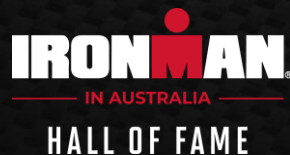


#14



KAREN PINI



Karen's induction was a surprise induction and carried out by Glenda Baggs. Karen had competed in small triathlons prior to 1985 and had triathlete friends in the Cronulla area who went on to race at Forster-Tuncurry. She was a spectator at the first race in 1985 and was approached by Ken Baggs to be a VIP guest at the 1987 event and then came back every year. It is a fact that more recent IRONMAN competitors were not born when Karen first became directly involved with the event. She has been a legend in her own right – centrefold for the first Australian Playboy Magazine, crowned Miss West Coast in 1976, Runner up to Miss World in 1976 at age 19, TV Soap star in the Young Doctors, a member of the old Paul Hogan TV Comedy Shows and the "Lotto Girl" - amongst her many claims to fame. Better known to the older IRONMAN athlete each year from 1987 (she did attend the first race in 1985 as an avid spectator) she stood at the finish line to hand out medals and a kiss to finishing athletes mainly at Forster-Tuncurry. It is estimated that she presented over 20,000 finisher medals and gave an equal number of hugs and kisses at the IRONMAN finish line as well as doing some commentating and presentations and hosting at the awards ceremonies along the way. Karen moved from Sydney to Camden Haven near Port Macquarie in 2008. She now manages a retirement Village at Laurieton. She is 63.

Written by Ken Baggs

Accomplishments

Miss World Pageant
First Runner Up, 1976

Go Lotto Host
1979 -91

Nurse Sherry Andrew; The Young Doctors
1979 - 82

Cast Member, The Paul Hogan Show
1980

Finish Line Volunteer IRONMAN Australia