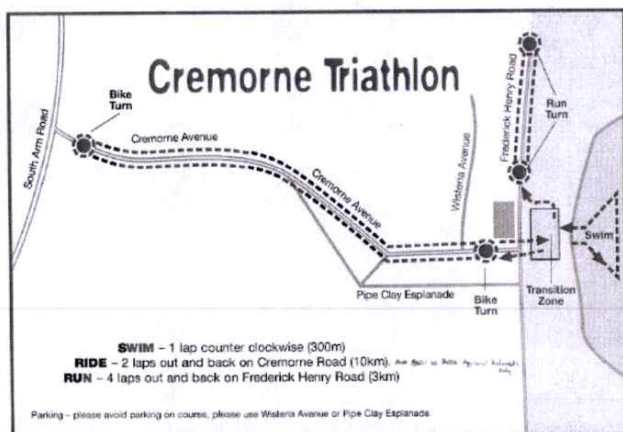


# Cremorne Triathlon

Reflection of a unique Cremorne event by co-organiser Brian Bennett

## On your marks, get set, go!

On a sunny Sunday, 21 March 1993, a unique event in Tasmanian sport occurred right here in Cremorne with the holding of the State's (and probably Australia's) first ever Triathlon Fiesta. It was unique in that it combined triathlons and related events for both children and adults with the emphasis being on attracting people to the sport of triathlon...one of the world's most rapidly-expanding sports at the time.

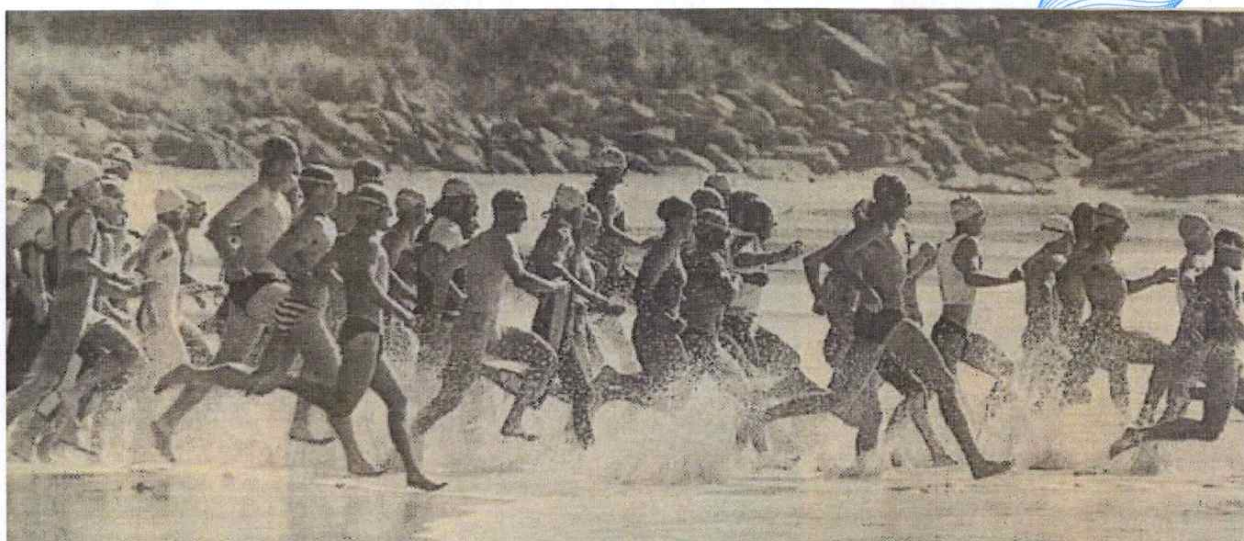


It was a nervous but exciting day for Nigel Heaven and myself as we'd put in months of detailed work such as getting approvals, finding sponsors and undertaking considerable advertising. But this - the first of four Fiestas

*cont...* we organised - was a huge success with 567 entrants and a spectator crowd estimated at well over 4000. Ours was an innovative but untried sporting event that attracted people from far and wide...such as the family that made the effort to fly in from the Bass Strait lighthouse on Swan Island!

## Kids & novices encouraged

A most important feature of the Triathlon Fiesta since its inception was the promotion of the event for children and novices. We worked hard to create a safe but challenging series of races highlighting "participation" and "enjoyment". An impressive list of randomly-drawn prizes reinforced this encouragement to compete...interstate holidays, mountain bikes, wetsuits, computers, athletic gear and much more. The multi-aged/multi-levelled family event was a popular format and the following year (1994) competitors numbered 1260 and spectators over 5000. Our success was reported in a national triathlon magazine later that year.



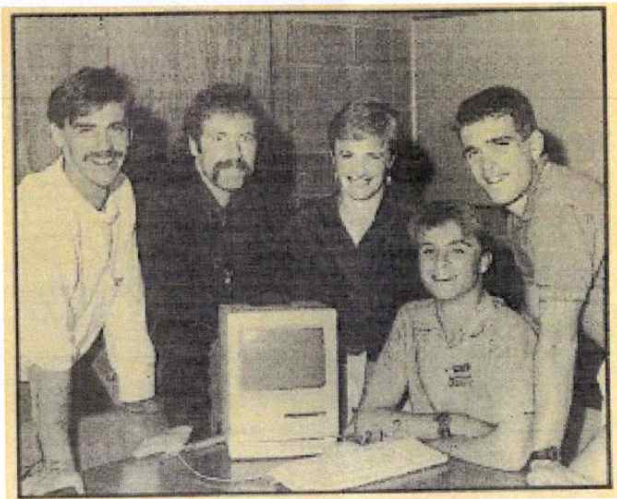


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## Farewell

Eventually, Nigel and I had to step away from the high level of commitment we gave to the event for so many months over the period 1992 to 1996.

The Hobart Triathlon Club combined forces with All Aerobics and ran the event for a few more years at Cremorne but when the Club established a permanent site at Seven Mile Beach, the focus shifted from "kids through to grandparents" and was based on "junior, elite and age-group" participation. Soaring event insurance also put paid to the community nature of our Fiesta. Thankfully, children's needs have been partly catered for by the annual Bellerive (and elsewhere) Schools' Triathlons.



Nigel kept detailed records of the Fiesta and was going to pen an article about the events – including the awful weather we had in 1995 – but, alas, he didn't get to do so before his home burnt to the ground in March of this year. Among the many, many things he lost in this tragedy were all his triathlon materials so it has fallen to me to put together a record from my materials for those of you who remember the Fiestas from over 30 years ago...and to introduce new residents to the family event that truly put Cremorne on the fun and fitness map. I'm happy to share my collection of Fiesta materials with you if you're interested.  
Brian Bennett (0417 444 389)



 HOBART TRIATHLON CLUB PRESENTS THE 

### TRIATHLON FIESTA

SUNDAY, 21ST MARCH 1993  
CREMORNE

AN EVENT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY  MAKE UP A TEAM

COME AND TRY

## OVER \$10,000 IN CASH AND PRIZES

RANDOMLY DRAWN MAJOR PRIZES WHICH INCLUDE:

- \*APPLE COMPUTER FROM THE LOGIC SHOP
- \*ANCHOR WETSUITS
- \*KEN SELF/REPCO CYCLES
- \*SAUCY SHOES

 **FIESTA FUN** 

TILFORD SPLASH & DASH FOR \$350 CASH!

Images: Taken from Brian's collection. Including 1993 Mercury photos of Rokeby High School student Luke, who won a computer in the raffle & 14 yr old competition winner Kirsten from Launceston.