

CEO REPORT



The last twelve months has been a rollercoaster for Swimming Waikato, with many unexpected twists and turns to endure; like most white knuckle rides, it's been a forward moving and exciting journey to be on.

I have said it year upon year but the greatest asset that we enjoy in our region is the cohesion and collective drive from our clubs, their will to advance their respective organisations does not come at the expense of the other. With enough good people, willing to open up and share ideas and place petty squabbles aside, we can achieve whatever we set our targets on.

As we welcome a new cohort of coaches into the region, I have been pleased by how welcoming and supportive the current coaching group have been and how much time and support they have been willing to provide. There is a genuine feeling of unity and teamwork in the coaching collective which can only be a positive for the Waikato.

In the last twelve months our competitions arm has gone from strength to strength, with significantly improved numbers attending our meets, including more swimmers from outside of the Waikato. Our competitions have a clearly defined purpose and timing within the calendar, this is proving to be a huge advantage to our swimmers and to the success of our meets.

As an organisation, Swimming Waikato is growing at speed which is exciting, however we need to be prudent that we address our capacity to deliver at each available step, ensuring we not only maintain quality of service to our membership but that we improve on their behalf.





We, like many other sports organisations, were hit hard by the challenges relating to COVID-19, however with pragmatic and prompt decision making from both the Governance and Operational side of the organisation, we were able to lessen further financial downfalls.

All in all, we finished the year in a healthy financial position; This has taken a considerable amount of hard work from the organisation and good will from many of our key funding partners and supporters. We will continue, as always, to ensure fiscal prudence, whilst maintaining direct investment into swimming initiatives in our region.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work of our Finance and Administration Manager Angeline Hardie, who works tirelessly to keep the ship in good order.

I would also like to thank the army of volunteers throughout the region who have kept the sport of swimming alive during these challenging times, you are the backbone of our sport.

A big thank you to previous Board Chairperson, Sean Lewis who will be stepping down from his long served post on the Swimming Waikato Board; Sean will be joined by Susan Barriball who will also be stepping down. Thank you both for your long and successful service to Swimming Waikato and to our membership up and down the region.

To the Board as a whole, thank you once again for your support and commitment to our collective cause and for your progressive and bold decision making throughout the last 12 months.

Well, there you have it, another year in the can, time to step up a gear...

Darren Ward
Chief Executive Office – Swimming Waikato

#WhateverItTakes

