

SWIMMING MID NORTH COAST NEW ZEALAND TOURING TEAM 2010

The Area New Zealand touring team have just returned from a very successful swim meet in Dunedin in the south island.'

Six swimmers and a coach and a manager did the area proud and consisted of – Mason Marchment, Crescent Head Pointers, Coach, Leigh Eastwood, Dorrigo, Manager and the swimmers—Anna MacInnes, Brooke Hudson and Bianca O'Malley all from Port Macquarie, Waylan Murray, Kempsey, Alex Sutton, Sawtell and Connor Shakespeare, Wingham.

Here is an account of some of the trip by Leigh Eastwood, manager.

The trip was fantastic! An adventure and there were plenty of great swims by MNC at Dunedin as well!

We got off to a slow start with multiple tries at getting the right sized bus. The swimmers, Mason and I had a great time, there were some great times in the pool especially by the boys. Brooke had a shoulder injury and Mason and I were reluctant to have her do further damage in the 400m and 200IM. I believe that you have received a copy of the results. Overall there were 26 Clubs competing and Swimming Mid North Coast Team came 8th with 554 points. The first day of competition seen us arriving just in time for warm up for our competitors events. Times and Clocks were not adjusted to NZ times and we woke with a brisk, quick start to the day – quick breakfast, get your gear and which way is it to the pool ??– we had arrived at night due to our bus shopping , so we were not oriented to streets or directions. I think it was Waylan that wanted us to go and but a GPS navigator!!

The Neptune Club, Omauru and Queenstown Club made us feel so welcome – we were invited to spend time with them ; sit with them; dine with them, train with them -but time didn't permit us to revisit Omauru and the Queenstown swimmers were not training on the days we were there (due to Public Holiday and post meet rest after Dunedin). There was an exchange of email addresses and Facebook friend's promises.

In the 13-14yrs Combined Team Scores Mid North Coast (2 swimmers Waylan and Connor as our team) came 6th out 17 clubs. In the 15 years and over Mid North Coast (Alex, Anna, Bianca and Brooke as a team) came 4th out of 15 clubs - not a bad effort.

In the 13-14 yrs age group Waylan came 3rd (154 points) in Individual Point score and Connor achieved 8th (101 points) out of 35 swimmers . Waylan did 10 pb's at the meet in the following events 50m Freestyle; 100m Butterfly; 800 Freestyle (swam it easy and still pb--- good turns); 50 Fly; 100 IM; substantial pb in 200 Fly; 50 Back; 100 Back; his goal to pb in 400 Free easily achieved great turns again and great pacing throughout the race and another pb in the 50 Breast. In the Overall Point score Waylan was the highest ranked SMNC swimmer and came 24th out of 276 swimmers.

Connor swam close to his times and did a fantastic pb 200m Fly swim in a 24.25 improved time and another two pb's in his 50m Breast and 200 IM. Connor swam consistently and his overall point score of 101 points gave him the 58th out of 276 swimmers overall ranking for the meet

Anna , Brooke and Bianca mostly swam close to their entry times and both Anna and Brooke were feeling the repercussions in competition attributable to lack of training during recovery from their recent injuries. Anna, Brooke and Bianca really got into the team spirit and put the Australian cape-flag in a prominent spot in the grandstand. Overall point score rankings for the girls were Anna equal 79th out of 276 swimmers on 87 points; Bianca (71 points) equal 106th /276 and Brooke 140th/276 on 51 points

Alex came equal 7th out of 40 swimmers in the 15 years and over age group (90 points). Alex unfortunately got a DQ in the first event, the 50 metre Freestyle. This was the event for selection for the Adam and Eve relays so Alex was a no-go for that event. Alex did impressive pb's in all his seven other events which were the 100 Breast;50 Fly;100 IM; 50 Back; his favourite event 100m Free 50 m Breast and 200 IM. Alex's overall Point score ranking was 77th out of 276 swimmers

In the girls 15 yrs and over Anna came 10th (87 points, while Bianca was in 14th place (71 points) and Brooke in 20th place (51 points) out of the 33 female swimmers 15 yrs and over. Brooke and Anna competed in the Adam and Eve relay which was really exciting as the prize was money. Although they didn't win the money it gave them a chance to get to know swimmers from other clubs and they received a special ribbon for making the Adam and Eve Finals (based on their 50m Freestyle time)

The behaviour of the swimmers was just great and a good time was had by all.

After two days of competition the team had a few days in Queenstown with lots of site seeing and fun activities.

The team flew back into Sydney via Melbourne and back to their waiting parents or a flight back up the coast.