



REGIONAL HUB DIRECTOR'S REPORT



It is safe to say that we have had our fare share of obstacles to navigate in the last 12 months.

Firstly with the departure of Cherie McCleery, our highly respected and hard working Executive Officer and more recently with the consequences of Covid-19.

Stepping into my new role as Regional Hub Director has been an eventful but rewarding experience, serving the clubs has been an honour, especially with the sense of a collective effort we enjoy in the Waikato. I am very proud to be associated with a region that chooses to lead the way in swimmer development pathways and participation initiatives, we choose to think outside the box and long may this continue.

In terms of our organisational functions, we are very fortunate to have welcomed our Administrative & Finance Manager, Angeline Hardie to the team. Angeline has been a welcomed introduction to Swimming Waikato and has brought a great deal of experience and energy into the role. We are also very fortunate to have the fantastic administrative support of Natasha Budd and of Rachael Thomas, our Meet Recorder.

It is safe to say that the Waikato enjoys one of the most impressive coaching line-ups in New Zealand, with a team of talented leaders, capable of cultivating multiple waves of swimmers. It has been a joy working alongside these enthusiastic and experienced coaches, I know they have enjoyed learning and developing alongside one another. We also look forward to adding to the coaching team in the near future with the introduction of Rick Hall, who will be taking over the vacant St Peter's Head Coach role, another exciting addition to the regional coaching group.

A big thank you to the Swimming Waikato Board, for your support during these challenging times and for your commitment to thinking outside of the box and looking for fresh new ways to advance the cause of swimming in the Waikato. To Chairperson, Sean Lewis, Craig Thomas, Alison Fitch, Sarah Tordoff, Susan Barriball, Gavin Ion, thank you for your efforts.

We will sadly be saying goodbye to Alison Fitch, as she steps down from the Board, I would like to thank Alison for her tireless efforts on behalf of the greater Swimming Waikato community.



One of the exciting developments for 2020 was the creation of the Waikato Swimmer Advisory Panel, for purpose of championing the voice of competitive swimmers within the Waikato. I would like to thank the Panel for their valuable feedback on a wide range of topics and for investing their time in making a difference.

Our sport would not function without the efforts of our technical officials, led by Technical Panel Chair, Stu Woods, we owe you all a huge vote of thanks for supporting our Club, Regional & National events.

A special thank you to our departing Technical Panel Chair, Linda Bulman for all your efforts and for going above and beyond the call of duty in support of our clubs for so long.

I would like to thank our existing funders and sponsors; I thank you for your continued support and for believing in our cause. Your support goes a long way to Get Waikato Swimming! To our new funders and sponsors, I welcome you to our team of over 2,000, thank you for choosing to back swimming in the Waikato, we look forward to building a successful relationship together.

Finally, to our clubs, administrators, coaches, and volunteers, I would like to thank you for all the hard work being carried out, largely behind the scenes. Our sport is built on your hard work and initiative, thank you for your commitment to our sport.

*Darren Ward
Swimming Waikato Regional Hub Director*

“I am very proud to be associated with a region that chooses to lead the way in swimmer development pathways & participation initiatives ”

