

PORIRUA CITY AQUATICS 2013/2014
PRESIDENT'S REPORT
Year ending 31st March 2014

I have pleasure in presenting the club's 43rd Annual Report.

Again this has been a year where Porirua City Aquatics has been successful at many levels.

Learn to Swim: Courses of seven lessons were held each term attracting approximately 100 participants. Learn to Swim provides a steady stream of graduates ready to enter the club programme, and valuable income stream. Three new instructors joined the team during the year, parents of swimmers currently taking lessons. The success of learn to swim can be directly attributed to the passionate volunteers who give up their time freely to instruct the swimmers and the ladies who administer PCA's programme. This year new progress sheets were introduced to help trace the swimmers and assist with the preparation the end of term certificates. Julie Stapleton who has co-ordinated learn to swim for a numbers of year is taking a break for the rest of the year. We are grateful to Julie for the hours she has given in for streamlining the administration of our programme and for ensuring trained 'staff' are ready to take over.

On the competitive side there have been a number of highlights during the year. Again many have centred around Ben Walsh and his successes. Ben was a finalist at the Porirua Sports Awards (Under 19 Section) and was the Greater Secondary School's 2013 Male Swimmer of the Year. Of the numerous National and Regional Medals he won, winning the Gold Medal as a 16 year old in the Open 100m breaststroke at the NZ Short Course Champs would probably be the highlight. At this meet he also won the Silver in 200m breast and Bronze 50 Breast. Ben continues to rewrite the club record book as well as breaking many Wellington (open and age group) and NZ age group records.

PCA's other highlights included

- Two National Gold Medals and a Silver to Max Drummond, Gold and Silver relay medals to Sophie Wilkinson at Junior Nationals
- Swimmers selected to represent Wellington in the Fairbrother Cup and Six Centre Meet
- Bronagh Ryan and Ben Walsh selection in the ALL STARS Team to swim at SNZ's first ever Zonal Competition.
- A successful camp for Wellington Champs qualified swimmers at Palmerston North in January. A huge effort was put into fundraising for this and those who took part reduced their camp costs considerably. Thanks especially to Julia Kelly and Andy Wilkinson for driving this.
- Two teams competing in Swim Wellington's 2013 Inter-club league competition with the Black team finishing second the Turquoise team 4th (Twelve teams took part)
- Onolata Little, being named as Club Contributor of the Year at Wellington Swimming's 2013 AGM.

Coaching: Nevill Sutton has continued to coach our Senior Squad at the Te Rauparaha Arena Pool, as well as mentoring Junior coach Alex Bennett. Nevill was named Coach of the Year at the 2013 Porirua Sports Awards. Alex Bennett, our Junior Squad completed his Bronze Accreditation coaching qualification during the year.

As a volunteer Todd Morton (Director, Easyswim Swim School) coached a PCA transition group once a week at Te Rauparaha Arena Pool to help ease the move for swim school graduates who are use to swimming in learners size pool to club sessions in a 25m pool. This has been reasonably successful with swimmers moving into both our volunteer programme and our squad lanes.

While many swimmers have been encouraged to move to Professional Coaching the bulk of our membership continues to be coached Monday and Friday nights, and Sunday mornings by our volunteer coaches. Thanks to Eileen Adams, Viv Morton, Peter Gibbs and Richard Petersen for the many hours they have given freely to the club. Peter completed SNZ's Level 3 Recreation and Sport Teaching and Coaching Certificate during the year.

Thanks to the efforts of Terry Laws, PCA's pool of officials has continued to grow. The club has continued to enjoy the support of senior officials, Rhonda and Bryan Graham, Gillian Kalafatelis, Graham Seagull and Matt Meehan on Race nights, at club champs and club carnivals. In July/Aug Matt Meehan was one of two NZ Officials appointed to represent NZ at the World Swimming Champs in Barcelona.

Part way through this year a new policy was introduced where carnival entries were only accepted if a parent put their name forward to officiate as required. Over recent years the number of parents volunteering to assist with officiating, managing teams and covering our club duties has been decreasing and this is proving to be a way of ensuring everyone takes their turn

The Club organised two successful Novice carnivals in the period covered this report. The first in May 2013 and the second in March 2014. While the latter was smaller in comparison, these carnivals continue fill a need on Swim Wellington's programme.

PCA assisted at the first ever Porirua primary interschool swimming sports in September. This combined initiative was supported by Swim Wellington, Dash Swim School, and PCA. The top school was Rangikura School who won the Porirua City Aquatics Cup – a cup donated by the club.

In house the club ran our annual 100m handicapped trophy meet, race nights, official Club Championships, In House League and our Christmas Family Fun night. All of these events proved to be as popular as ever.

In closing I would like to thank

- The parents and supporters who have managed teams, officiated at meets, and covered the many duties/jobs required to ensure a swim meet runs smoothly.
- Keri Martin for stepping into the race secretary role at short notice.
- The committee for all their work. There is a huge number of tasks that need to be covered off to ensure a club of our size runs smoothly. PCA is very fortunate to have had a committee of experienced people who are passionate about the club and what we can offer to our members.

Viv Morton, President