

Tri-Times

ACCOLADES FOR TRAIL BLAZER WELCH AND OUR EMERGING GIRLS



WINNING TEAM: Greg Welch with daughter Annie pictured with (from left) Josh Amberger, Triathlon Australia board member David Ferrier, Scholarship winner Ashleigh Gentle and Triathlon Board members, former world champion Miles Stewart and Michelle Gallen.

An Australian triathlon trail blazer and two of the sport's rising stars have been honoured in separate award ceremonies, in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.

The award season started out in formal fashion when one of triathlon's true pioneers **Greg Welch** became the first Australian triathlete inducted into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame (SAHOF) at the glittering 27th Annual Induction and Awards Gala Dinner at Melbourne's Crown Palladium Ballroom.

On the same night, Queensland's former World Junior Champion **Ashleigh Gentle** was one of five of Australia's emerging stars to receive an Etihad supported Sport Australia Hall of Fame Scholarship to assist her in achieving her goals.

To cap off a big week of awards for Triathlon Australia, 2010 Under 23 World Champion **Emma Jackson** was named the "One to Watch" in the Women's Health sponsored "I Support Women's Sport Awards" in Sydney and the Queensland Junior Sports Star of the Year in Brisbane.

Triathlon Australia was well represented at the Sport Australia Hall of Fame Induction with president **Peter Hedge** joined by board members, **Michelle Gallen**, **David Ferrier**, former ITU World Champion Miles Stewart as well as Triathlon Victoria Board member **John Barker**.

John Barker was instrumental in working with the SAHOF in developing Welch's nomination and to have the US-based former Sydney triathlete inducted into Australian sport's who's who.



INDUCTEES (L-R): Glenn McGrath, Greg Welch, Kostya Tsyzy, Belinda Clark and Layne Beachley.

"Apart from what Greg achieved in Australia he was able to pioneer the sport of triathlon for Australians into America," said Mr Barker.

"He showed everyone in Australia that you can make it big internationally if you really want to and we could not have had a better ambassador to give the Americans a really good impression of what our people are like as athletes.

"Greg was able to show everyone that you can give it a go, he blazed the trail.

"On behalf of Triathlon Australia president **Peter Hedge** and everyone in the triathlon community it was an honour to attend the Induction and to see an athlete like Greg Welch receive the recognition he deserves."

SAHOF general manager and former Commonwealth Games representative **Bob Lay**, who worked hard to get Welch back to Australia for the presentation, was quick to acknowledge the 1990 World ITU Olympic Distance Champion and 1994 Hawaiian Ironman World Champion as one of Australia's most extraordinary athletes.

"If anyone deserves to be inducted Greg does and to see him up there alongside the likes of **Glenn McGrath** and **Layne Beachley** was wonderful for him and for the sport of triathlon," said Lay.

Lay also paid tribute to triathlon young gun **Ashleigh Gentle** - who was awarded a \$5000 scholarship and an international airfare from Etihad.



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

PROFILE

GREG WELCH



Born: Campsie (NSW) December 13, 1964

Age: 46

Lives: San Diego (USA)

Today: Greg Welch remains involved in triathlon, living in San Diego with his wife Sian - a former triathlete - and daughters Annie and Emma. He works as a TV commentator and athlete adviser and coach for the World Triathlon Corporation and as an international marketing manager for Oakley sunglasses.

Career Highlights:

World Champion: 1994 Ironman Triathlon World Championship. 1990 World Triathlon Championships. 1993 World Duathlon Championships. 1996 World Long Distance Triathlon Championships

1994 Triathlete-Of-The-Year

1994 Sports Star Of The Year - Triathlete & Competitor Magazines

1994 Sports Star Of The Year - Caltex Gold Oscar For New South Wales, Aus.

Two-Time Champion: 1992 & 1994 Ironman/Japan Triathlon

Multiple-Time Winner Triathlon World Cup (1996-99)

Winner: 1999 Mrs. T's Chicago Triathlon, 1997 World Nature Games Triathlon, 1997 & 92 Escape From Alcatraz Triathlon

U.S. Pro Champion: 1992, 93 & 99 U.S. Pro Triathlon Championships

National Champion: 1992 Australian Sprint Triathlon Championships

2nd Place: 1991 Ironman Triathlon World Championships

Bronze Medal: 1990 Commonwealth Games Triathlon

3rd Place: 1989 & 1996 Ironman Triathlon World Championships

Runner-Up: 1994, 95 & 96 Triathlon Grand Prix Series

HAWAIIAN IRONMAN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 1989-1999

1999	11th Place	8:40:50
1996	3rd Place	8:18:57
1995	4th Place	8:29:14
1994	4th Place	8:20:27
1991	2nd Place	8:24:34
1992	6th Place	8:26:53
1990	5th Place	8:46:07
1989	3rd Place	8:32:16



ONE TO WATCH: Emma Jackson accepts the Women's Health 'One To Watch' Award.

Gentle, who was a last minute withdrawal from this year's ITU World Championships in Beijing with a calf injury, said she was excited to receive the award.

"It will certainly help that's for sure and it is also heartening to know that people care about our future – it is so important; but also to get to meet someone like Greg Welch was great," said Gentle, who will now ease her way back into the new season.

"I am really looking forward to 2012 but I have to remind myself not to rush back into things too soon but I am very excited about what the future holds."

Bob Lay acknowledges the important role of the Scholarship Awards, saying: "It is important to ensure we look after the future of our sportspeople and Ashleigh's performances have been outstanding and if we can help her in this small way towards achieving her goals then we have played our part."

TRI-STARS HEADLINE NOOSA MULTI SPORT FESTIVAL www.usmevents.com.au

Three-time winner **Courtney Atkinson**, Ironman king **Chris McCormack** and rising star **Emma Jackson** will headline a field of Australia's finest elite triathletes who will converge on Noosa next week for the 28th annual Noosa Triathlon Multi Sport Festival.

Thousands of spectators will line the Noosa streets from 6am on Sunday October 30 to witness the Olympic distance Triathlon which has become an institution on the Australian multi-sport calendar.

The women's field will Triathlon Australia's latest star **Emma Jackson** – fourth in this year's ITU World Championship Series, hold the Emma fort with name sakes, Olympic champion Emma Snowsill and bronze medalist Emma Moffatt both on a break.

Add former world junior champion, 2006 Noosa winner and Olympic hopeful **Felicity Abram**, **Felicity Sheedy-Ryan**, Ironman specialists **Rebekah Keat** and **Melissa Rollison** and rising stars **Charlotte McShane** and **Ellie Salthouse** and Noosa again tosses up a host of variables.

Beijing Olympian, defending and three-times men's winner Atkinson will head a strong men's field that will also include fellow Olympic hopefuls, Ironman legend McCormack and Victoria's **Brendan Sexton**.

Jackson capped an outstanding season where she finished fourth in the 2011 Dextro Energy ITU World Triathlon Series which included two second placings in the Hamburg round which featured the history making podium of **Emma Moffatt**, **Emma Jackson** and **Emma Snowsill** and her second in the World Championship Series sprint event in Lausanne.

The 20-year-old Queenslander said she was chuffed to receive the recognition of the "One To Watch" in the Women's Health sponsored "I Support Women's Sport Awards" which saw the major gong go to World Champion surfer **Stephanie Gilmour**.

She was then awarded with the Queensland Junior Sports Star of the Year Award, presented by Womensport Queensland, where she shared the stage with Queensland Sports Star of the Year, World Champion hurdler **Sally Pearson**.

Jackson, who is lining up for Olympic selection for London next year, said she was greatly honoured to receive the awards and for the recognition.

"To work hard all year and to know you are recognised is so nice," said Jackson.

"But to meet and mix with some of the biggest names in Australian sport is just as exciting...people like Steph Gilmour and Sally Pearson and to have Olympic swimmer **Giaan Rooney** who was the MC in Sydney made it a great night....it was so much fun."

Jackson will have a well deserved break after the Noosa Triathlon on October 30 before she begins her preparation for her assault on London.

"I'm really looking forward to racing Noosa again, it is always a lot of fun and I'll be looking forward to a better result than last year when I was fourth," said Jackson, who won Noosa in 2009.

"It would be a great way to finish off the season with a good performance in front of the big crowd at Noosa, it is always such a great weekend, I'm looking forward to it."

Jackson will then enjoy a well earned break before joining the Triathlon Australia Shadow Olympic Team Forum and Camp at the new AIS Triathlon High Performance program headquarters at Pizzev Park on the Gold Coast from November 7 through 9.

Also entered in the men's field are **James Seear**, **Mitch Robins**, **Peter Kerr**, **Clayton Fettel**, **Jamie Huggett**, as well as **Mitch Kealey**, **Paul Matthews** and Gold Coast Ironman **Luke McKenzie** who was recently 9th in the Hawaiian Ironman Triathlon.

Atkinson will be attempting his own little slice of Noosa history, to become the first athlete to take out four consecutive Noosa victories.

Sexton had a breakthrough win in the Monterrey World Cup before illness forced him out of the ITU World Championships in Beijing.



PROFILE

Ashleigh Gentle



Born: Brisbane, 25th February, 1991

Age: 20

Lives: Gold Coast

Coach: Craig Walton

Profile: Ashleigh is one of Triathlon Australia's real achievers, having placed second twice in 2007 and 2008 World Junior Championships before coming back from a difficult year in 2009 to finally strike gold and win the coveted World Junior title in Budapest in 2010. Started 2011 with a win in the Oceania Cup in Mooloolaba before winning the Luke Harrop Memorial Race on the Gold Coast. Went on to record a breakthrough victory in the ITU Edmonton World Cup before being forced out of the 2011 ITU World Championships in Beijing with a torn calf muscle. Recently awarded one of five Sports Australia Hall of Fame Scholarships, recognising Australia's rising stars.

PROFILE

Emma Jackson



Born: Brisbane, 20th August, 1991

Age: 20

Lives: Pine Rivers, Qld

Coach: Stephen Moss

Profile: The 2010 World Under 23 Champion who stepped up to the plate in 2011 as the latest Emma to arrive onto the ITU Triathlon world stage. And what an arrival it was with her debut season placing of fourth overall in the Dextro Energy World Championship Series. This included an impressive second placing in the now famous Emma Moffatt, Emma Jackson, Emma Snowsill history-making podium finish in Hamburg and her second placing in the ITU World Sprint Championship in Lausanne. Jackson was named the "One To Watch" in the Women's Health "I Support Women in Sport" National Awards and the Queensland Junior Sport Star of the Year. Like her fellow Emmas, Jackson has her sights set on the 2012 London Olympics.