



A LOOK BACK AT THE 2010 EUROPEAN SEASON 2009-10

The Australian Biathlon community has enjoyed its highest participation for many years, with Junior, Olympic and Masters biathletes representing Australia during the 2009-10 Northern Hemisphere winter.

To cover achievements in a short report does not really give due credit to those individuals that took part in events throughout Europe in the past 4 months. To highlight Biathlon achievements, I am proud to say,

- Irene Dunn won Gold for Australia at the inaugural World Masters Winter Games in Pokljuka, Slovenia, beating an ex-Olympian gold medallist in the process.
- Alex Almoukov at 19 years of age battled it out in IBU World Cup events and made representation at the 2010 Olympic Games in Vancouver
- Five Junior biathletes represented Australia at both Ridnaun (Italy) and Torsby (Sweden)
- Four Junior biathletes attended a 4 week training camp, and participated in a friendly competition in British Columbia (Canada)
- Back in Australia, another dozen school-aged biathletes have been sweating it out cross-training at the beach and on roller skis.
- No fewer than 15 other individuals made up of private individuals and Defence Force personnel travelled to train in Austria and then take part in the British Military competitions known as 'Exercise Rucksack.'
- Rachel McKay and Hamish Mclean also had Podium results at the Austrian Cup.

As participation in the sport continues to grow and the number of rifles being bought by individuals along with a new supply of club rifles, it all augers well for the future of the sport in Australia.

Through ongoing support at various levels by State Government, the AOC, the International Biathlon Union and the Australian Sport Commission, we are able to offer our athletes a solid pathway of development to assist them realise their goals.

Let's hope the Aussie season of 2010 delivers as much snow as I saw in Europe recently and the Athletes, Coaches and Officials all get something to smile about.

To see more of the sport on a world scale visit www.biathlonworld.com

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