



MATT FORMSTON

Talent Profile





Current World Champion Surfer, former World Champion Cyclist, father of three, Executive of one of Australia's leading Telecommunications companies and all with only 5% of his vision. Matt Formston is undoubtedly one of Australia's most formidable athletes with one hell of a story.



NATIONALITY

Australian

DATE OF BIRTH

21/07/1978

CAPABILITIES

Keynote
Guest Panellist
Ambassador
Social Media
PR Campaign
Appearances

INTERESTS

Health & Nutrition
Lifestyle
Beauty & Fashion
Wellbeing
Leadership
Family
Business
Environment

BIO

Matt was diagnosed with Macular Dystrophy at 5 years of age. He was one of the first people in the world under the age of 40 to be diagnosed with the disease. Although Matt had lost his vision, he remained in a mainstream school and grew up like all the other children playing Rugby League for the Narrabeen Sharks from 5-11 years, transferring to Rugby Union and playing until his late teens, including the first fifteen team for his high school and reps for Warringah Rats.

He felt most at home playing sport and less different to others. In Matt's teens, his love for surfing began. He learnt to sail, played ice hockey, and was personally awarded the Sid Hamilton Shield state award by the Mayor of Sydney. However, despite his success in sport, Matt faced constant bullying at school and challenges with the school system not being set up or equipped to support a child with a disability.

For a charity quest in 2009, despite not owning a bike, Matt rode a single bicycle on his own, 1,200 kilometres from Sydney to Melbourne. To this day, it is still the world record travelled by a blind person on a bike and what started Matt on his cycling journey. Today he is still one of the world's most accomplished professional blind cyclists. On this ride, he was noticed by the Cycling Australia talent scouts and by 2011, he was riding for Australia. Matt went on to win cycling events worldwide from 2012-2016 and retiring at the Rio Paralympics.

He also achieved an astounding 14 Australian Titles across four disciplines and was the driving force behind tandem bikes built from Carbon Fibre. Matt won gold in the 2013 Tandem Road World Cup and then won gold again in the 2014 Track World Championships, setting the Tandem 4km Pursuit world record time of 4 minutes and 11.213 seconds. This was the fastest time in history for a tandem bike ride and the third fastest time that anyone on any pushbike had completed the 4km pursuit.



Corporate Highlights:

Business executive and a leader the sustainability and diversity, equity and inclusion spaces at Optus Former Account Executive in Optus Enterprise Strategic Sales for 10+ years achieving pace setter Awards Chair of Macquarie Business Park Community Partnership 2017-2021 Chair of Para Surfing Australia – Current Executive Director on the Board of Blind Sports and Recreation NSW ACT Chair of Optus Disability Network

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

2013	Tandem Road World Cup Gold Medallist
2014	Track World Championships Tandem 4 km Pursuit
3 x	ISA Para Surfing World Champion
3 x	Hawaiian Championships winner
2 x	US Open Adaptive Surfing Championships winner
2018 - Present	Captain Australian Para Surfing
2023	Heavy Water Award Winner



To request more information about
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