

Club Croc Testimonial

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After giving up equestrian at 22, I was a bit of a lost soul. I was used to early mornings and late evenings with my trusty equine friends. I would say my entrance into triathlons happened by chance, and I fell into it with a big splash. But before I get too far, I should tell you about my other athletic feats so that you can get a picture of what an elite athlete I was before I began with Club Croc and Brad Beven's squad

Like I mentioned, I was 22 and for my entire life (well at least since I was 6) I have been into equestrian and ridden at various levels of competition. I got a bit jaded by the horse scene and began to look around for other things to do, but came up trumps when reviewing my high school PE choices that listed artistic and rhythmic gymnastics and rowing as the only other sports I had tried.

I found hockey and gave this a bit of shot – but with my team suffering a number of broken fingers, a shattered knee cap from the monstrous pushy shoving opponents, I began feeling like this was not for me. It was through hockey that I decided running was an okay deal. I loved racing up and down the field after that little brick-like ball. It was at hockey that I met my lovely running buddy who we will call Sarah (basically if I name her, she will probably kill me). What to say here ... well, knowing that I was in the try anything mood, Sarah had me running quite a calendar of events before she suggested we give triathlon a go.

At this point, I didn't know what a triathlon was or how I was going to finish one – let alone make it through the swim leg. I kind of figured the bike leg may have been a bit hard as I didn't actually own a bike. So, I commenced what at the time felt like a rigorous training schedule that involved trying to swim more than 25 m without stopping. Learning to cycle was easy – it's as they say "just like riding a bike". I rode a flat bar road bike or a hybrid – definitely not your normal tri bike.

I completed three of the Queensland Tri Series Enticers and, by this stage, I was hooked. The last race of the series was a Raby Bay and it rained like anything, and I loved every minute of it. Rain for me is a totally fond memory and I pray every race that it will rain again, I am not that lucky as it's usually sunny.

So, anyway, back to the story I began These enticers in the 07/08 triathlon season, at which point my training buddy Sarah left me for a long walk overseas.

I filled in my time during the off season purchasing a road bike and learning to clip in and out of my cleats without hitting the ground – a challenge has left me with some cherished war wounds. I dabbled around looking at the different squads out there – broke the cartilage in my thumb on a cycle with one particular group whose name I won't mention. That left me squarely looking at Club Croc and Brad Beven's Squad as my number one choice, but was actually told on a number of occasions that these people were a bit hard core for me, and on another that they were a little advanced for my needs. At the time, I was taken aback and waited around deciding if I should jump into the Club Croc Scene.

The long and the short of it is that I joined Club Croc and Brad Beven's Squad, and during season break and have remained with them since then. During the 08/09 season, I competed in 15 races all up. It was a bit of a hectic schedule flying to different states to race and battling the waves out at Redcliffe on a particular day in February. However, these were great times with lots of fond memories with my fellow Crocs that I wouldn't swap for anything – not even that crazy Canberra race where TACT reinvented the wheel getting competitors to call out your number as you exited the swim and passed the Technical officials in the bike laps.

So, here I am and (this Sunday) I will be racing in the ITU World Champs Sprint Distance. It's been a great journey and whatever happens from this point, it's been a blast.

So, the crux of the matter is why should you join Club Croc ? My thoughts are because we are the best, most helpful, kindest triathletes in QLD and perhaps the earth. We have a lot of fun and enjoy ourselves while we are out and about. We have been there and tried it and we love meeting new people who can share our crazy triathlete antics. So if you are keen to train a bit and have some laughs along the way, give us a call.