

# CHAIRPERSON REPORT



The arrival of Covid-19 has changed the world and made simple pleasures like being able to swim or support those that are, much harder.

Through the chaos and, at times, start stop nature of the past year, Swimming Waikato has continued to operate and support our members. We have adapted and tried to offer as many opportunities as we can for our region and our swimmers to continue to grow and develop.

We have been flexible when this is needed and continued to innovate and grow as an organisation. We have strengthened the relationship we have with Swimming New Zealand and this has led to opportunities such as the relocation of New Zealand Short Course from Auckland to Hamilton in October 2020. It also led to a successful Hamilton Olympic Qualifying Meet which gave our swimmers another opportunity to compete against the best in the country and ultimately led to Olympic qualification for Hayley McIntosh. We continue to be recognised for the events we run and the quality of the experience.

During the year we also commenced our Learn to Swim and Water Safety initiatives. We recognise that swimming needs to start at a grassroots level. Working through the schools, we have been able to get the programme up and running quickly and successfully.

I would like to acknowledge the great work of Darren Ward, our industrious Chief Executive and Angeline Hardie, the backbone of our team as the Finance and Administration Manager. Together they have moved our organisation forward and put us in a stronger financial position.

I would also like to acknowledge the great support we receive from our funding partners and sponsors who also stood by us or joined us during the past year. Together, we continue to work to deliver our shared vision of "Get Waikato Swimming". We continue to look at ways to increase participation and involvement with swimming. This provides important life skills which will benefit our community.

To our clubs I would like to say a big thank you for your help and support during the year. Without you we would not exist and our swimming community wouldn't grow and develop.

To my fellow Board Members, I am grateful for your continued contribution and for making my life easier as we share the workload.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to our volunteers who support us, give willingly of their time and turn ideas into actions. Without you we would not be able to do the things we do and deliver the services we are known for.

Thank you all for standing by us and for playing the vital part you do to support our swimming community.

Gavin Ion  
Chairperson – Swimming Waikato



We have adapted and tried to offer as many opportunities as we can for our region and our swimmers to continue to grow and develop.