<sup>th</sup> April 2021. We have prizes including club champs' entries and sponsors lucky draw other great prizes on offer.

Our collaboration with MWCC in establishing a TT series at West Head has been hugely successful, we ran 4 races last year, which were well attended and have agreed the basis of a series this year that we aim to promote even wider. Get yourselves entered early so as not to miss out, the next TTs are at West Head on 7<sup>th</sup> March and 6<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

#### Other races

Confidence has returned for third party races and as such the committee has committed to support WTC members at these races, subject to controls in place at the time. We will be looking to have the club tent, a race champion and a get together if permitted:-

**Husky Festival** - All distances - 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021



We have a huge contingent down in Husky this month with more than 85 athletes over the two days! Make sure you have your club kit on to get the "Go 'Ringah" encouragement.

**Wollongong Tri** - 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021



To assist with the Interclub Series we need good representation in Wollongong sprint distance race, its only a couple of hours and a well organised event.

**Port Mac 70.3 and Ironman Australia** - 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021



WTC has over 30 competitors in the full distance race and 35 in the 70.3, which is unprecedented. It is also the Oceania Tri Club Championship, which we have topped our division the last 3 years and another target for the club. Big Weekend!!!

Look out for training rides and planning a support crew for the weekend.

**NSW Club Championships Fortser** - 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2021



We will be looking to take a huge WTC contingent back to Forster to be able to enjoy racing as club, supporting each other and to defend our NSW Club Champions title!!

Our focus is to facilitate getting as many members to Foster as possible, racing or volunteering, we want to make this weekend something special.

For those who were there in November you know it was phenomenal, and we are planning more of the same with a bigger team to make 22<sup>nd</sup> May even better! If we do that, we will have every chance to defend our title! It's simple if you came in November you need to come back! And if you did not come in November, we want you with us in May, get entered!!!

We have rebooked the accommodation for the weekend, contact Graham Latta, see [this page](#) to get your room.

Please get entered early so we have a good perspective on the AG coverage and start training for some sharp hills on the bike leg.

We will keep you posted on further details progressively.

#### Sydney Triathlon Premier League

We are currently sitting in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the NSW Tri Interclub series. With 4 races left in the premier league, we can still challenge for the win, with strength in numbers at Husky and double points for club champs to come. To lift us near to top we will need a good turnout at the Wollongong sprint, so if you are looking for a sprint race get entered Wollongong on 18<sup>th</sup> April. Good prep before Club Champs too!



21 <sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY	Sparke Helmore Newcastle City Triathlon	Standard
26 -28 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY	Big Husky	Long Course
18 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL	Wollongong	Sprint
22 <sup>ND</sup> MAY	CLUB CHAMPS	Club

#### 2019/20 Presentation Awards

I am delighted that we have finally been able to schedule the 2019/20 presentation awards, postponed from June last year.



It remains essential that we recognise and celebrate the splendid achievements of our members from last season.

The trophies are engraved, and we are all set for the afternoon of 7<sup>th</sup> March at the Manly Club, with a less formal get together, but planning some fun with the awards and a recap of the 2019 /20 season.

I'd love to see you there, so get a ticket if you have not already.

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Keep safe and I look forward to seeing you out there!

**David Wiles**

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