

Oceania updates

February 2013

Number 2

We had two big events for the Oceania region last year and earlier this year being World Swimming Championships in Istanbul, Turkey in December at which a number of Federations were represented. January this year was the Australian Youth Olympics held in Sydney at which a combined Oceania team competed.

The Oceania Executive, selected, after receiving nominations from the Federations of Oceania, the following swimmers to represent the combined Oceania Team at the event.

They were:

Girls: Cheyanne and Adele Rova from Fiji, Noeline Laughlin and Mehani Bernadino, Tahiti, Maeva Parayre and Emma Terebo New Caledonia.

Boys: Kenuske Kimura Northern Marianas, Alex Buvry and Maruiki Aitamai Tahiti, Meli Malani Fiji, and Nathan Barberis & Jeremie Dufourmantelle of New Caledonia.

Paul Lang of Tahiti was selected as Head Coach, and Suzie Schuster (Samoa) as Coach/Manager. Further we were also able to secure the services of Darren Howard (NSW Swimming Development Officer) to assist as team manager.

The meet was of high standard and our team members represented us well throughout the competition. I have included several photos here and some more on the website.

Remember any updates comments or feedback to lacox@bigpond.com

Unfortunately Meli Malani from Fiji was unable to travel at the last minute due to an issue from the Australian High Commission not issuing the travel visa in time. Despite ours and the Australian Olympic Committees efforts we could not get the issue resolved in time for his travel.



All team members were given full accommodation at Sydney University and attended the very enjoyable opening ceremony with exciting entertainment. At the event we had entered and given opportunity to swim as many events as possible in the program. The last relay saw support from the Japanese team to fill a gap in the backstroke as part of the team needed to head to the airport.

I understand some questions were asked in Turkey about the selection process for the team. The Executive developed a template based upon FINA point score to enable the

selection of the most competitive group for the team. Whilst recognizing that this is not always possible to achieve we included all Federations that normally compete at Championships. This of course includes some federations who are currently not direct members of Oceania but are our neighbours. The team size was determined based upon the likely travel costs. Also it was not based just on an individual time for an event as some of the information was not as full as we would have liked the selection panel looked at the broad range of events as the basis to ensure maximum use of the event for those selected.

If any Federation has concerns or wishes to express ways of improving the selection process would be happy to hear from you.

It is important to note that Swimming Australia provided finance to cover the cost of the tickets for all the team members and Coaching staff who attended. This is a significant cost that Oceania would not be able to meet on its own. Further NSW Swimming provided Darren Howard to manage to the team which gave local knowledge but also allowed Paul and Suzie to concentrate on the coaching aspects.

It should also be noted that a number of parents travelled to the event at their own cost to support the team and were active in the vocal support throughout the meet. The Coaches also gained great experience from the event and certainly looked after the team in ensuring participation.

FIJI is inviting all swimmers to participate in their Fiji Nationals, short course and long course every year. In early 2012, swimmers from the FSM and Samoa competed. Representing Fiji at the World Short course in Turkey were Caroline Puamau, Tieri Erasito and Paul Elaisa. Douglas Miller is now going to school and competing for Iowa Central College.

At Fiji's recent Annual Awards, congratulations go to Fiji Swimmers of the Year Matellita Buadromo, Douglas Miller and Paul Elaisa, also Coach of the Year awards to Paula Cokanasiga and Team of the Year the Suva Tritons.

The **REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS** held their first National Swimming Championships over the Thanksgiving holiday. The Federation sent Giordan Harris, Angela Kendrick and Annie Hepler to the Worlds in Turkey. The RMI also notes that Giordan Harris is currently attending school and training at the Spire Institute in Geneva, Ohio.

The **NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS** sent three swimmers to Turkey, Rezne Wong, Victoria Chensakova and Kenuske Kimura. They have conducted local meets and open water swims for the two swim clubs and visiting guests. The Saipan Swim Club invites swimmers, age group and masters to their annual Saipan Invitational Swim Meet and Saipan Ocean Swim March 23 and 24, 2013.

GUAM hosted USA Coach Rick Powers for a short visit on his way from Palau. Guam plans some great upcoming meets and the best is a Pentathlon Meet scheduled for April 6, 2013. In this event, every swimmer swims the four strokes of an IM, plus the IM. Winners are the swimmers with the best overall results. When Bill Sakovich coached Saipan, he stated this meet was the highlight of the season, competitive and fun, and Guam is inviting swimmers from the region to participate in this competition. Guam sent Amanda Poppe, Danielle Atoigue, Johnny Rivera and Chris Duenas to the World Short Course.

PALAU sent three swimmers to Istanbul, Sean Wallace, Roylin Akiwo and UB Misech. Palau Swimming is promoting swimming throughout the islands with their "Bemesemau" program, a series of

competitions from beginner events to standard course events. Plans are to take swimmers to compete on Guam in May next year. PSA invites visitors to the annual Palau Pacific Resort Open Water Swim June 9, 2013. Rick Powers conducted a successful FINA Development Clinic last month.

TECHNICAL NEWS

All Federations should have received the report from Don Blew on the Swimming Technical Committee meetings. If you have not it means a lost email address please advise the Secretary and we will fix for you.

Don wanted to remind Federations that a number of proposed rule changes will be made and should be discussed prior to the Technical congress. Any questions about them once published Don is willing to assist.

An Oceania Swimming Officials School will be held in Papua New Guinea, Port Moresby 6th-7th April next. The lectures will be conducted by Don and Soren Korbo.

Swimming Officials list 17 was published with effect from January 1 2013.
Oceania Swimming congratulate the following members of our region for their appointment:

Referees

BABAO	Susan	PNG
PINI	Sarenah	PNG
CLARKE	Ron	NZL
FORSYTHE	Jacqui	NZL
MEEHAN	Matt	NZL
SUTHERLAND	Lyn	NZL
HARRIS	Mary	MHL
STEPCHEW	Sarah	MHL
ARBLASTER	Ryan	AUS
SMITH	Cherry	AUS
COX	Lawrie	AUS

Starters

FORSYTHE	Greg	NZL
FORSYTHE	Jacqui	NZL
GREGORY	David	AUS
WESTE	Pam	AUS

FINA Congress dates

For those attending the Barcelona meetings Dennis Miller has confirmed the following dates:

- **17 July 2013 (DV & OWS)**
- **18 July 2013 (WP & SY)**
- **25 July 2013 (SW)**

- **25 July 2013 (MASTERS RULES)**
- **26 July 2013 (GENERAL)**

Please also note that an Oceania meeting will be scheduled prior to the General Congress and you will receive formal notice once the date and venue are known.

Bureau News

Dennis and Matt have provided the following information:

The FINA Bureau approved all the clinic applications from Oceania for 2013:

American Samoa: Swimming Coaches (postponed from 2012)
Australia: Open Water Officials School
Fiji: Swimming Coaches
Fiji: Swimming Officials
New Zealand: Synchro Coaches & Judges
New Zealand: Water Polo Coaches (postponed from 2012)
Palau: Swimming Coaches
Papua New Guinea: Swimming Coaches
Samoa: Swimming Coaches
Tonga: Open Water Officials

Papua New Guinea also approved for Swimming Officials School.

New Zealand also approved for Water Polo Officials School.

Australia also approved for Diving Judges School.

The Bureau also approved the Constitution of the Solomon Islands Swimming Federation and agreed to waive outstanding affiliation fees. Their re-activated membership takes effect immediately on payment of 2012 affiliation fee.

We welcome Solomon Islands back to Oceania and look forward to seeing them around the pool soon.

Olympic Solidarity

Federations were encouraged to talk to their NOCs in order to have sufficient time to apply for Olympic Solidarity funding. Dennis noted that there has been a 30% increase in funding allocated to this program.

Pre Worlds training

You are reminded that if you are interested to contact Dennis ASAP to express your Federations interest.

Open Water Competition

A spreadsheet was sent to all federations to enable John West to compile a suggested Oceania circuit if you have not done so please complete by 28 February 2013 to John west.jg@gmail.com

2014 Championships

We are still working with a couple of Federations on proposals for staging the event. As we have been advised that USA cannot do in Hawaii we have asked for others to assist. We hope we will not be too much longer but as you would appreciate timing of the event is important as well as the support of the federation host.

The calendar page will be added to the website shortly and once there would appreciate information being forwarded to keep up to date.

