

On Sunday the 13th of March, Hanmer Springs Swimming club competed in the annual Hurunui Swimming Champs. The champs took place in Cheviot as the Amberley pool has been out of action this year due to extensive renovations. We still managed to have a good season of carnivals with a few changes of venues due to covid disruptions and postponements due to inclement weather! The swimming champs are the culmination to the carnivals.

Cheviot managed to produce a beautiful day, considering we left Hanmer behind at 8am with clouds and drizzle. The pool was warm and the sun was shining. The Hanmer squad of 13 had a total of 15 firsts, 13 seconds and 12 third places over five events. The Cheviot pool is 25 metres compared to Amberley which is 25 yards. This makes four of the records broken this year even more impressive, because they were in the longer pool. Robert Thompson (AKA Bob) slashed the 75 yard IM, breaststroke, backstroke, and freestyle records in an impressive dominance of his 14th grade. Bob was also awarded the most valuable Hurunui male swimmer! This young man is someone to watch in the future of New Zealand swimming. His dedication to training and ability to adjust his technique from feedback by his two coaches is what sets him apart, along with his size 15 feet! His mother Alex also needs a medal with all the sunrises she has seen at the Rangiora pool!

One of our newest members Mike van Vledder thought he would jump in the pool instead of just sitting and watching his son Timmy. He was rewarded with an adjusted butterfly record. We also have a great contingent of girls that swim and they were rewarded with lots of placings. The camaraderie between the club is fantastic, our youngest member is eight years of age right through to me. The older kids help, support and are fantastic role models. Everyone tries their best and swims their hardest. From year to year we keep track of the kids times so they can quantify their improvement. Some kids swam 25% faster than last year!

This year two of our teenage swimmers put their hand up to help coach and run swim club sessions in Culverden. Culy wasn't able to field a club last year due to numbers, but this year Grace Cundy and Bob Thompson along with help from their parents ran training sessions at the Culverden pool in their spare time. Culverden numbers are now rising - all due to these two putting in their time and effort.

Jazmin Cuff has been the Hanmer Swim club's coach this year and her focus on technique, speed and strength is a testament to her swimming ethos and coaching ability. Its been a great season and our last competition is our own club champs on the 11th of April followed by prize giving and pizza for tea!

The club is open to anyone who wants to improve their fitness and technique, we are always looking for new swimmers. So if you are interested please contact Jazmin Cuff on 027 3286441 for training days and times.

Swim Fast Hanmer!

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Hurunui Swimming Club Champs

