

Media Release

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SPECTACULAR SYDNEY COURSE OFFERS TRIPLE TREAT *ITU World Series triathlon to test world's best and weekend warriors*

Athletes of all shapes and sizes have the chance to experience what is arguably the world's most spectacular triathlon course when Sydney hosts the opening round of the 2011 Dextro Energy Triathlon ITU World Championship Series.

Some individual age group places still exist for the April 10 event, which will see the world's best do battle after 2500 amateur athletes take advantage of rare road closures around Sydney's iconic harbour precinct including its crowning glory, the Harbour Bridge.

The event will also include a triathlon relay (where athletes complete one leg each) which allows individuals the choice of swimming 1500 metres in Farm Cove, alongside the Sydney Opera House; cycling 40km on an inner city course that will take them over the Sydney Harbour Bridge three times; or running 10km, taking in the Royal Botanic Gardens and Hyde Park.

The elite races will see reigning world champion, Australia's Emma Moffatt, begin the defence of her crown, with compatriot Emma Snowsill, the reigning Olympic champion, keen to atone for a disappointing 2010. Brad Kahlefeldt, who finished third in last year's world championship series, will be among the favourites in a men's field of tremendous depth.

The event – a joint initiative between the International Triathlon Union, the NSW Government through Events NSW, and Triathlon Australia – boasts a mass participation component for the first time after elite races only were held for last year's inaugural world championship series. USM Events have been engaged as the event delivery partner.

"This event is the final round of the age group and elite Australian Triathlon Championships, the Opening round of the elite ITU World Championships and the most significant Olympic distance triathlon age group event to be held in Sydney," observed Peter Hedge, President of Triathlon Australia.

"The event will be beamed to a global audience and will showcase Sydney as one of the leading outdoor event capitals in the world.

"If you can swim, ride or run, this event represents an amazing opportunity to enjoy Sydney from a totally new perspective," Peter Hedge said.

"I have no doubt this event will grow to become one of the iconic triathlon races of the world and a must do event on the list of any genuine international sports tourist or triathlete."

The age group course will see cyclists start in the Botanic Gardens, link onto the Cahill Expressway and head to Darling Harbour before backtracking over the Sydney Harbour Bridge to North Sydney and returning into the city via Macquarie Street for the first of three laps.

The elite athlete course is spectator-friendly with the ride predominantly utilising the Cahill Expressway and Macquarie Street on what is a tight eight-lap circuit that promises a number of quality vantage points.

The day represents a huge logistical exercise, with age group athletes to start in a series of waves from 6.35am (Australian Eastern Standard Time); while the elite women will get underway at 11.20am and the elite men to do battle from 2.00pm.

With construction work currently being carried out on the Opera House steps, this year's event will see both the age group and elite athletes finish their races in Hyde Park.

Hyde Park will be transformed into an extensive race precinct hosting the massive 3-day Health & Lifestyle Expo open to the general public, grandstand seating and VIP facilities.

For race information and event entry details, visit the official event website <http://sydney.triathlon.org>

Elite and age group maps attached

For further information:

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