

**PORIRUA CITY AQUATICS 2011/2012**  
**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**  
*Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012*

I have pleasure in presenting the club's 41st Annual Report.

While there is been many highlights for Porirua City Aquatics this year, Ben Walsh's NZ Age Group record for boys 14years 200m breaststroke at the Wellington Summer Championship tops the list.

Other highlights include

- National Bronze Medal for Sophie Wilkinson at Junior Nationals
- A clean sweep of the three 15yr old Breaststroke titles at National Age Groups for Ben Walsh, and each swim breaking the Wellington record.
- Ben Walsh, Hamish Trlin, Christopher Kidd-Andrews and Bronagh Ryan all members of medal winning regional relay teams at NAGs.
- Emily Laws winning three medals at Division II in Dunedin.
- A club trip to Levin
- Having representatives selected for both Swimming Wellington's Fairbrother Cup and Six Centre Meet teams.
- Dannielle Gaulofa competing for Tokelau and Matt Meehan officiating at the Pacific Games in August 2011.
- 5 Gold Medals, 3 Silvers and a Bronze Medal at the 2011 NZ Short Course Championships. (Ben Walsh 5 Golds and a Silver, Tamati O'Hagan a Silver and a Bronze)
- 4<sup>th</sup> placing on the club points table at the Wellington Summer and Winter Champs.

While changes to the eligibility criteria for Swim Wellington inter-club league seemed to favour larger clubs, Porirua City Aquatics teams competed with distinction, with the Black team finishing second and the Turquoise team 10<sup>th</sup>.

Sunday Morning Learn to Swim Lessons have continued to be important for the club, not only as a feeder into the club but also as huge contributor to club funds. Four courses of seven lessons were held each term with over 100 children registering for each course. Our success in this area can be directly attributed to our team of volunteers who give so freely of their time to instruct and administer the programme, ensuring all swimmers are in their correct ability group. Once again the club is grateful to a number of present and past swimmers who continue to teach the learners and gain valuable experience for the future.

Nevill Sutton has continued to coach our Senior Squad at the Te Rauparaha Arena Pool in what has been rather a mixed year. Efforts to increase attendance by reducing the number of sessions on offer was not well received and it would seem eight sessions must be available to ensure swimmers can fit swimming into their busy schedules. Porirua City Aquatics is grateful for the support Nevill gave our swimmers at NAGs when his family were going through a difficult time.

Our Junior Squads (Orcas, Swordfish and Penguins) at the Cannons Creek Pool under the guidance of Alex Bennett have all grown in size. A new group, the Tadpoles was introduced as a technique group that hopefully will ease transition for swimmers going from club lanes to junior squad.

A successful 'at home' camp was held in January for the Orcas, Swordfish and Wellington Champs qualifiers with swimmers staying at Camp Esldon and training at both the Cannons Creek and Te Rauparaha Arena pools, while the Seniors benefited from long course training at the Wainuiomata pool.

While many swimmers have been encouraged to move to Professional Coaching the bulk of our membership continue to be coached on Monday and Friday nights, and Sunday mornings by our volunteer coaches, who freely give hours of their time to the club. Thanks to Eileen and Peter.

For the first time the club held an information evening for parents. This was well supported and gave our coaches and committee a chance to update those attending on many things from 'how to enter a meet' through to squad coaching plans for the next 6 months.

Through the effort of Terry Laws a number of parents have stepped up and become IOTs. Terry along with Brent Harris are now working towards becoming referees. The club has continued to enjoy the support of our club's senior officials, Rhonda and Bryan Graham, Gillian Kalafatelis, Graham Seagull and Matt Meehan. Matt Meehan was a very worthy recipient of a Swim Wellington Service Award in 2011.

The Club has organised two successful carnivals. Our Division III meet was at Naenae in March 2012 and earlier, in May 2011 over 110 swimmers took part in our annual Novice Carnival at the Cannons Creek Pool, Both meets were well supported and ran smoothly.

In house the club ran

- The annual 100m handicapped trophy meet.
- Two race nights
- Official Club Championships.
- In House League and our Christmas Family Fun night – both of these events proved as popular as ever.

The club is grateful to the Porirua City Council and the pool staff for their continued support at both pools. For the future, pool space at Cannons Creek will become an issue with the Dash Swim Schools growth and extra space the club required for our growing junior squads. A request this year for more lane space for Alex's groups was turned down.

In closing I would like to thank

- the committee for their contribution, and especially Andy Wilkinson (and Nicola) for taking the steep learning curve required to become a race secretary.
- Carol Corlett, our secretary who is stepping down.
- Dennis Smith who provided coaching cover for Alex Bennett.
- Sarah Tait for her practical guidance to the race secretary. Tania Donaldson for her work on SNZ's database, Rachel Saili and Hiria Pointon for organising and running the Christmas Raffle. All ladies who work outside of the committee.
- Brent Harris for developing our website into the useful and informative tool it has become.
- Our parents and supporters who have managed teams poolside, on away meets and camps. We do appreciate that this often comes at a cost when people take time off work and use up annual leave.
- The Tawa club for allowing Emily Laws to join their team at Div II
- All those who have officiated at meets and especially to those who have taken up the challenge to step up the official's pathway.
- To those who have covered our duties, organised the officials for meets, and done the hundred and one jobs that need to be done so that our swimmers can enjoy their chosen sport.
- The committee for their help and support during the year.

Viv Morton, President