



MEDIA RELEASE

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AUSTRALIAN BIATHLON MASTERS EVENT GOLD MEDAL – IRENE DUNN

Irene Dunn has won Gold for Australia at the inaugural World Masters Winter Games in Pokljuka, Slovenia, beating an ex-Olympian gold medallist in the process.

In the sport which combines the arduous demands of cross-country skiing with precision target shooting, Dunn, 40, from the Tennyson, South Australia, won the 7.5 km Biathlon Individual (Distance) Event in the BF3 (Women's 40-44 year) category in great conditions - sunny, negligible wind and minus 6 degrees C.

Dunn finished with a total of 5 penalties in a time of 34:27 min, beating Russian and ex-Olympic Biathlon Gold Medallist from Lillehammer, Nadzeda Talanova, who crossed the finish line 1 min 24 seconds later, with 11 penalties. Talanova skied fast, in fact 4 min and 30 sec faster than Dunn, but shot badly. While Dunn had a shaky start with 5 penalties on her prone shooting, she shot clean standing. Bronze medallist was Dana Bartalaska Ninajova from Slovakia.

Dunn's Gold is the first-ever win for an Australian woman biathlete at a World Masters Championship Event. The next race for Dunn is the Sprint this Friday 29 January. Talanova has thrown down the gauntlet to Dunn, claiming that Talanova will win on Friday because she is a faster skier, so the competition in this 5 km race will be hot. Zac Zaharias, the only other Australian biathlete at the Games, will also be competing this Friday, in the 6 km sprint in the BM5 Category (Men's 50-54 year).

The attached photo shows Irene on the podium with the other medallists.

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