



MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 1st May, 2008

DUATHLON RETURNS TO NEWCASTLE

The **Newcastle Port Corporation Australian & Oceania Duathlon Championships** will return to Newcastle on Sunday 24th August 2008. This is despite the eleventh-hour cancellation of last year's event due to extreme weather conditions and the wash-up of the Pasha Bulker on the Nobbys Beach race course.

In 2005 the city demonstrated that it is the perfect host for this type of sporting event, with the hugely successful World Championships. The tough Duathlon course around the Foreshore and beaches proved to be world-class, and had excellent ratings from the elite competitors.

The Newcastle World Duathlon and Triathlon Australia are pleased to announce the appointment of a new Event Manager for 2008. Mark Emerton will coordinate the events with a goal of ensuring the Duathlon remains in Newcastle long-term.

Emo was involved in the race operations at the previous World Championships. He will work alongside Race Director, Garry Muir, and other experienced personnel. Emo has managed several major triathlons including the Australian Long Distance Championships and the Australian Age-Group Sprint Championships in NSW.

The **2008 Newcastle Port Corporation Australian & Oceania Duathlon Championships** will attract hundreds of competitors vying for the title. Male and female competitors will compete in age groups from 16 through to 80+ over a 10km run, 40km bike and final 5km run. This event will not only focus on the elite and seasoned athlete but will offer shorter races for kids and beginners. Emo enthuses 'Our focus is to bring the whole family and create a day involving a run, ride, run and fun'. Race information will be available at www.eliteenergy.com.au from 16th May including early bird entry fees.

The Newcastle Port Corporation has once again demonstrated their support of the event as this year's major sponsor, and the Newcastle City Council have continued their financial commitment to the event. The event is recognised by the International Triathlon Union.

Sunday 24th August, 2008

Newcastle Port Corporation Australian Duathlon Championships

For interviews please contact Mark Emerton, Event Manager on 041 376 5248.

For media enquiries please contact Jenny Mann on 0421 648 022.

