

Oceania updates

MAY 2013

Number 3

As we head towards the World Long course Championships in Barcelona Spain we attach some short updates from around the Federations in Oceania.

We thank Bill Sakovich for providing the effort in getting the information together.

AMERICAN SAMOA

American Samoa Swimming Association will hold its 2nd Annual Coconut Point Splash & Dash for all junior swimmers on May 25th off Coconut Island.

Tutuila Swimming dropped beginning swim lessons due to black algae breakout at a private pool. The club continues training the junior development squad including YOG hopeful Gabby Langkilde in another backyard pool and the lagoon, and continues pushing for the completion of the community pool project, thanks to the efforts of Erika Radewagen.

Erika, President of AS Swimming, has been elected the new Secretary General for the ASNOC and attended the recent Oceania National Olympic Committees meeting in Fiji.

NEW ZEALAND

Swimming New Zealand offered to provide education on "learn to swim lessons" to the Oceania Island Nations. The Cook Islands took them up on the offer and the

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

SNZ national Learn to Swim manager, Chris Morgan, spent a week in the islands training instructors.

Some strong performances were produced at the New Zealand National Open Championships, 17th to the 22nd of March. World short course champion Lauren Boyle led



the charge with three world championship qualifying performances in the 200m, 400m, 800m Freestyle. Boyle will lead a 14-strong team to the FINA World Swimming Championships

COOK ISLANDS

The Cook Islands Aquatic Federation has been working hard developing a swimming programme in schools and recently held their First Rarotonga Swimming Championships which saw over 400 children competing from schools across the island chain. With no swimming pool all training sessions and

lessons were held in the lagoon in makeshift lanes.

Romani Katoa, the President of the Cook Island Aquatic Federation had Chris Morgan (SNZ) teach over one hundred Assistant Swim Teach Award (ASTA) participants, along with a course for people working with the disabled. Rarotonga's smallest schools fielded some of the strongest swimmers during the Swimming Champs at Muri lagoon. (see pictures on this and previous page)

coaches and parents participated.

PNG Swimming Inc. Patron Mr. Bart Philemon opened the clinic. The course experts were Don Blew, FINA TSC Vice Chairman, and Soren Korbo, FINA TSC Honorary Secretary. The PNG Government Minister for Sports and the Pacific Games, Mr. Justin Tkatchenko welcomed all participants and gave an update of the 2015 Pacific Games that will be held in PNG.



Thanks to DIAF Development Officer Augustine Kopa and CIAF President Romani Katoa, aquatic activities are on the move and plans are being considered for an open water event.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Papua New Guinea Swimming Inc. in Port Moresby successfully hosted the 2013 edition of the FINA Swimming Officials Schools in Oceania on 6-7 April 2013. A total of 36 swimmers, schoolteachers,

NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS

In March the Saipan Invitational International Swim Meet was held in conjunction with the 31st Annual Saipan Ocean Swim. Over 200 swimmers competed, hosted by the Saipan Swim Club and attended by swimmers from the Marshall Islands and Guam. Bill Sakovich spent a few days working with swimmers from both clubs in March while there to assist in two annual international triathlons held on the island.

The NMSF recently announced that 4

swimmers have been selected to attend the World Championships in Barcelona Spain on the 19th of July to the 5th of August. They are Angel De Jesus, Victoria Chentsova, Kensuke Kimura, and Rezne Wong. Former CNMI national swimmer and new Head Coach Jacoby Winkfield will accompany the team. He is replacing another former SSC and national swimmer Mike Villagomez, who is moving to Arizona this summer. Thank you Coach Mike for coaching the Saipan Swim Club the past several years. Mike and Erlinda and all their four children, who swam for the club, will make the move.

Saipan Swim Club hopes to conduct a 'Learn to Swim' program this summer for the youth of the CNMI. If funding allows we send instructors to Tinian and Rota in addition to providing lessons on Saipan.

The Saipan Swim Club also hosted the 2.4 km Escape from Managaha open water swim last weekend with 70 participants, with tremendous safety support from CPA, DPS, Lifeguards from World Resort, and the community that was very encouraging.

GUAM

The Guam Swimming Federation just completed the "revived" Pentathlon Invitational Swim Meet". To qualify a swimmer must have a Guam "B" time in the 200m Individual Medley, and every swimmer must swim all 4 strokes individually, 50/100m Backstroke, 50/100m Breaststroke, 50/100m Butterfly, 50/100m Freestyle in addition to a full 200m Individual Medley. Swimmers from the Philippines and Saipan competed. Winners were selected by their accumulative times (the lowest time being the winner). Trophies were awarded to the top 3 finishers in each age group (11-12, 13-14, 15-16, 17-18, Open).

Upcoming Swim Meets are the B/C Championships, May 18, 2013, and on May 24 & 25, 2013 the GSF "Guam A Championships. Swimmers are invited to participate in both these annual events.

For more information or any inquiries you can visit our website at: www.guamswimming.org.

MARSHALL ISLANDS

The Marshall Islands Swimming has a 25m pool on Kwajalein, where the only competitive program exists. Swimmers here just completed their regular season. Four swimmers qualified for the Guam Championship Swim Meet in May and three others will be competing at the World Championships in Barcelona later this summer, Giordan Harris (training at the Spire Institute in Ohio), Colleen Furgeson and Troy Kojenlang (training on Maui). An Open Water program was just initiated and has been cross training with Outrigger Canoe paddling this year.

SAMOA

A twelve member Samoa Swim team returned home from the Fiji Age Group Swim Nationals with 42 medals in hand. The Samoan male relay team, ages 14-17, swam away with a silver medal in the Open division.

Outstanding performances were achieved by Durant Webster (9), Joshua Small (10) who shaved off over 10 seconds for many of their events. National Coach, Suzie Schuster, remarked the races for the 10 and under age group was exceptionally competitive in Fiji. 10 year old Andrea Schuster was competitive and 10 year old Eliakim Tiakia secured a Silver medal in the 10 and under men's 200m breaststroke.

Brandon Schuster (15) won 12 Gold medals and Jaepeeth Tiakia won 6 medals. Teofilo Molio'o (14) dominated in his age bracket with 2 Gold and 8 silver medals. This was his first overseas competition. Another steady swimmer, 12-year-old Matthew Schuster landed a Silver in 200m breaststroke and Bronze for 50m Breast and 100m Breaststroke. Other medalists from Samoa were Tehani Tamesese (medaling in 8 of 10 events, and Jamal Tamesese, winning a Silver and a Bronze. Another swimmer new to long distance was 13-year-old Talequah Tiakia, who won a Bronze in Men's 800m Freestyle. Newcomer Kris Kerr (17) swam with Bronze and Silver medals in the sprints. Samoa will be hosting a FINA Development swim clinic in July and all islands are invited. Samoan swimmers will continue to train hard for the upcoming World Championships.

FIJI

Congratulations to former National Swim Coach Horace Petersen who was conferred with the Fiji Olympic Order by FASANOC.

The 2013 Fiji Games were held at the National Aquatic Centre in Suva with five districts competing and Suva earning the top spot.

The 2013 LC National Age Group and Open Championships were held in May, and Rosemarie Rova continues her assault on age group records and at which Samoa and Tonga participated.

Douglas Miller, on scholarship at Iowa Central Community College, helped his team take third place in the National Jr. College Championships by placing in several events including third place finishes in relays.

FSM

Debra Daniel, national team member from the FSM, is on scholarship at Iowa Central Community College was competing for the college team at the National Junior College Championships this year.

AUSTRALIA

Swimming Australia Ltd announced the appointment of a new CEO Mark Anderson and High Performance Director Michael Scott. Both take up the roles during May. The Open and Age Championships meets were conducted in Adelaide and a team selected for the World Championships in Barcelona and the IPC Championships in Montreal. Other selections from the meets included World Youth Olympics and University Games meets.

The Board also announced action against the men's relay team members from London that included fines and deferred suspensions but no detail has been released by SAL. The Australian Olympic Committee has yet to complete its own investigations.

New Australia team coaches for Men and Women were also announced by High Performance Director Michael Scott as Rohan Taylor (Men's) and Michael Bohl (Women's). A decision will be made later whether there will be National coach or continue this interim structure.

The Australian Swim Coaches and Teachers Association held their annual conference on the Gold Coast. Again the conference saw many Federation coaches from Oceania attending.

TAHITI

Charles Rozoy, a former French swimmer who qualified for the Beijing Olympics, recently visited Tahiti and competed in their Open Water Challenge at Plage Punaauia. The amazing story is that Charles, soon after qualifying, had a terrible motorcycle accident that made him disabled. He turned that around four years later and swam in the Paralympics for France in the 50m Butterfly. "He came to train in Tahiti to prepare for future international events, and, competed in the Open Water Swim Challenge, and passed on many positive messages to Tahitian swimmers", according to Michel Sommers, President of Tahitian Swimming Federation.

VANUATU

Vanuatu resumed administrative steps to have FINA recognize the new Vanuatu Swimming Federation during the current year, thanks to assistance from Dennis Miller. We look forward to the completion of the documents and participation in Oceania.

2014 Championships

We are still working with Federations on a proposal for staging the event. As soon as we have finalized the arrangements we will advise. It would be hoped this can be before the meeting of Oceania but at the latest at the meeting itself in July.

OLYMPIC SPORTS FEDERATIONS OCEANIA

The secretary attended the meeting of OSFO that was held in conjunction with the ONOC mandatory meeting. The experience was an opportunity to meet with representatives of sport federations that operate in the Oceania region. The meetings provided insights into the challenges of other sports, which are similar to ours but also about potentially working together on projects where we cross over with members.

The presentations by ONOC staff were informative on the programs provided throughout our region. Further, the OSA executive is exploring presentations from the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) relating to their funding programs and the options that can be provided in swimming. Targeted funding related to health, water awareness and development could lead to improved participation within our Federations.

We will provide updates if we are successful in the applications.