

National Open Water Swimming Championships

Our thanks go to Auckland Central Masters for running our Open Water Championship event as part of their iconic Rangitoto Swim. This year they had a record number of entries (over 500), having to close entries because there was no more room on the ferries taking the swimmers to the start at Rangitoto.

Drought stricken Auckland turned on a shower storm just as the race started. This made conditions very choppy and for quite a while swimmers (and the accompanying kayakers) were quite unable to see the land they were heading for, making navigation tricky to say the least. In these challenging conditions, times were slower than previous years. The weather soon after made a miraculous recovery and the prize giving was held in hot sunny conditions.

Following the publication of the provisional results (used for the prize giving) we noticed that the age group for some swimmers had been incorrectly listed. Swimmers advancing to a new five year age group later this year were listed in their previous age group at their current age. A few other discrepancies are still being investigated. NZMS apologizes for the errors and new place-getters will be awarded their appropriate medals.

The final official ratified results of the Championship event will be on the NZMS website, www.newzealandmastersswimming.org.nz soon.

The full results are available on the website of Auckland Central masters, www.aucklandharbourswims.org.nz/



Winners lined up to receive their medals.
From left: Margie McKee (Harbour Capital), 2nd 55-59 years, Lyn Milligan (Northland), winner 65-69 years, Jenny Pascoe (all the way from Foveaux), winner 55-59 years, Liz Furey (Northland), Winner 50-54 years.



Men's 45-49 age group: Andrew MacDonald (Cambridge) 3rd, Andrew Stevens (Manukau) 2nd, Steve Rainbow (Roskill) 1st.



Sue Pollard, National President, Mike Bodger, National Secretary and Geoff Carter, Race Director. Mike and Geoff were 2nd and third in the 60-64 years age group.



North Shore Masters Lane 5 Team: Hugh Bannehr, William McCarthy, Liz Davidson, Chris Lambourne and Lloyd Major, who between them won three bronze medals.

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NZMS MasterScrawl



Time to give out the medals



Rachel Richardson (and baby) and Jillian Walker, 2nd and 1st place respectively in the 35-39 age group.



NZMS President, Sue Pollard with Elizabeth Hayes (South City), winner 45-49 age group.



514 swimmers completed the event. It's hard to believe a short while before they were struggling through a rainstorm, no visibility and very choppy seas.

NZMS MasterScrawl



From the Secretary's Desk

EXECUTIVE CONTACTS:

Sue Pollard (President)

president@nzmastersswimming.org.nz

Paul McStay (Vice President)

mcstayjp@xtra.co.nz

Mike Bodger (Secretary/Treasurer)

secretary@nzmastersswimming.org.nz
m.bodger@xtra.co.nz

2013 MEMBERSHIPS

These can be paid to me by cheque or by internet banking. The fee remains at \$50. My postal address is 18 Toroa St., Whakatane 3120. If using internet banking please identify the club and send the registration forms by post. To date there are 447 registered swimmers for 2013.

REGION	CLUB		
Northern	244	South City Masters	70
Districts	99	Team Auckland	34
Central	27	North Shore	33
Capital	47	Katikati	30
Southern	30	Manukau	28

VANUATU SWIM SAFARI

Paul Ellercamp of www.oceanswims.com is offering a prize (worth c. \$NZ2500-\$NZ3000) to a NZ Masters Swimmer for "promotion" of the Vanuatu open water swims throughout the Masters Swimming season of 2012/2013. The prize includes -

- Return airfares Auckland-Port Vila-Santo
- Accommodation in both Port Vila and Santo (at least three nights in each location, precise duration still to be determined)
- Entry to both Vanuatu Open Water Swim (Port Vila, June 15) and the Espiritu Santo Aore Swim (June 18) and associated event function
- Transfers

The NZMS Executive and Paul discussed the terms of the prize and we have come up with the following criteria. Swimmers must be financial members for 2013 and must swim in at least two of the three following competitions:

- the Cambridge Long Course meeting on 16th February 2013
- the National Open Water Swim Championships in Auckland on 3rd March 2013.
- The National Long Course Championships in Dunedin on 12th /13th April 2013.

The successful swimmer will be drawn from the list of eligible competitors.

NATIONAL LONG COURSE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2013

Dunedin Masters Swimming Club is hosting this meeting in Dunedin on 12th/13th April. Entries are to be done on line through the following website: <http://dmsc.org.nz/nationals2013.php> Accommodation is available at the Kingsgate Hotel. The 2013 NZMS AGM will be held on Friday 12th April at the Kingsgate Hotel.

LEVIN MASTERS AUTUMN SWIM MEET – FUN MEET

Friday 17th May 2013 commencing 6pm are the 400m/800m/1500m events Saturday 18th May 2013 commencing 5pm
 Entries will close on 7th May. Entry forms will be available from Club Secretaries and the NZMS website from **mid March** when details for the 'After Match Function' are confirmed. Contact: Lesley Parkin – lesley.parkin@xtra.co.nz.

Mike Bodger

National Secretary/Treasurer
m.bodger@xtra.co.nz
 Mobile: 0212500556
 Phone: 07 3087185

PRIVACY ACT

Under the requirements of the Privacy Act, members are to be aware that NZMS holds a database containing the following information – your name, age, address, date of birth, telephone number, email address and the club to which you belong.

LIFE MEMBERS

In recognition of their dedication, enthusiasm and years of service to NZMS, the following members have been awarded our highest honour:

- 2005 Tom Logan (DL2) (*deceased 2011*)
 Lyall Mortimer (HU4)
 Deneice Marshall (NA3)
- 2006 Jan Fulton (RK1)

All nominations for these awards must be made through your club secretary. If you think there is someone in your club who is worthy of an award, then discuss this with your club executive.

Life membership applications must be approved at the AGM. Service Awards must be approved by the NZMS Executive. For more information, contact the NZMS National Secretary.





President's Update

This is my final President's Report for Masterscrawl. As I advised in the last edition, I am standing down from this position at the AGM in April.

I have joined a new age group this year (70 – 74). My age group is well represented in masters swimming, increasingly so as 60 become the new 50 and 70 becomes the new 60 - though one does get a feeling from time to time of winning by attrition. However, this has reminded me my firm belief is the future of Masters Swimming lies with the involvement of people much younger than I am.

The NZMS Executive - Mike Bodger (National Secretary) and Paul McStay (Vice-president) and me - meet by Skype teleconference each month. The minutes of these meetings are placed on the website for those interested in our activities. If you have a look at these you will see the following matters getting our regular attention:

MONEY AND MEMBERSHIP

We don't have much money and this limits what we can achieve. Our revenue currently comes from membership subscriptions and these currently are static or decreasing.

YEAR	MEMBERS
1978	107
1988	2049
1998	1168
2008	951
2010	742
2011	770
2012	702

Although we have kept a tight rein on expenditure, without a substantial increase in financial support we can't make progress in areas such as national coaching initiatives, which was one of our goals.

A lot has been said and written about membership, and the issue of so-called 'social members'. (In my view a more

appropriate term is 'associate member'.) But at a national level this is not something we should try to change by changing the rules. We have to show associates and others the value of being part of the national body. Every Tuesday in the summer I swim in Scott Rice's Takapuna Beach series. There are about 200 swimmers and there is at least one other similar event in Auckland – and I am sure in other centres around the country. These swimmers – and many others who participate triathlons and other events involving swimming - are all potential masters swimmers!

Another potential source of funds is sponsorship. While clubs running meets can usually source funds from local pub charities and businesses, at a national level funds available are more limited, especially in the current environment. It takes time and patience to prepare applications and follow these up, in an environment where children's and elite sports get most of the attention and money. What we need is a master swimmer volunteer with the appropriate experience and time to pursue commercial as well as pub charity and trust sponsorship at a national level. Is there such a person out there who would like to volunteer?

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND SYSTEMS

Liz Davidson, our IT Officer has been working in consultation with Andrew Gabites, our Webmaster, on the development of a new IT Strategy Plan, to bring the IT systems for membership and sanctioned meet management into the 21st century. The proposed changes will make life much easier for clubs running meets as well as for our National Secretary and National Recorder. Her plans will be presented to the AGM for endorsement.

SANCTIONED MEETS

The new IT plan will improve support for clubs running meets. In our view this is the most important thing the Executive can do to promote these events. I was very pleased to see the Cambridge meet at their iconic outdoor pool back in the 2013 calendar. In 2012 they were unable to recruit enough officials to run this meet.

Various awards contribute to making the events more fun, giving those who may not always win their age group races a chance

to succeed. Our thanks are due to John Trubnick, who donated the 'Tom Logan Memorial Trophy', awarded for the first time at the 2012 Long Course Champs. Also thanks to Foveaux Club - for the 2013 event we have another two awards donated by them, for the fastest 50m freestyle male and female.

NZMS HISTORY

During his six-year term as President of New Zealand Masters Swimming (2005 – 2011) Roger Eagles showed a keen interest in the idea of writing a history of NZMS. He was aware many of the original members were ageing and if we were to get their story recorded and locate old records, we needed to act soon. And so over this period, approaches were made to the various places where records were kept. These included the Matamata museum, the records from past secretaries, Jan Fulton in particular, the National Recorder, Jan O'Donnell and the Trophies & Archives Officer, Lesley Parkin.

Roger agreed to keep all the information together and on his retirement from the Presidency he offered to start compiling a document, using what he had gathered. He also contacted prominent present and past members for their recollections and comments. Clubs, many of whom were approaching or having anniversary celebrations of 20 or more years, were asked to write a brief history of their club.

What we (the Executive) were not aware of was the amount of time Roger put in. When he sent us a draft of what he had written we found out! NZMS is indebted to Roger for this voluntary effort which will mean future master swimmers will be able to read about the origins of masters swimming in this country, and how we were at the forefront of the beginnings of masters swimming internationally forty years ago. Those who have maintained the records over the years and who assisted Roger in gathering the information together, those who were interviewed and who wrote their club histories all need to be acknowledged. This team effort has resulted in made a more complete historical record.

I have read a draft of this book. There is an interesting mix of anecdote about events, people, masters swimming clubs and

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President's Update continued

organisational activities – local, national and international through the years. Individual club histories have added an important dimension to this. The appendices fill in the gaps with lists of office bearers and award winners and data on membership and swimming records. It is an important record of those who have served masters swimming in New Zealand in various capacities, and of those who have achieved success in the sport. I am sure this book will be of interest, not only to New Zealand masters swimmers, but also others in swimming circles here in New Zealand and internationally.

We will be discussing how we can finance the publication of this book at the AGM.

MEMBER COMMUNICATION

We have nearly finished an update of the Information Manual. Have you looked at it lately (or at all)? It is available on the NZMS website and is a mine of information about masters swimming e.g. how to set up and run a club, all you need to know about sanctioned meets, the NZMS constitution and lots more.

Masterscrawl continues and I have taken on the role of editor because we had no other volunteers. We have offered a subscription to printed, mailed copies of Masterscrawl at \$20 per annum, but have had no takers at all – very interesting in light of the reasonably high interest in this in our member survey in 2011. So are members reading Masterscrawl? It's hard to say, but our web statistics tell me 46% of members opened the email from the webmaster which promoted the December edition and provided a link. The average 'email opening rate' for the last three Masterscrawl editions (June, September and December 2012) was 33%.

Secretary Mike is now sending a monthly e-news to club secretaries, which we hope is passed on to all members. I certainly get mine at North Shore. Our plan is to have a bulk email functionality with the new web based membership database, to facilitate communication directly to members. Currently this is a rather complicated process, so is only done quarterly.

Are we doing better in communicating via social media than the printed word? We have our website and facebook and webmaster, Andrew Gabites continues to do a great job looking after these. NZMS facebook at the end of the year had 130 'likes', and about six posts each month.

MORE 2012 WEBSITE STATISTICS

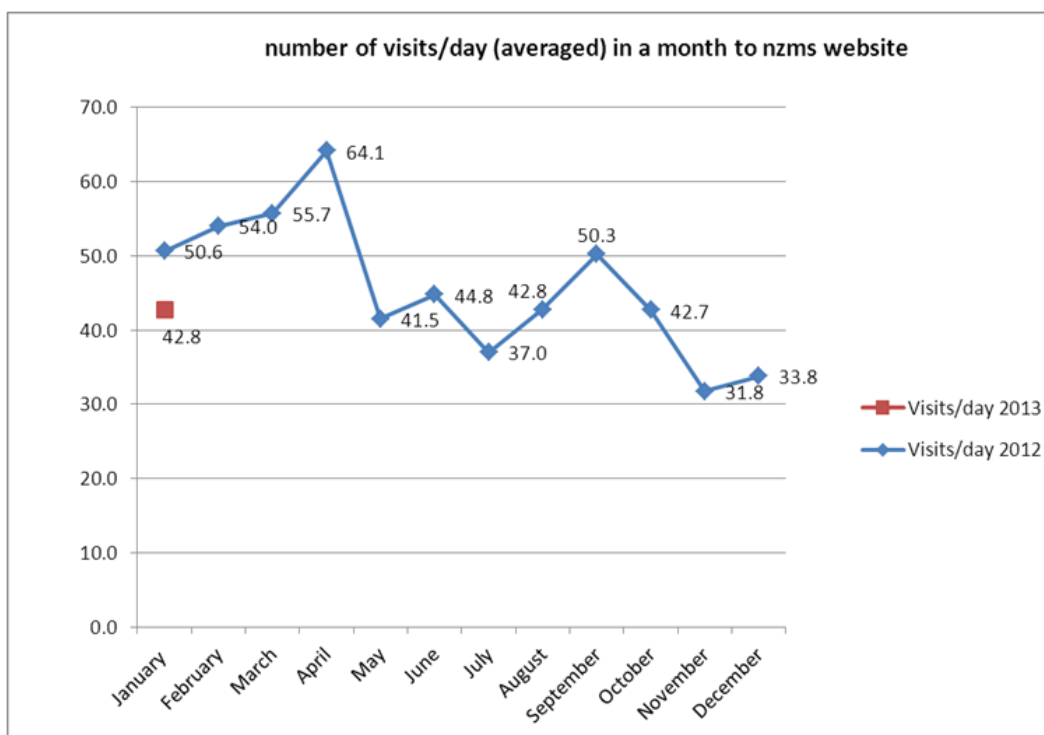
	2012 TOTAL	AVERAGE PER MONTH
Visits per month	16249	1354
Visits per day (average)	549	45
Pages per visit		6
New visits		44%

My life changed for the better when I took up swimming in 1997. Over the first two years I lost 10 Kg in weight and gained a level of fitness I had not had since I was at university. I now have a new large group of friends and I have travelled around New Zealand and to various countries to compete.

So I am pleased to have been able to give something back to the sport. It has been fun, though there are challenges in a small organisation such as ours. I have been well supported by the Executive, Mike and Paul, the officers – currently Lesley, Andrew, Jan and Liz. Thanks to you all for your support and hard work.

I plan to be around to break Kath Johnstone's records in 25 year's time.

Sue Pollard



State Ocean Swim - La Grande Swim Akaroa



Jasi Club team.



Obituary: Bruce Bell

On 4th February Bruce Bell, a member of South City Masters passed away.

Prior to joining South City, Bruce was a long time member of Roskill Masters, Treasurer of the Club and also National Treasurer from 1994 till 1998, taking over from Tom Logan. Bruce and his wife Margaret have served swimming over many years, with both their sons, now with families of their own, being swimmers for the Roskill Swimming Club since their young days.

Bruce was also a keen and participating member of the South City club at training sessions, always accompanied by Margaret. After a long illness, which both Bruce and Margaret faced with tremendous courage and calmness, he passed away at home surrounded by his family.

It was only at his funeral that glimpses of his fascinating and unusual, long career as a professional geologist, travelling with Margaret to many remote parts of the world, was made known to his fellow club members. The wider swimming family sadly loses an experienced and supportive member.

NZMS applications invited for sanctioned meets

Applications are now sought called from clubs/regions interested in hosting the following Championship events in 2013/14:

- South Island Short Course Champs, 2014
- North Island Short Course Champs, 2014
- National Open Water Swimming Champs, North Island, 2014
- National Long Course Champs, 2014 (North Island) & 2015 (South Island)

It is important that plenty of notice is given for these events so please consider them at the earliest opportunity and apply to the National Secretary.

Clubs holding other events and wishing these to be sanctioned must also advise at least 3 months prior to the proposed event. e.g. Cambridge; Masters Games; Auckland Short Course etc.

For information on hosting a meet go to the NZMS Information Manual (Sections 9 and 11).

All applications to go to National Secretary at secretary@nzmastersswimming.org.nz with copy to lesley.parkin@xtra.co.nz

Club & Regional News

FOVEAUX MASTERS SWIMMING CLUB – REGION FIVE

50th Anniversary Foveaux Strait Relay – Wayne Evans crossing on whim

On 9th February Foveaux Masters Swimming Club and Oreti Surf Club combined to honour the 50th anniversary of John van Leeuwen (Foveaux Masters) becoming the first person to swim across Foveaux Strait.

After a rough boat trip from Bluff to the starting point at Stewart Island, with many of the swimmers seasick and vomiting, it was decided that Wayne Evans would be taken by IRB from the support boat to Port William to start the swim and decide if the relay would continue. Wayne's experience in open water swimming would be the deciding factor as many of the swimmers were much younger and inexperienced in the conditions.

A comment by Wayne to the co-ordinator of the swim was to 'see how far I can get' and it was left at that. A streak of stubbornness and plenty of determination however meant it wasn't until Bluff when Wayne finally did stop.

After starting out the day thinking he'd swim a few kilometres to help mark the 50th anniversary of the first crossing, by the end of it he'd become the seventh person to compete the remarkable swim.

'I'm proud of what I've done, but also extremely respectful for all the other swimmers that have swum that stretch of water. I had

a wetsuit on and while I felt it was cold, those guys doing it in Speedos is something completely different".

"John van Leeuwen having been in the water for 13 hours, obviously in totally new territory, I've got immense respect for that guy."

Other swimmers were able to help Wayne with guidance alongside and direction as to where he was going.

It is a daunting piece of water and all of them would have swum beyond what they initially thought was their capabilities.

Wayne's time of 9hr 20 minutes was remarkable in that he had not prepared nor trained for the entire 34 kilometre route. Wayne would have to admit he can feel a sense of pride for having achieved what he has done.

FOVEAUX CLUB OPEN WATER SWIM TROPHY RESULTS

40-59 years	Female	Jenny Pascoe
40-59 years	Male	Wayne Evans
Over 60 years	Male	Roger Eagles



Masters Swimmer profile: Pat Owens-Bohme

Sometimes circumstances or a chain of events can change one's path through life. This is part of my life.

My husband died suddenly on the 28/6/94 aged 56 years. I was sitting behind him on the farm quad bike travelling down the race. He just fell off and hit the ground, then the bike hit a post and I was on the ground. Ran back to him to find he was dead.

My eldest daughter had married an American and lived in Hawaii with their two pre-school children. They came back to New Zealand for the funeral intending to stay. After they had settled in, Jon went back to Hawaii to complete the house and sell. Then a dreadful call to say Jon had been shot by his neighbour and was dead. We recovered from this only for another blow to fall. I found my mother dead on the bathroom floor.

In two years we had lost three members of our family and all completely out of the blue. I found myself working seven days a week with always something to be done. I needed something else in my life so I joined the Masters Swimming Club in Whangarei. Even though it was an hour and a quarter drive each way I enjoyed it and was hooked. I was encouraged to try competition which I'd never done before. This was not possible while I was still running the farm so after three years I decided to sell the farm and move closer to Whangarei. I found a great spot in McLeod Bay right on the beach. At the age of 58 I entered my first competition ever at Waitakere in 1997. To my surprise won a bronze medal. That was the start. My first Nationals were in Wellington 1998 then Auckland 1999 where I won 3 gold and 2 silver.

My first trip overseas was to the Pan Pacific in Perth 1999 with five Top Ten placings. The next major meet was the World Champs in Christchurch 2002. That was a completely new experience with many more competitors. Then to the Oceania Champs in Fiji 2005 with 4 gold and 1 silver. World Champs in Perth 2008 with numbers of competitors growing (65 in my age group) Then came Gothenburg in Sweden which was advertised as the largest swimming event ever and I got my first world Top Ten Medal.

Between travelling overseas I've competed in many Nationals, Short Course, North Is Champs, sprint meets and postal swims all over New Zealand and have amassed quite a number of medals.

Then I found Ocean Swimming, thanks to my friend and swimming companion Lyn Milligan. We both enjoy the events and I've been a series winner for the last two years and looking like the same this season. That could come to a screaming halt very soon as faster swimmers move into my age group, but that's ok. Swings and Roundabouts!!

Health wise I'm pretty good apart from arthritis in both hips and back which gives me quite a bit of pain from time to time and I have to take a break from training. I find ocean swimming not so hard on my joints and there's no pushing off the wall.

I met Fritz in 1998 on his second circumnavigation of the globe but he got stuck in Whangarei for some reason. We were married in 2004 but that's another story



Calendar of Events

2013	Event details	Information
March		
16	State Ocean Swim: Sand to Surf, Mount Maunganui	www.oceanswim.co.nz
April		
6	State Ocean Swim: King of the Bays, North Shore, Auckland	www.oceanswim.co.nz
12-14	National Long Course Championships, Moana Pool, Dunedin	www.nzmastersswimming.org.nz http://dmsc.org.nz/nationals2013.php
May		
18	Auckland Sprint Championships, Cameron Pool	www.nzmastersswimming.org.nz www.roskillmasters.com
17-18	Levin Masters Autumn Fun Meet	www.nzmastersswimming.org.nz lesley.parkin@xtra.co.nz
October		
26-27	North Island Short Course Championships, Lloyd Elsemore Pool, Pakuranga, Auckland	www.nzmastersswimming.org.nz http://southcitymasters.blogspot.co.nz/
TBA	South Island Short Course Championships, Jellie Park, Christchurch	www.nzmastersswimming.org.nz www.jasi.co.nz

See more event information at www.nzmastersswimming.org.nz

Got an event coming up? Send us a copy to
news@nzmastersswimming.org.nz

ADVERTISING IN MASTERSCRAWL

Contact us at news@nzmastersswimming.org.nz if you are interested in advertising in our next edition

Prices*	Members	Non-members
1/4 page	\$50.00	\$100.00
1/2 page	\$100.00	\$200.00
1 page	\$150.00	\$300.00

*Discount of 5% for 2 editions, 10% for three and 20% for 4

If you are interested in advertising on our website, please contact our webmaster at webmaster@nzmastersswimming.org.nz to discuss what is available and prices.

EDITORIAL DEADLINE for the next issue of Masterscrawl is May 17, 2013

Send articles, photos, copies of entry forms no later than this. Late material may not be included.

Sue Pollard & Mike Bodger
Editors, NZMS Masterscrawl
Email:
news@nzmastersswimming.org.nz