



## **REPORT FROM GUAM**

### **6<sup>th</sup> January 2009**

The JPP (Junior Pan Pac team) assembled at the Millennium in Auckland on the 1<sup>st</sup> January to fine tune the preparation for Guam, and train 50m every session. The team of 16 swimmers from around the country along with 4 staff were kitted out well thanks to SNZ's Lisa Conroy, who worked hard during the holiday period to ensure the team looked good. Full marks from the team Lisa, they feel great in their kit

The swimmers represent Dunedin, Ashburton, Motueka/Christchurch, Rotorua, Wellington, Taranaki, Counties, the North Shore and Auckland. What a great bunch of young men and women. They are keen, focussed and a great example of our NZ youth. They are a group we can all be proud of.

The trip to Guam was long, a 10 hour journey to Seoul flying not only over Guam and a further 4 hours to Seoul but after a 90 min stopover, we flew back to Guam – another 4 hours. We arrived at 2.45 in the morning and then an hour till we got to our hotel and settled for the night in American territory.

The resort hotel called the LeoPalace is about 1000 acres. It contains several pools, two golf courses, a bowling alley, shops and wonderful grounds - very lush and well groomed. The best part is that we don't have to get onto buses and drive to the venue. Our competition pool on site is one of 2 50metre pools side by side with electronic timing. The pools are old but adequate with limited seating, but the easy access to our rooms - a short walk to eat swim and rest makes it ideal.

The food is good, especially if you like Asian food as that's their specialty. The fruit is tropical and although there was the odd murmur about "desserts and ice cream" that's stopped now, and we are focussing on eating to compete well. The start is just a day away.

Kane's Open Water venue is a bus ride away about 30 mins. Kane and Donna are going tomorrow to "check it out and train there". Donna has carried Kane's feeding stick with her throughout the trip and I'm sure that will be a big help to him. You know that he can't touch the support craft or anyone while he is swimming in his 10km race, so the "stick" is essential for him to take in nourishment while he completes the 2 hour event.

Fresh from his time in the USA with Coach Rose Kane looks confident and is swimming fast.

One little hitch occurred today when we found that the EVENT program had had a little alteration to it. The four big countries knew, but the smaller ones like us did not. We quickly made the adjustments and have moved forward. One thing we have done is to change our entry times to long course ones as in general, it's best to have long course compared to short course. This is essential as we will be evaluating each swimmer on performances done here, in relation to entries. Each day we will be evaluating each swimmer on the basis of their FINA point score, PB's and percentage improvement, and on their contribution to the team. The most



valuable person will be announced each evening after dinner, and then the winner announced following the meet. This honour will be fiercely fought for I'm sure....

The teams are all in now. USA has 46 swimmers and a staff of "thousands", Australia has 40 and the Japanese and Canadians similarly. I think because Guam is so difficult to get into, that not so many of the smaller pacific teams are here this time. However the meet is very strong competitively with the very best from all nations competing. We know it will be our toughest ever competition for our youth team, so we will have to lift our game a lot. I'm sure each swimmer is on the right track to do their best and so we now wait for that start.

A big thank you for all the well wishes from all over the country. It certainly helps to know that you are all cheering the team on. Please keep it up.

I'll write again in the next two days and keep you up to date with how our JPP experience is going.

Thanks to SNZ, SPARC, NZAS and each family who is supporting these swimmers. The coaches who have prepared them, and their teams who train with each one have all contributed to the results.

We would also like to wish the team going to AYOF in Sydney all the best from the JPP team. To Andy Adair and his team all the best, we will be watching you too.

Jan Cameron - Head Coach  
Donna Bouzaid  
Simon Mayne  
Esther Price  
And all the swimmers