

Traralgon Swimming Club – a Decade of Dominance

The 2008/09 Gippsland Swimming season has come to a close with the Traralgon Swimming Club maintaining dominance in local and Country swimming across Victoria. The Club created Gippsland history winning the Ken and Pat Hewat Trophy as Premier Gippsland Club for the 10th year in a row at the Gippsland Championships. The win consolidates the club's Victorian swimming season with a win at the Country Championships and being top placed country club at Victorian State Championships.

Traralgon amassed 1,887 points to win from Warragul (843) and East Gippsland Water Dragons (492). Morwell, Sale and South Gippsland Bass (Wonthaggi) also participated in the Championships held at the Traralgon Outdoor Olympic pool.

Jeremy Saunders and Sarah Berryman each won the Outstanding Male and Female Swimmer of the Meet trophies – Jeremy for the fourth year and Sarah for the third year in a row. Saunders (19), who has accepted a scholarship to swim with the powerful Melbourne-based club Nunawading, won 6 gold, 5 silver and one bronze medal on the way to earning the Championship title. Berryman (16), in an outstanding feat of endurance and determination, competed in 16 individual heats and finals over the weekend to win 3 gold, 8 silver and 4 bronze individual event medals.

For the first season, the Gippsland District presented a trophy to the highest ranked team of swimmers 14 years and under. The trophy is named for Ashley Delaney, former Traralgon swimmer now training with the AIS. Ashley was a finalist and silver medallist at the Beijing Olympics. The Traralgon junior swimmers won the inaugural Ashley Delaney trophy with 560 points ahead of Warragul on 476 points and East Gippsland Water Dragon on 304 points.

The junior effort was led by Mitchell Jones (12) and Georgia Tsebelis (11) who also picked up the Alan Harlow trophies as the highest ranked 14 and under swimmers. Jones won 5 gold medals – winning 5 of 6 12 year old events – to take out the Alan Harlow trophy for boys. Tsebelis continued her fantastic season winning 6 gold medals – taking all 6 age events – and placing in 3 Open finals.

The Traralgon Club had 267 finalists in the three-day 122 event program. They won an incredible 60 gold, 53 silver and 44 bronze medals in individual events. Relay teams were equally dominant, with 67 finalist teams winning 19 gold, 9 silver and 6 bronze medals.

There were 3 Gippsland records set and 16 Event records.

Outstanding medal performances which contributed to the Traralgon win included that of Stephanie Morgan (16) – 6 gold, 3 silver and 3 bronze, Charley Askew(17) - 5 gold, 4 bronze, Jeremy Meyer (18) – 5 gold, 2 bronze, Alex Tsebelis (8) – 4 gold, Dylan Wyatt (17) 4 gold, 4 silver, 1 bronze, Lachlan Wyatt (15) – 3 gold, 2 silver, 3 bronze, Kirsten Lieshout (17) – 3 gold, 3 silver, Alice Lieshout (15) – 2 gold, 1 silver, 3 bronze, Brayden

Waltham (16) – 2 gold, 3 silver, 4 bronze, Ben Geard (27) – 1 gold, 3 silver, 3 bronze, Caiden Gill (10) – 1 gold, 2 silver, 1 bronze, Daniel Gill (12) 1 gold, Andrew MacLean (40) 1 gold, 1 silver, Matthew Norwood (14) – 1 gold, Abbie Stockdale (22) – 1 gold, Erin Roberts (10) – 5 silver, Caitie Mitchell (22) – 2 silver, 3 bronze, Leigh Jones (14) – 1 silver, 1 bronze, Michelle Ford (45) 1 silver, 1 bronze, Maggie O’Keefe (12) – 1 silver, 1 bronze, Jye Thompson (17) – 1 silver, 1 bronze, Brayden Haney (12) – 1 silver, Kristy Jennings (8) – 1 silver, Kristie Smith (18) – 1 silver, Zoe Trembath (13) – 1 silver, Jason Reid (38) – 1 silver, Sam Roberts (12) – 1 silver, 1 bronze, Elliot Shaw (15) – 1 silver, 2 bronze, Matt Dinsmore (18) – 2 bronze, Thomas Fleming (9) – 1 bronze, Connor O’Neill (9) – 1 bronze, Alice Peddle (8) – 1 bronze, and Jessica Norwood (11) – 1 bronze.

The depth of the Traralgon team was evident in the number of finalists who swam for the club in both individual events and relays. Finalists included William Clare (6), Chance Doultree (7), Audrey Lee (7), Jye Da Ros (7), Harvey Neocleous (7), Liam Willaton (7), Kieran Georgeson (7), Georgia Moon (8), Lincoln Ingravalle (8), Ellodie Reid (9), Megan Lucas (9), Mitchell O’Neill (9), Katya Askew (10), Fabienne Schoutens (10), Maeve Coughlan (10), Maddison Clare (10), Isabella Askew (10), Finley Peddle (10), Jason Withell (10), Bridie O’Keefe (10), Sam May (11), Aaron Lynn(10), Taylah Da Ros (11), Matilda Ingravalle (11), Luke DiCiero (11), Ashley Withell (11), Bethany Kershaw (12) Matthew Jennings (12), Taylah Willaton (12), Stephanie Spehar (13), Jordan Pickersgill (13), Tim Wilson (13), Jack Davis (13), Daniel Golcic (13), Ashley DiCiero (13), Thomas Morrison (14), Shae Haney (14), Samantha Lynn (15), Cameron Juha (15), Alexandra Wilson (15), Matthew Stringer (16), Georgia Collings (16), Tim Bedford (17), Nicole Bortignon (17), Dale Mitchell (20).

Traralgon’s Masters’ program was well represented by finalists: Donna O’Neill (43), Karen O’Keefe (42), Glen Withell (43), Will Morrison (44), Janette Morrison (42), Deanna Ingravalle (41), Carolyn Grasby (43), Brian Ford (50), Avril Gill (44), Fiona Doultree (33) and Scott Clare (40), Stephen Spehar (42), Andrew Biram (40), and Richard Shaw (55).

In other presentations during the weekend, the Traralgon Club won both the Open and Interclub Shields for most points accumulated during the Gippsland Season. Sarah Berryman was named most successful swimmer within Gippsland based on points scored at local meets, and Jeremy Meyer was named the most successful Gippsland swimmer in Out-of-Gippsland competition. Jeremy, a VIS scholarship holder, represented Australia in the Junior Pan Pacific Games in Guam earlier this year.