

MEDIA RELEASE
Friday 14 November 2008



Record numbers 'tri' Robina

On Sunday 16 November nearly 1400 athletes will line up to take part in the second race of the Gatorade Queensland Tri Series at Robina. A ten percent increase on numbers last year and the biggest field for Robina since the series began.

Race organisers, USM Events have experienced an increase in competitor numbers across all their triathlon events in 2008 but a substantial increase in the past two months.

USM Events Brisbane General Manager David Ray says the elevated numbers can be attributed to our success at the Beijing Olympics with Emma Snowsill (Gold medal) and Emma Moffatt (Bronze medal) along with the keen interest for Australian's to take part in the 2009 ITU Gold Coast Triathlon World Championships.

"There is a huge buzz in the triathlon community about qualifying to compete at the World Championships to be held on the Gold Coast from 9-13 September next year, hence the increase in competitor numbers across all our triathlon events," said Mr Ray.

"The last time the world championships were held on the Gold Coast was back in 1991, this time the program accommodates the ITU World Championship titles along with events that anyone can enter," he added.

The build up to the event has already started and the Robina numbers reflects this. The Gold Coast Triathlon – Luke Harrop Memorial will be the test event for the World Championships on March 1, 2009.

The Gatorade Tri Series has long been a breeding ground for the next generation of triathlon super stars.

All eyes will be on the battle between Courtney Gilfillan and Kym Jaenke both won their respective divisions at the Triathlon World Championships in Vancouver this year and will be worthy opponents.

Gilfillan is a recent recruit to triathlon, originally trained as a middle distance runner.

18 year old Gilfillan only started serious training with a swim and bike coach six months ago and will now start preparing for the Australian Under-23 elite team qualifications which start at the end of the year, then aiming to qualify for the World Championships next year.

The men's field is wide open with Adam Fitzakerely backing up after his top 15 performance at the recent Noosa Triathlon. Fitzakerely is to return to the podium after doing much of the work on the bike in race one only to be run down. His brother Nathan will also be lining up.

Reece Heald, 18 of Carina is a product of the National Talent Identification Program for aspiring athletes. Reece was a swimmer who transferred to triathlon with the assistance of the NTID program, and has enjoyed numerous benefits including superior coaching and training camps at the Australian Institute of Sport.

Since Reece joined the program he has competed in the National Triathlon Junior series winning the 16-19 year age group at the world famous Noosa Triathlon in 2007. This season hopes to make the Australian junior team (16-19 years) to compete at the Youth Olympics in Sydney (January 2009) and the World Triathlon Championships on the Gold Coast in September 2009.

Besides a strong contingent of local athletes competing, a big number will also travel from Brisbane and regional areas.

Athletes will have the chance to compete at the popular venue at Robina Parkway (cnr Robina Parkway and Boowaggan Road), Australia's leading supersprint triathlon course. Athletes will tackle a 400m swim, 15km cycle (3 laps) and 4km run (2 laps).

The day also includes the NAB Enticer Triathlon, ideal for the novice to compete individually or be part of a team - 200m swim, 10km cycle and 2km run. The program also caters for youngsters with the Kool Kids Tri – 100m swim, 2km cycle and 400m run.

Late entries will be taken on Sunday morning from 5:30am.

Saturday Schedule

2.00pm Gatorade Tri Clinics commence
Registration & Late Entries Open

Race Day Schedule

5:15am Registration/Transition opens (cycle check in, numbering)
6:45am Kool Kids Start
6:55am NAB Enticer Start
7:05am QTS Triathlon Start

The Program

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| Race 3 | Raby Bay | 14 December 2008 |
| Race 4 | Robina | 18 January 2009 |
| Race 5 | Caloundra | 8 February 2009 |
| Race 6 | Raby Bay | 19 April 2009 |

Get into the fun of it this summer. Entries and detailed information available at www.usmevents.com.au or for other enquiries phone (07) 3868 2444.