

TRIATHLON AUSTRALIA

Media Release

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2008 FAIRBROTHER HOBART TRIATHLON SET FIRE-UP HOBART WATERFRONT

The picturesque city of Hobart will once again turn into exhilarating racing arena this summer hosting the annual Australian Triathlon Sprint Championships on February 17, 2008.

With a new event sponsor Fairbrother Pty Ltd, one of Tasmania's leading building construction, joinery and facilities management companies and a solid line up of some of Australia's top athletes, the action on course is guaranteed to be fast and furious.

2007 Australian Sprint Champions, Tasmania's own world-renowned triathlete Craig Walton and 2008 Olympic team contender, Erin Densham are preparing to head south to defend their titles, along 2008 Australian Olympic distance champions Courtney Atkinson and Alee Sharp.

Also ready to hit the start line in a fortnight's time is 2007 ITU World Cup winner Emma Moffatt, Annabel Luxford of Queensland and International contender Lisa Norden of Sweden.

Chasing Walton in the men's elites will be Brendan Sexton, Clayton Fettell of NSW. Queenslander's Matt Hopper and Dan Wilson, as well as Gareth Halverson of Canberra and the in-form David Dellow of the Sunshine Coast.

"We are delighted to have Fairbrother onboard for the 2008 Australian Sprint Championships," said Event Director Kerry Stubbs today.

"Every year the championships continue to grow with the sprint style format, not only being exciting for the spectators, but for our competitors as well."

"With a short, fast course you can always guarantee that there will be someone directly behind you and if you don't pick up the pace, your lead may disappear as quickly as you may have found it in the first place."

"In 2007 both Erin Densham and Craig Walton celebrated their wins after sprint finishes. The whole event keeps spectators on their toes and trying to pick the winner in this race is near impossible, it could be anyone's victory," says Stubbs.

Battery Point is the historic centre of Hobart and with its' beautifully preserved surroundings spectators can absorb the ambience of colonial Hobart while watching the various triathlon races held throughout the day. The day will kick off with the Age Group

racing at 7am with the main events, ITU Elite and U23 female and male races beginning at 2pm and 3:15pm, respectively.

The Sprint Distance Course will consist of a 750m swim leg starting from Waterman Wharf, part of a working port area, before the triathletes jump on their bikes for a 20km sprint – or eight laps of a 2.5 km course - up Battery Point. The final 5km run to the finish line features five quick laps of a short 1 km course.

Both competitors and spectators alike enjoyed the high intensity and excitement of the short course distance in 2007, however were subject to extreme, blistering conditions, making the race slightly uncomfortable. However, 2007 brought over 20,000 spectators to Hobart's waterside and with this year's event still attracting many of Australia's most renowned triathletes, the 2008 Fairbrother Hobart Sprint Championships is sure to carry on the same traditions and high standards.

Elite Course – SPRINT Distance

Swim – 1 lap x 750 m...off Waterman Dock.

Bike course - 8 laps x 2.5 km course around the centre of Hobart.

Start at Waterman Dock along Morrison St and onto Castray Esplanade, it's a climb up to the Battery Point turnaround, return down hill, along and turn left into Murray Street - quite a steep gradient, then right into Davey Street, right into Elizabeth, then back along the Morrison Street waterfront.

Run course - 5 laps x 1 km course

Start at Waterman Dock - run along Morrison Street, turn around at Salamanca Place, back along Morrison, up Murray St climb, then right into Davey St, right into Elizabeth, then back along Morrison Street to the waterfront finish line.

Transition – Princes Wharf.

The Age Group course will consist of - 750 Swim, 8 x 5kms laps on the bike that will lead into a 10km run around Hobart's beautiful waterfront.

For Further information or images please Contact:

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