



## ON THE REBOUND

**From intensive care to the winner's podium – one fella's amazing comeback.**

**N**ine months ago, triathlete Brett Lee's life hung in the balance. He lay in a coma in the intensive care unit at Sydney's Royal Prince Alfred hospital after sustaining a serious throat injury while training in his home town of Forster, NSW. A freak gust of wind had caught Brett off balance while he was cycling, forcing him into the path of a parked 4WD. His throat took the full force of the blow, fracturing his voice box. If his throat had hit the vehicle a few centimetres to the right or left, his neck would have been broken.

But Brett made an amazingly fast recovery. He was back in training a month after the accident, representing Australia at the Triathlon World Championships in Japan last September, finishing 48th out of 72 competitors. The following month, he shattered the race record at the Red Rock-Corindi Surf Life Saving Club triathlon on NSW's north coast.

Brett's achievements have now been recognised by the NSW Institute of Sport. The 19-year-old was presented with the Ian Thorpe/Grand Slam International Award for Outstanding Achievement at the Institute's annual awards in December last year.

Two days later, Brett was accepting another award – a Combined High Schools Blue for triathlon at the Department of Education and Training NSW School Sports Unit awards.

With the National Triathlon series now in full swing, we're bound to witness further sporting brilliance from Brett in the weeks and months to come.





## ACTIVITY 1: READING FOR MEANING

Circle the correct answer:

- This text can be classified as
  - a narrative
  - a poem
  - an information report
  - a procedure
- What is the main idea of this article?
  - Brett Lee had a serious training accident last year.
  - Brett Lee made a fast recovery from a training accident and is likely to do well in the National Triathlon series this year.
  - Brett Lee represented Australia in the Triathlon World Championships in Japan last September.
  - Ian Thorpe presented Brett Lee with an award from the NSW Institute of Sport.
- Next to the following statements, write whether they are **fact** or **opinion**

Brett Lee is the best triathlete in the world. \_\_\_\_\_

Brett Lee is pictured with Ian Thorpe. \_\_\_\_\_

Nine months ago, Brett Lee was in a coma after a bicycle accident. \_\_\_\_\_

Brett Lee is a triathlete. \_\_\_\_\_

Brett Lee has a deadly bike. \_\_\_\_\_

Brett Lee is likely to do well in the National triathlon series this year. \_\_\_\_\_

## ACTIVITY 2: UNDERSTANDING WORDS IN CONTEXT

Write in your own meaning for the words from the article in the boxes below.

WORDS FROM THE ARTICLE	MY WORDS THAT MEAN THE SAME THING
winner's podium	
sustaining a serious throat injury	
freak gust of wind	
fracturing his voice box	
competitors	
bound to witness further brilliance	



### ACTIVITY 3: UNDERSTANDING LANGUAGE

Circle the **VERBS** in the list below.

sustaining                  town                  training                  caught

Circle the **PRONOUNS** in the list below.

he                  his                  we're                  a

### ACTIVITY 4: SPELLING

**Unscramble** the following words from the article.

eieistvnn \_\_\_\_\_

erattlteih \_\_\_\_\_

kefar \_\_\_\_\_

gi trh \_\_\_\_\_

etsaethrd \_\_\_\_\_



Brett with Ian Thorpe at the awards ceremony.



## ACTIVITY 5: WRITING AND DRAWING A CARTOON.

Draw a six frame cartoon to illustrate Brett Lee's story from intensive care to his amazing comeback.


### HINTS:

- Use the information from the article and your own ideas to sequence your cartoon
- Keep your drawings simple
- Use speech bubbles to show what the characters are thinking or saying.