



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT



2019/20 could only be described as “a game of two halves”.

We started the new financial year with a high level of energy and excitement – we had a full calendar of meets planned; we were very grateful to be hosting the New Zealand Secondary Schools meet; and our Regional Squad Programme was going from strength to strength, including the sending of two teams to Australia to compete at the Victoria Age Group and Queensland Championship meets. We saw new records being set – some of which had been long standing for many years. We were moving forward as a region, enjoying the sense of community that is inherent with our sport of swimming and celebrating the collective successes as one.

The COVID19 lockdown and the ongoing impact of COVID was a stark reminder to us all how things can so quickly change and a need to prepare for such risks. Throughout the lockdown we continued to operate and support our members. I would like to acknowledge the hard work done by Darren Ward, Regional Hub Director and Angeline Hardie, Finance and Administration Manager during this difficult period of uncertainty. I would also like to acknowledge our funding partners and sponsors who also stood by us during this time and continued to work with us to deliver our new shared vision for swimming in the Waikato - “Get Waikato Swimming!”

I am excited by this new vision and the possibilities as a result. As a Board and Leadership team we realise that we must increase the level of participation of swimming within the region to ensure a sustainable future going forward. Strategies are now underway to do this and we look forward to working with our member clubs to share the benefits of this work as a result.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge all our volunteers - without you we would not be able to do the things we do and deliver the quality meets we are known for.

Thank you all for standing by us and for making yourselves available when called on.

Sean Lewis
Chairperson – Swimming Waikato