

CRONULLA TRIATHLON CLUB

Annual Report — 2025/26

Vice President's report

A Year to Remember

What a year it has been for Cronulla Triathlon Club. Across every dimension — competitive performance, community spirit, and club culture — the 2025/26 season delivered moments that will be talked about for years to come. As Vice President, it is my honour to reflect on what we have achieved together, and to extend heartfelt thanks to the extraordinary people who made it all possible.



Celebrating 40 Years of Cronulla Tri

This year marked a defining milestone in our club's history — the 40th Anniversary of Cronulla Triathlon Club. From our humble beginnings on the shores of the Shire, four decades of dedication, sweat, and community have built something truly special.

Our anniversary celebrations were nothing short of spectacular. Members past and present came together to honour the club's heritage, share stories from across the decades, and look ahead to an exciting future. The event was a powerful reminder of what makes Cronulla Tri more than just a sporting club — it is a community, a family, and a legacy.

To everyone who attended, contributed, and helped bring the celebrations to life — thank you for making this milestone unforgettable.



Back-to-Back Sydney Premier League Champions

If the 40th anniversary gave us reason to celebrate our past, our athletes gave us every reason to be excited about our future. Cronulla Triathlon Club has claimed back-to-back Sydney Premier League Championships — a testament to the depth of talent, the commitment to training, and the fierce competitive spirit that runs through every member of this club.

Defending a championship is harder than winning one. To do it again, with the same hunger and drive, speaks volumes about the character of our athletes and the quality of support they receive from coaches, family, and fellow club members.

Congratulations to every athlete who raced in the Premier League this season. You have made us all incredibly proud.



Our Volunteers — The Heart of the Club

None of what we achieve as a club would be possible without our extraordinary team of volunteers. Season after season, they show up early, stay late, and give freely of their time so that every member can have a safe, well-organised, and enjoyable experience.

To each and every volunteer who contributed throughout the year — whether marshalling a course, setting up transition, managing registration, or simply making the BBQ — please know that your efforts are seen, valued, and deeply appreciated by the entire club.

Special Recognition: Steve Papworth

A special and well-deserved mention must go to **Steve Papworth** for his outstanding organisational mastery at this year's **Richie Walker Aquathon**. Steve's meticulous planning, calm under pressure, and tireless attention to detail ensured the event ran flawlessly — a tribute worthy of the great Richie Walker legacy it honours.

Steve, on behalf of the entire club — thank you. Your dedication to this event exemplifies everything that makes Cronulla Tri a club to be proud of.



Member Engagement — Stronger Than Ever

One of the most encouraging aspects of this season has been the growing engagement of our members in shaping the club experience. It is one thing to participate — it is another to step up and help make the club better. This year, a number of members did exactly that.

Wednesday Night Club Run — Fresh Energy

Madda and **Lois** have brought a wonderful surge of fresh ideas and enthusiasm to the Wednesday night club run, reinvigorating one of our most loved regular sessions. Their energy, creativity, and commitment to making the run welcoming for all abilities has been a real highlight of the season. The Wednesday night crew is bigger and better for their involvement — thank you both.

Belong Group — Building a More Inclusive Club

Elissa, **Mark** and **Nicolle** have done a tremendous job getting the Belong group really firing this year. Their work in fostering a more inclusive, welcoming, and connected club environment has been genuinely impactful — creating a space where every member, regardless of background or ability, feels they truly belong at Cronulla Tri.

The Belong group is an investment in the long-term culture of our club, and Elissa, Mark and Nicolle are setting a wonderful standard.



Our Coaches and Committee — The Engine Room

Behind every early morning session, every race day, and every club initiative, there is a group of dedicated individuals who give far more than most members ever see.

Our coaches and committee members are the engine room of Cronulla Triathlon Club — and this year, their contribution has been nothing short of extraordinary.

Thank You to Our Coaches

To our coaching team — thank you. The hours you invest go well beyond the track, the pool, and the road. You plan, you prepare, you motivate, you problem-solve, and you show up — week in, week out — because you genuinely care about the development and wellbeing of every athlete in this club.

Back-to-back Premier League champions do not happen by accident. They happen because of coaches who set the standard, hold athletes to it with care and expertise, and create an environment where people want to be their best. That is exactly what our coaching team has done this year, and we are deeply grateful for it.

Thank You to Our Committee

Running a club of our size and ambition requires an enormous amount of behind-the-scenes work that rarely gets the recognition it deserves. Our committee members give their personal time — evenings, weekends, and everything in between — to handle the governance, planning, logistics, and administration that keep Cronulla Tri running smoothly and responsibly.

From financial management and insurance, to event approvals, member communications, and strategic planning — the committee carries a weight that is invisible to most, yet felt by everyone. This club would simply not be the same without their tireless dedication and commitment to getting the details right.

To our coaches and every member of the committee — from the bottom of our hearts, thank you. Your dedication, your sacrifice, and your love for this club make Cronulla Tri the extraordinary place it is.

Looking Ahead

As we close out a season that will be long remembered — for our 40th anniversary celebrations, our back-to-back Premier League title, and the incredible community spirit that underpins everything we do — I feel nothing but immense pride and optimism for what lies ahead.

Cronulla Triathlon Club is in excellent health — not just in terms of competitive results, but in the richness of its community. The future is bright, and it is bright because of you.

Thank you for an extraordinary year. See you at the start line.

Vice President

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