

## TRIATHLON KIDS COACH RECEIVES TOP AWARD

Mark Beovich from the Eastern 5 region is the Term 1, 5 Star Community Coach Award winner for Victoria. Mark's passion for triathlon has been the driving force behind an increase in delivered triathlon programs in Victoria since the beginning of 2009.

Mark began working as a community coach with the AASC program in Term 1, 2009. Before this he had been volunteering his time and expertise at Syndal South Primary School to help ready children for the WeetBix Kid's Triathlon.

Mark ran the first two triathlon programs in Term 1, 2009 as a pilot for the state. He also put together his own 7 week triathlon program using Playing for Life games. This was utilised not only by other community coaches but also National Office and Triathlon Australia to help compile the AASC Triathlon companion book.

One of the brilliant qualities that make Mark unique is his willingness to go above and beyond to run quality programs and transition children into triathlon. On program nights he consistently arrives early to set up transition areas and prepare a safe and secure environment for children to participate in. Outside of the program he offers schools free in school clinics and participates in Community Events (Syndal Community Links Day) to further promote the sport to children.

Mark has done a number of things to support the AASC program and promote triathlon. He has:

- engaged a number of members from Nunawading Triathlon Club to deliver AASC programs
- been proactive in booking venues and supporting schools who apply for SIGs to run pool sessions or culmination events
- made himself available to new organisations to help them during their introduction to the AASC program; and
- worked closely with Triathlon Victoria to help promote the sport.

Mark has used all of these opportunities to help build participation in the Nunawading Triathlon Kids events which he convenes and runs twice per term throughout the year.

Regional coordinator, Damian Hecker said, "Mark has been a pleasure to work with and his passion for triathlon and exposing the sport to children is infectious. His organisation is professional and his ability to engage local club members to deliver has been outstanding. His recognition as a 5 Star Coach is just rewards for the time and effort he puts into making the AASC program so brilliant in schools."

Mark is a magnificent role model for the AASC program and community coaches in general. He is the kind of dedicated person all clubs would love to have delivering quality programs to schools and supporting the transition of children from schools to clubs.

Congratulations Mark on your achievement and thank you for your hard work in the AASC program.

