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Kewarra Beach mother in induced coma after Ironman Cairns swim leg

MURRAY WENZEL AND GRACE UHR • THE CAIRNS POST • JUNE 15, 2015 5:00AM

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Support flows in for blast victims



Emergency crews attend to the near death drowning of a 50 year old female competitor during the Cairns half Marathon at Palm Cove. PICTURE: JUSTIN BRIERTY

A KEWARRA Beach woman was fighting for her life last night after being pulled unconscious from the water of the Ironman event just 20 metres from the Palm Cove shoreline.

Erica Atkins, 43, was doing the 1.9km swim leg of the 70.3 Cairns Ironman team event yesterday and was due to hand over to her husband Mark for the bike leg.

But the mother-of-two was last night in a critical condition in Cairns Hospital after getting into difficulty in the water.

A family friend, who did not wish to be named, said Mrs Atkins was in an induced coma and her distraught family were waiting by her bedside for news.

"She's a lovely woman, they are really nice people," he said.

"This is horrible. The family are in total shock."

Surf Life Saving Queensland North Queensland regional manager Col Sparkes said the woman was no more than 20 metres from the finishing point of the leg when she found trouble.

He said life guards with rescue tubes reached her first, before a board and then an inflatable rescue boat brought her to shore. "They did a great job and then it was just amazing the number of skilled people that were there to assist as members of the crowd or Ironman staff," he said.

"Doctors, nurses, just came in from everywhere and there were probably six working together to give CPR for more than 10 minutes.

"She was given the best opportunity possible and it was just amazing to see



MORE than \$50,000 has been pledged over the weekend towards the victims of the Ravenshoe explosion.

Region is the big winner as Cairns puts on a sporting show



THE future of Cairns Ironman is all but assured as organisers hail the region's fifth hosting of the mega-triathlon a success for the sport and the local economy.

Snack shop owners defy gunman terror



THE owners of a Manoora snack shop victimised by an armed robber have been inundated with support from the community.

Mother charged over baby death



AN Atherton woman will appear in court this morning charged with causing the death of her newborn baby almost 18 months ago.

Ironman swim shock



A KEWARRA Beach woman is fighting for her life after being pulled unconscious from the water of the Cairns Ironman just 20 metres from the shoreline.

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BREAKING NEWS

everyone come from nowhere to help.”

Paramedics were called just before 8am to the northern end of Palm Cove beach as life savers worked to revive her.

She was then transported by ambulance to Cairns Hospital under police escort.

Ironman chief marketing officer Jeff Gillies confirmed the incident had taken place during the relay event.

“We had our water safety on the scene, they’ve immediately taken her to the beach, she’s received emergency treatment and she has been taken to Cairns Base Hospital,” he said.

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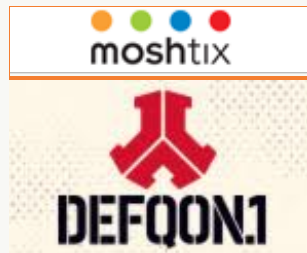
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