



CAROLINE CHISHOLM COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Term 1 Week 2 Issue 1 2017



Faith Courage Tolerance

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Friends, Staff and Students of Caroline Chisholm College,

Welcome back to 2017! Usually, the first step towards victory is simply turning up, and I am pleased to say that our year has begun with nearly 1000 students ready for learning at Caroline Chisholm College. I want to extend a particularly warm welcome to the newest members of our community, our Year 7 students, and the eight students who have joined us in other year groups. I promise, it won't take long before these girls feel part of this warm and hospitable community, and new friendships begin to flourish. Mr Damien Mills, our Year 7 Leader of Learning reminded the students that being a bit nervous about something new is perfectly natural, and with patience and some courage, things get better and brighter every day. I am always delighted to observe the way older students go out of their way to make sure our new students are OK, know where they are going, and feel like they belong. We are looking forward to seeing all of our Year 7 students and their families at our Welcome BBQ next Friday evening.

We have three broad focus areas for 2017, from Year 7 to Year 12: **DISCIPLESHIP, GROWTH** and **ATTENDANCE**, and we need the help of parents, carers and families in each area.

DISCIPLESHIP

Put simply, discipleship refers to our friendship with Jesus and the impact this friendship has on our life, our relationships and our decisions. In 2017, the staff and students will explore how to develop this relationship and allow it to affect us and our lives.

GROWTH

We have redesigned our Homeroom and Pastoral Care programs for 2017 to allow us to spend more time and energy on ensuring our students are well, and developing healthy habits based on their character strengths. Our programs in each year group will cover the issues that our girls must confront as they move through high school and beyond, including balance, study, relationships, bullying, goal setting and resilience. Early this year, your daughter will identify her character strengths using the VIA Strengths Inventory (<http://www.viacharacter.org/>), and throughout the year, will be taught how to use these strengths to support her own growth in learning. Our assessment programs, too, will reflect this focus on growth, rather than simply performance or marks, and our teachers will be coaching your daughter's to plan for improvement.

We need your help to keep the conversations about school and learning focused on your daughter's strengths and her growth. Marks and grades are important, but not as important as our students learning how to take responsibility for solving problems and building skills for life.

ATTENDANCE

Every day of learning is valuable, and good attendance is a habit our students must learn for a healthy and productive life beyond school. The links between attendance and learning growth and between attendance and mental health and well-being are well established. Our college is working towards a goal of 90% of students attending 90% or more of schools days. Our current attendance rate is 73%, and this is unacceptable. Absence from school will only be approved for illness or injury, or because of an unavoidable commitment, such as for elite sports. In most circumstances, a family holiday is not a legitimate reason for missing school, and your request may be declined. Some students may stay away from school because they are not feeling happy. This is possibly the worst reason for absence. Separation from the routines and the supports that school provides usually make situations like this work. Remember, the first time you say your daughter can

stay home on a school day, you give her permission to ask this every other day of her school life. In order to stress the importance of attendance, and to help our girls understand what it means to belong to the community, we will only allow students to represent the college in sport, or other representative activities, if they have good attendance. Also, to qualify for school leadership, as SRC or a Captain, students must have attendance over 90%. We hope that, by putting these measures in place and being consistent, we will see a dramatic change in our attendance rate, all for the improved well-being and learning of our students.

every learner
every day 

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

As we begin this new year, I want to repeat our firm commitment to work with parents and carers as partners in the students' learning. Whilst we acknowledge that the journey will likely be uncomfortable at times, we will remain focused on our goal of preparing young women to be courageous disciples of Christ, with a sense of compassion and justice, and the skills and attitudes to flourish in an uncertain world. This means that, together, we need to be the source of encouragement, hope and challenge in the lives of these young people; to expect and demand great things of them so that they may become the people God dreams them to be.

I leave you with the prayer our students prayed for our community at our staff day in January:

Lord of all beginnings,
be with us as we prepare to embark on this adventure of learning.
Give us the gifts we need to support each student and each other:
the gifts of patience, wisdom and energy.

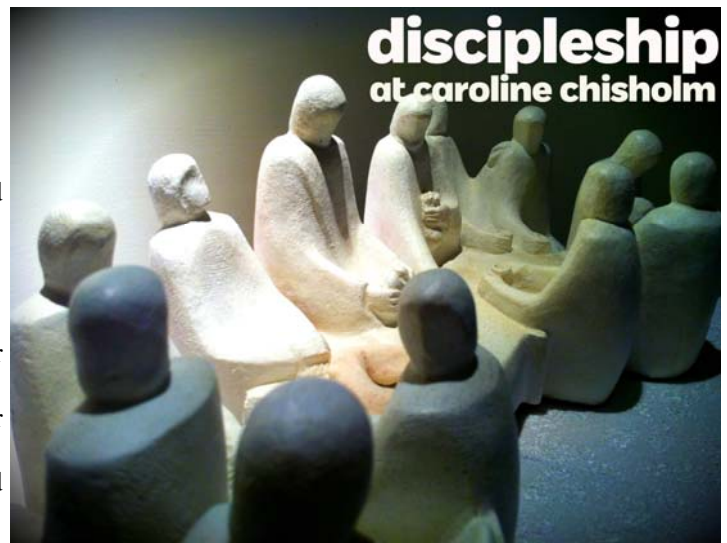
Lord of all knowing,
May our college be a place of true understanding;
in every subject and every classroom,
in every office and every lesson,
may the wonder of your creation be better understood and treasured.

Lord of peace,
You encouraged the little ones to come to you.
Help us to create a school where there is a place for everyone;
Where every child knows that they belong and are cared for here.
Be with us as we create a community of peace and hospitality.

Lord of our communion,
Inspire our discipleship so that we may love you and serve you.
Help us to overcome our doubts and grow our faith
so that we may be the lanterns that light the path to you
for our students.

Lord of us all,
Pour your abundant blessings on this community,
so that, in serving each other,
we may serve you.
We ask this through Christ our Lord
Amen

Mr Greg Elliott
Principal





FROM THE ACTING ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

I'd like to welcome all the students and parents back to the new school year and congratulate all students on the energised start they have made with their learning. It was wonderful seeing our new Year 7 students filled with enthusiasm and, I am pleased to say, they have settled in comfortably during their first week with us.

This week I will provide you with some generic information that I need to say at this time of the year so there is no later confusion. While most of this information is similar to last year, I would ask all parents to read it carefully, as it is very important information and there are a few slight changes from previous years.

Vaccinations

Vaccinations for Year 7 will occur this year. Year 7 students will have three vaccinations, covering HPV, hepatitis B and chickenpox. The first vaccination for Year 7 students will be on this **Wednesday 8 February**. Students in Years 7 have received a permission form for the vaccinations. If any student has not yet returned their form they need to bring it with them to the vaccinations tomorrow. It is important that students come to school tomorrow, even if they are a little unwell, as long as they don't have a fever. If they are unwell it is possible for them to be brought to school for the vaccine then go home. Vaccinations start at around 9.00 am. The other dates for Year 7 vaccinations are **Thursday 18 May and Wednesday 20 September**. As some of the vaccinations have two or three doses, it is important for students to be at school for all the vaccination days.

Uniform

I have been very impressed by the appearance of the students at the start of the year and I'd like to thank the students and the parents for their support. We are a uniform school and it is the strong wish of the parent body that we enforce our uniform requirements. All students and parents, on enrolling at the college, also signed an agreement to abide by the college's uniform expectations.

If you are ever in any doubt if an item conforms to the college expectations, particularly if there is a cost involved, such as school shoes, please check with your daughter's Homeroom Teacher, Year Leader or myself.

The college uniform requirements are clearly spelt out in the student diaries and on the website. While the vast majority of students adhere really well to the expectations, some students push the limits.

Specific areas we will continue to enforce strongly are that the **skirts** must reach the bottom of the knees and that there are to be **no piercings** other than up to 2 in each ear (and no expanders – only simple studs or sleepers). In particular, there is to be **no jewellery** in noses or lips – including plastic studs – and that nail polish rules are followed. This has always been the college policy.

Students with unacceptable jewellery or nail art or non-compliant nail polish will be asked to remove it immediately. There is categorically no facial jewellery (including plastic studs) to be worn by any student in any year, from Year 7 to Year 12. Students who refuse to remove non-uniform jewellery, in addition to receiving warnings leading to detentions, will be removed from class and not allowed to return until the jewellery is gone.

These uniform provisions have been consistent since any current student was enrolled at the college and it would be greatly appreciated for parents to support us by discouraging these piercings while their daughter is a student at the college. The rules for nail polish for senior and junior students can be found in the college diary. Students are also reminded that the only neck wear allowed is a simple chain and cross.

All students from Years 7-12 must have the College backpack. Students in Years 7-9 must use the backpack each day, although they may use the blue tote bags with the college name for **additional** equipment. Only students in Years 10-12 may, if they only have a few books to bring on a particular day, bring the blue college carry bag only. Please note, though, that the carry bags are not designed for carrying substantial loads, either in terms of their durability or their ergonomics.

Students should have all their equipment including uniform items, clearly labelled. Students at the college are very honest and many lost items are handed in. It is very frustrating when the owner cannot be traced because there is no name on the item.

All students in Years 7-9 are required to have their hair tied back. Senior students, only, may have their hair out, but they must tie it back in classes with WHS requirements.

Any parent whose daughter has a problem meeting the uniform requirements immediately needs to contact her Year Leader or me to talk over the issues. Where there is an issue of genuine hardship and a uniform item cannot be purchased, parents and carers are asked to contact Mr Elliott or me, confidentially.

Caroline Chisholm Day

Students will be receiving information about Caroline Chisholm Day closer to the event but as this is the last newsletter until the day itself, I would like to draw parents' attention to a few matters:

- This is a significant college event and all students are expected to attend. Absences from this event will be noted on the semester report.
- The day consists of a full college Mass at Padre Pio church followed by a fun remainder of the day, with games, rides and food.
- Students who wish to use the professional rides can buy a wristband for \$20. There are many other activities which are free or have a small cost which goes towards Project Compassion.
- Students are to wear their **Full School Uniform to the church**. They can change into their **Sport Uniform once they return to school**. Remember to be sun safe!
- Students who do not attend the Mass will not be allowed to take part on the afternoon fun activities. Students who come to school after the Mass will be supervised in the library for the remainder of the day.
- The activities are for current Caroline Chisholm students only. No relations, friends or ex-students are allowed.
- Students can bring their own food, pre-order from some stalls or take their luck with other hot food stalls. Students will not be allowed to order food in or have take-away food dropped off to them. The canteen will only take orders in the morning before Homeroom and will not be open for non-ordered food purchases during the day.

Parent/Student Contact During the Day

As students should not have mobile phones on in class time, I would ask that any communication between parents and daughters happen in break time. I understand that there may be times when simple messages regarding domestic arrangements are sent this way.

However, in the case of a student needing to leave school unexpectedly or a potentially upsetting message needing to be conveyed, I would ask parents to use the school office as the channel of communication. If you need to take your daughter from school unexpectedly, please contact the school rather than your daughter directly. Similarly, if a girl becomes ill during the day she should notify her class teacher who will send her to the sick bay. The office staff will contact the parent and organise for the girl to speak to the parent if this is necessary and make arrangements for her to be picked up. **Girls should not be contacting parents directly to ask to be picked up when they are ill. It is part of our duty of care that we are informed immediately a student feels unwell or needs to go home.** We need to liaise with parents to make the best arrangements for the student's welfare.

Also a reminder that students are not permitted near the front gates of the college during recess and lunch and **should not be asking parents or anyone else to make deliveries of fast food (McDonalds, KFC, etc)**. Students were reminded about this last Friday at their year meeting. Students are asked to bring their recess and lunch from home or can use the canteen facilities to purchase food and drinks. This will be monitored very closely and anyone who delivers these items to the college will be asked to take them home. Students will not be paged to the front office to collect any such deliveries. I thank you for your support with this matter.

Absences

- If a student is away from school, she must provide an acceptable **written explanation** signed by her parent or carer or a doctor's certificate within FIVE school days (one week) of her return to school after absence.
- If a note is not returned by that date she will officially be recorded as "Absence is not explained or justified". Even if a note subsequently comes in, the official recording will remain "Absence is not explained or justified" and appear that way on the semester report, although the note will be stored in the student's file.
- Parents need to apply for leave from the principal if their daughter will be absent for more than 10 days (other than for illness). This application must be completed using the form which can be obtained from Student Services. This is a NSW government regulation.
- If a student is not in a Homeroom at 8.23 am she will be marked absent. Students arriving after this time must sign in at the front office and have their late note signed by a parent or carer. Students on a late bus still need to sign in as the roll will have been taken in their Homeroom. However, a late bus arrival will not be recorded as a partial absence.

- Parents will receive an SMS message notifying them of their daughter's absence from the Homeroom roll. Parents have the capacity to reply to this SMS to produce an explanation note on their daughter's absence. If parents choose not to respond to the text to explain the absence, then a written note must be given to the Homeroom Teacher within FIVE school days of the absence.

Lockers

All students are provided with locker access, at no cost, unlike the case in some schools. Due to reconfigurations to the buildings, there is no longer room for a locker for each student. There are still plans to purchase new lockers but it will require the building of structures to house them and there is no timeline at this stage. Years 10, 11 and 12 students share lockers. At this stage, Years 7-9 still have an individual locker. This is a privilege which comes with a few expectations. The first is that each student provides a secure lock for the locker. Students will not be allowed to use a locker if they do not provide a lock. Their items and school bags will be stored at the front office and they will have to go the office each time they need something.

Locks should be adequate for the job. Many cheap locks purchased by students are not secure and can easily be opened by other keys. There are a significant number of students who do not have locks on their lockers, yet use them to store items of value. We cannot guarantee the safekeeping of any item in a locker, even if it does have a lock on it. Lockers are primarily designed for the storage of books and such, not as secure places to store valuables. Items of value, such as wallets, iPads, and phones (switched off) should generally be kept on the student's person. Furthermore, if there was no lock, the loss of an item from a locker will not be investigated. It is recommended that large amounts of money are brought to school by parents, not students. If a student has an item of value which must be brought to school, it should be left in the office for safekeeping.

Care for the environment

As part of our collective responsibility for the College environment, students will from time to time be asked to help pick up rubbish. Even as I pick up rubbish which is not mine, I would expect a student to co-operate with a staff member when asked to pick up rubbish, even if it was not theirs. Students have access to plastic gloves where this is appropriate or necessary. Furthermore, students are asked to help keep the learning spaces clean and tidy and to pick up any litter that they may see and place it in the nearest bin.

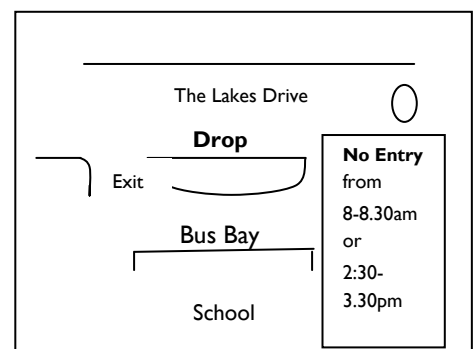
Detentions

While relatively few students receive afternoon detentions, detentions are an important part of the college student management structure. All students and parents, on enrolling at the college, signed an agreement to abide by and support the college's student management policies, including possible afternoon detentions. The normal detention is for one hour. This may be for a serious offence or for an accumulation of 6 diary warnings for minor infringements. (Students receive a lunch detention after 3 warnings.) Any student who does not attend a scheduled afternoon detention without a valid reason will receive a two hour detention at the next available opportunity. This will comprise a one hour detention for the original offence and an additional hour for failing to attend without a reason. Notice of afternoon detentions is always posted to the parent/carer and requires a signed response. Please note that after school detentions will be held on **Wednesdays** (from 2.45 pm to 3.45 pm.).

Traffic Arrangements

A drop off zone on The Lakes Drive enables students to be dropped off in the morning and picked up in the afternoon outside the College gates. Due to the high pedestrian and bus activity in the mornings and afternoons **parents are not to enter the college grounds to drop off or pick up their daughters at these times**. There is **no access for non-staff vehicles** into the College grounds between 8.00am and 8.30 am or between 2.30pm and 3.00pm. Vehicles already on the premises may not exit the grounds between 2.30pm and 3.00pm.

Parents and students are advised that the speed hump outside the front western gate is not a pedestrian crossing. There is a pedestrian crossing and safety zone for crossing near the roundabout. Students are to enter the college grounds only through the pedestrian gate, not either of the vehicular entrances. The rear gate of the College is opened for pedestrian access only in the afternoon for students walking home and should not be a pick up point for vehicles. Parents are also reminded of a number of no stopping areas outside the college, particularly near the driveways. You are not permitted to stop in these areas at all, even momentarily to let a student out of the car.



Buses and Opal Cards

Just a reminder that any students who are catching buses must **tap on and off** with their Opal Card when travelling to and from school. The bus company will use this data to work out whether services are needed on particular routes so please remind your daughters to do this each day.

Update - School Bus 4058

Commencing **Monday 20th February 2017**; the intersection of Caddens Rd and Bringelly Rd will be closed due to road works.

School Bus 4058 will be diverted as detailed below:

From Kingswood Rd & Caddens Rd; School Bus 4058 will operate via (L) Caddens Rd (R) Angophora Av (L) Peppermint Cres (R) Bringelly Rd to Kingswood High School, then continues as per the current path to School.

Busways will notify parents & students when the intersection has been re-opened and your service has returned to its original path.

Mr Stephen Casni - Acting Assistant Principal



FROM THE ACTING LEADER OF INNOVATION & LEARNING

Welcome back to another year of wonderful learning opportunities.

The beginning of any school year is personified by the joy and eagerness of our new Year 7 students as they begin their high school journey. Their acceptance of change and courage to jump into the unknown is an example for us all. This year's Year 7 undertook the challenge of entering a new school environment in the most testing of weather. They are commended for how well they coped with all their new experiences this week. Year 7 was most capably led and supported through their first week by their Year Leader, Mr Mills, and senior students in their role as Peer Support Leaders and Bus Prefects.

Equally, all students have returned keen to recommence their studies and have settled quickly into their learning. An important aspect of learning at Caroline Chisholm College is the development of a growth mindset in all students and it has been exciting to witness many students bring this attitude to their learning in the first week. Students who thrive on challenges and view failures as learning opportunities will maximise their learning. Teachers will continue to encourage and promote this approach to learning in 2017.

At the time of writing, we are preparing for our Distinguished Achievers' Assembly. This celebration of high performing students in the 2016 HSC is a wonderful chance to acknowledge the work of those who have excelled. Most importantly, these students demonstrate to those still at the College, the importance of goal setting in one's learning and the merits of a growth mindset.

Year 7-12 Assessment Handbooks and Calendars

All Assessment Handbooks and Calendars will be available on the college website over the course of the next week. The handbooks contain important information about our assessment policy and the procedures students need to follow if they are absent on the day of a formal assessment task. Please take some time to look over these handbooks together and to plot our important days into your calendars at home. The handbooks and calendars can be located at <http://www.cccglennmorepark.catholic.edu.au/Learning-and-Teaching/Assessment> and should be referred to regularly over the course of the year.

BYOD Setup Sessions

Thanks are extended to parents and students who visiting the College before the beginning of the school year for setup of their technological devices in preparation for their learning this year. Particular thanks are extended to Mr Beatty, Mr Portelli and Mr Fulwood for assisting students and parents through this process. This is a huge undertaking and they most professionally support students, parents, and teachers at this busy time of the year.

Our ICT Bootcamp for Year 7, that guides them through their use of technology at the College, had a few false starts due technological problems beyond our control. Students and parents are thanked for their patience as connection to the College network was delayed. Any student who has not had their device setup or is experiencing difficulties can see the IT department to book a setup session. The IT department is located in the College Library. Bookings can be made via the Library computers.

All students should have a device with them in all classes. For those students still using iPads please note that if your iPad needs to be replaced, we ask that you replace it with a laptop device that meets the minimum specifications. Information for this can be found on our BYOD Portal at <http://byod.carolinechisholm.nsw.edu.au/>
A reminder that all devices are to be fully charged the night before and brought to school ready for learning purposes.

Year 7-10 e-Textbooks

Thank you to all families who have purchased the required e-Textbooks for Mathematics, HSIE and Science through Champion Education. Students in Year 7 should now be able to access their e-Textbooks as the cost of these was included in school fees. Families in Years 8-10 who have not been able to purchase the required books need to do so as soon as possible as these are already being utilised in classes.

Information on how to purchase the e-Textbooks can be accessed at:
<http://byod.carolinechisholm.nsw.edu.au/years-8-10/>

Where there is an issue of genuine hardship and textbooks cannot be purchased, parents and carers are asked to contact Mr Greg Elliott, Mrs Cathy Moran or me, confidentially.

Email Communication

I ask parents to remind their daughters to check their school email daily as important information from teachers will be sent out through this means of communication. Students in Year 10-12 should be checking their email for messages from BOSTES relating to important RoSA and HSC information. Similarly, important emails are often sent to parents via the email addresses provided to the college. Please check these regularly and feel free to use this as a way of communication with your daughter's teachers.

Google Classrooms

Much of the content delivered to students is now done through Google Classrooms. Introduced in 2016, we continue to use Google Classrooms as a means to communicate with students, provide them with resources, and allow work to be submitted electronically. It particularly aids students who have been absent to follow up on missed work.

Provision now exists for parents/carers to join their child's Google Classroom. This will enable parents to receive regular, automatic email summaries for each of their students. Parents/carers choose the frequency of the emails - daily or weekly - and can unsubscribe at any time. Email summaries include:

Missing work: work that's late at the time of the email

Upcoming work: work that is shortly due

Class activity: announcements, assignments, and questions recently posted by teachers

Parents/carers wishing to receive such communication about their child's classes can send a request to specific teachers who will invite them by email to participate. Your child simply needs to provide their teacher/s with the parents/carers email address.

Year 11 Parent Information Evening

The Year 11 Parent Information evening will take place this Wednesday, 8th February at 6:00pm in the West Wing. Important information about the HSC, assessment and expectations around senior studies will be presented so it is important that at least one parent/carer attends with their daughter. You will also have the opportunity to meet your daughter's homeroom teacher at this evening.

In addition to this meeting, an information session regarding HSC courses with a major project will be held in the College Library at 6:00pm. Given the demands of major projects it is important that parents and students both appreciate all aspects of this type of work and the demands and timeline for suitable completion.

We look forward to seeing everyone there.

Mrs Janette Lans - Acting Leader of Innovation & Learning

THE LITURGY COMMITTEE - 'THE GIFT OF AN ANGEL'

In Term 4 2016, as part of the 'Gift of an Angel' Christmas Initiative, the school Liturgy Committee arranged for all of Year 12 2017 students to write a Christmas message on paper angels for nursing home residents. These gifts were sent firstly with the College Choir on their annual Christmas Concert performance at a local nursing, and secondly on the 14th of December with eight senior girls to Hawkesbury Living, a nursing home in Richmond. During the visit, the girls handed out the Christmas messages to the elderly, provided priceless company to all the excited and enthusiastic residents, participated in friendly conversations, gave live piano performances and sang Christmas carols. The whole experience was amazing. The elderly residents' spirits were raised and they expressed their gratitude, not only for the angel messages, but also for the company of the school students who had given up their own time to acknowledge and care for each resident. The staff at the Nursing Home were thrilled to have such young and caring girls spreading Christmas cheer with great generosity and love. It was an extremely rewarding experience for all the girls who participated. It brought home to them the idea that small gestures truly do make a massive difference in the lives of others. The challenge now for all of us is to consider the small things we can do each day, which will make a difference and spread the light and love of Christ.

Written by Rachel Bartolo and Brianna Saunders - Liturgy Committee Leaders

**DIARY DATES**

Year 7 Items, Year 8 Items, Year 9 Items, Year 10 Items, Year 11 Items and Year 12 Items, Whole School Items

Wednesday 8 Feb	Year 7 Vaccination #1 Year 10 Visual Arts Excursion Year 12 Major Projects Meeting 6.00 pm Year 11 Information Evening 6.00 pm	Tuesday 14 Feb	Year 8 & Year 12 Textiles Excursion Powerhouse Museum
Friday 10 Feb	Distinguished Achievers' Assembly Student Leaders Development Afternoon Year 7 Welcome Barbecue Stage 6 Drama Excursion - 7.30pm Callback 2016 Excursion	Friday 17 Feb	Caroline Chisholm Day Opening School Mass 9.00 am
		Monday 20 Feb	Year 12 Work Placement
		Tuesday 21 Feb	Year 10 Study Skills Year 11 Study Skills
		Wednesday 22 Feb	All School Triathlon Championships
		Thursday 23 Feb	All Schools Triathlon Championships