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Pies trifecta

Sport



Hot field for triathlon

Golf veterans honor Anzacs



A FULL field of entries and plenty of competition amongst elite athletes will mark the 10th half ironman to be held in Busselton.

The Busselton Festival of Triathlon starts today with two days of events for athletes young and old and tomorrow, the festival's main event will be the Busselton Half Ironman, with record numbers of competitors taking part.

Triathlon WA chief executive Hayley Lethlean said there had been plenty to do preparing for the event, with a strong line up of entries in the professional categories.

"In your men's field it's going to be pretty hot," she said, with the competition strong between last year's winner Luke McKenzie, 2008 Ironman WA winner Tim Berkel and WA's Courtney Ogden, who placed third last year.

Lethlean said the women's field would also have several contenders, including WA's Kate Bevilaqua, Lisa Marangon and Nicole Ward both from New South Wales, as well as Tasmania's Amelia Pearson and former-

Manjimup resident Amanda Balding.

She said elite female, New South Wales' Christie Sym dropped out this week as she was injured.

The full field of entrants, which reached capacity in January within a week of entries going on general release, would include about 1400 individuals and 250 teams.

Among those, about 48 individual locals from this shire will compete, including Busselton's Steve Anstee and police officer Martin Cramp who will compete in the professional men's category.

Lethlean said the weather forecast looked good for athletes.

"Supposedly (there will be) light showers on Saturday morning," she said.

According to Lethlean, the best spots for spectators will be along Geographe Bay Road, where they can see part of all three legs of the race.

This afternoon's events include the SunSmart Kids Triathlon from 4pm to 5pm at Barnard Park, Skins Supersprint, athlete registration and an athlete briefing. The medal ceremony will be held tomorrow evening.

— Lucy Jarvis



Last year's Busselton Half Ironman winner Luke McKenzie will compete again in tomorrow's event. PICTURE: DEREK POOL

GOLF

BUSSELTON ex-serviceman Laurie Keaney was remembered at an Anzac Day memorial golf game, with his former playing partner taking the event's top honour in a fitting finish.

John Morris scored an impressive 48 points on the Busselton course with his wife Colleen to win the competition.

Four other pairs were close behind with scores of 45.

In other events three players scored 39 points, requiring a countback to determine the winner of the veteran's competition last week. Trophy donor Bill Austin matched Tony Small's top score who won on a countback from Gary Haar.

Although younger player Brody Ninnette does not meet the age requirement for a veteran golfer, he recorded the best score of the day, scoring six under his handicap of one with 43 points.

In a big field of 158 golfers, John Dodd won last week's scroungers competition with 42 points, narrowly beating club regular Tony Haabjoern on 41 points, who in turn beat Manfred Becker on a countback after he also scored 41.

The competition was a close one with five players scoring 40 and four others on 39 points.

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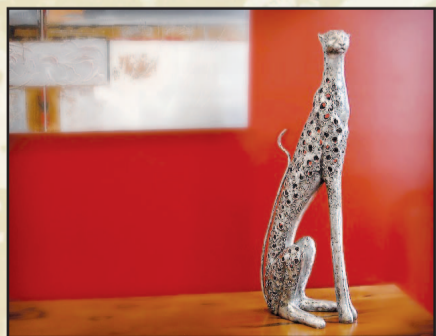


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