



Bunbury Classic Triathlon TWA State Series Race # 1 Sunday 8th November 2009



1st Male – Paul Mackay



1st - Katrina Mercer & 2nd - Belinda Brooks

The Bunbury Triathlon Club hosted the opening race of the State Triathlon Series on Sunday 8th November. The calm water at the Koombana Ski beach made for perfect swim conditions and the Leschenault Inlet was the scene for the ride and run laps.

Former professional triathlete Paul Mackay set the pace ahead another 153 triathletes competing in the Bunbury Classic Olympic distance event which consisted of a 1500m swim, 40 km bike ride and a 10km run. Mackay finished the race in 2 hours just 19 seconds ahead of a high calibre Open male field. Lajos Varga was chasing hard and finished just 19 seconds later in 2nd place and 3 time ACT triathlon champion Luke Grattan a minute after in 3rd place.

Similarly strong was the Open female field with dual age group world champion Loretta Wesley and age group Sprint Distance World Champion Michelle Duffield. Perth based Katrina Mercer blitzed the Open female field with a time of 2hrs and 12 minutes. 6 minutes behind in 2 place was Belinda Brooks who recently competed in the Hawaii Ironman World Championships.

The Sprint distance event was a 750m swim, 20 km bike ride and a 5 km run. 37 triathletes started together in the Sprint event and saw junior Perth triathlon star Troy Main win comfortably with a time of 1hr and 3 minutes. Troy is part of the Triathlon Excellence Programme with Triathlon WA and he made the trip down as a quick break from his TEE study! Bunbury Tri Club treasurer Geoff Wright swam, rode and ran his way to 2nd place in his age group in the Sprint event while local club members Lauren Lander and Kasey Emerson both finished 2nd in their respective age groups.

The Olympic Distance event was full of competitive age group racing. Locals Chris Kiley and Nancy Warnock both won their age group category. Chris Kiley continues an amazing racing programme having recently competed at the World Olympic Distance triathlon and became an age group world champion at the World Long Course Championships in Perth. In between these 2 World Championship events, Chris completed his first Hawaii Ironman World Championship and he plans to again race the Busselton Ironman in December.

On Sunday local super fish Kylie English managed 2nd place in her age group while Francyne Rosel, Jamie Rankin and Jim Hedderwick all made the podium with 3rd place in their age group.

The Olympic Distance event was also the opening race of the new South West Escape Series. Bunbury, Stadium and Albany tri clubs are teaming up to host this regional based series including the Karri Valley and Albany triathlons. The Bunbury Classic saw 6 triathletes from Albany make the trip and enjoy the perfect conditions for fast racing.

A local team led by triathlon stalwart Peter Hastie took the honours in the teams Olympic Distance event.

Bunbury superstar triathlete and current State Olympic distance champion Ryan Bailie is currently in Wollongong at the NSW Institute of Sport on a 4 week preparation block leading into his full time triathlon scholarship.

The Bunbury Triathlon Club says thankyou to all volunteers and sponsors who made the event possible.

The Bunbury Triathlon Club has the next club race on Sunday 20th December. Check the website for details:

<http://www.bunburytriclub.asn.au/>

By Gerald O'Sullivan



Welcome to the Bunbury Triathlon



Mikala Falconer



Lauren Lander



Jamie Rankin



Female 45 - 49

Helen Vagnoni, June Ward & Francyne Rosel



Male 40 - 44

Rod Martin, Rob Suriano & Jamie Rankin

TWA State Series Incentive Prizes

OPEN Category

MALE

1st Paul Mackay - \$300
2nd Lajos Varga - \$150
3rd Brynt McSwain - \$100

FEMALE

1st Katrina Mercer - \$300
2nd Belinda Brooks - \$150
3rd Sandy Crowe - \$100

AGE GROUP Category

MALE

Phil Prosser
Free 2010-2011 TWA Membership

FEMALE

Emma Jones
Free 2010-2011 TWA Membership