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Snowsill wins Gold for Australia

MELBOURNE - Emma Snowsill powered her way on the final run at the Commonwealth Games on Saturday to give Australia its first triathlon gold medal.

So often a force at world titles, Australia had never won a Commonwealth or Olympic gold medal but Snowsill put in a commanding performance in front of her home crowd in the gruelling event.

The diminutive Snowsill fought off a strong challenge from New Zealanders, with Sam Warriner winning silver & Andrea Hewitt out sprinting Debbie Tanner to take bronze on the line.

Snowsill, the 2003 & 2005 World Champion, kept in touch with the leaders during the 1.5km swim and 40km bike legs, but came into her own as she surged to the front about a third of the way into the closing 10km run along Melbourne's foreshore.

"This is by far my biggest and most memorable win. I've won world championships and major events before but they've all been overseas," a delighted Snowsill said.

"To win this here in Melbourne is amazing "It's still sinking in," Snowsill said ".



EMOTIONAL MOMENT

Knowing she'd secured Australia's first gold medal, an emotional Snowsill stopped to kiss her father Garry & drape an Australian flag over her shoulders before crossing the finish line.

"Ding, dong, the witch is dead," a jubilant Australian triathlon coach Bill Davoren said after her victory.