

2010 8th Oceania Swimming and Open Water Championships

Tuanaimato Aquatic Centre – Apia Samoa
21st June 2010 - 26th June 2010

The Success: 37 medals in total - 8 Gold, 17 Silver, 12 Bronze and 17 awesome and enthusiastic Kiwi Technical Officials.

A much focused New Zealand team of twenty swimmers competed against swimmers from Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Guam, Hawaii, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Northern Marianas, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Tonga and Samoa during the six day championships. Over one hundred swimmers competed at the pool and open water events that were being held in the waters off Faleasiu.

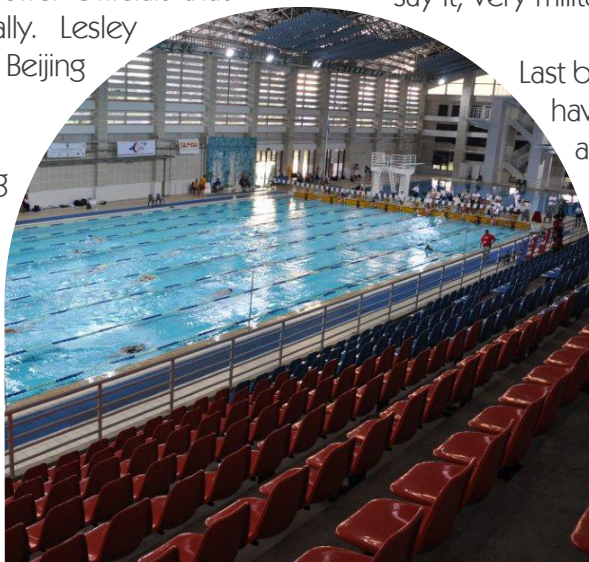


Canterbury had three Technical Officials attending.

Lesley Huckins who held the top position as Meet Director for all sessions. Ron Clarke who performed the duties of Referee and my self who held the position of Inspector of Turn (IOT)

Having Lesley and Ron representing New Zealand in these highly ranked positions at such an important international meet clearly indicates that Swim Canterbury West Coast has on offer Officials that are well respected internationally. Lesley also having officiated at the Beijing Olympics

For me personally having attended this meet and being the junior (not sure about age though!) I can categorically say this has been the highlight of all swim meets.



You just can't beat....

The enjoyment of witnessing a New Zealand swimmer taking on twelve other countries and coming in first and finishing off with the New Zealand National Anthem.

Working and socializing with a great bunch of like minded fellow kiwis with the added bonus of being on a beautiful tropical Island in the South Pacific Ocean. Paradise at it's best!

Fair to say that now I could travel the whole of New Zealand and attend any major meet knowing that I'll know at least one or more Officials. Handy to know for accommodation!



Ron Clarke Lesley Huckins Geoff Bryce

Observing the immaculate standards of protocol, the impeccable dress codes and the unspoken words of "code of conduct" impressed me somewhat. Dare I say it, very military style!

Last but not least I was there to learn and have come home with many notes and a few new ideas for the locals!

On the subject of learning we were fortunate to attend between sessions Technical Clinics which were held by FINA for the disciplines of Swimming and Open Water Swimming. With such an array of highly ranked



New Zealand Oceania Samoa 2010 Technical Official Team

officials in one place at one time it was a prime opportunity for FINA to verify that all technical members of the Oceania Federation are consistent from Country to Country with their interpretations of the rules. It was also an opportunity to assess that members are familiar and up to date with the most recent changes of the FINA rules. Open forum was encouraged and like most open forums, there was plenty to discuss and debate!

Another unit within the clinic which I found interesting was the Health and Safety aspect. We looked at all possible incidents that could have a negative outcome at a swim or open water meet. Having identified these we then set about looking at the preventive solutions. What had worked well in the past and what didn't work well.

Over all it was an honour being a member of the New Zealand team and I was especially proud of the fact that this team came from all corners of New Zealand and molded together so well and worked as one team. One team, one country and that's how it should be!

Looking forward to the 9th Oceania Swimming Championships which are to be held in Noumea in two years time. Can't wait... better start saving! Hopefully I'll be chosen again!

Geoff Bryce



For more on the championships
click on the link below

The championships.

