

Manawatu students set four records

POOLSIDE SWIMMING - LINDA NEVIN Last updated 09:30 25/05/2011

It was a successful day at the Freyberg Community Pool for the Palmerston North Boys' High School swim team, with all 11 members making finals at the North Island Secondary Schools Swimming Championships at the weekend.

They also won both boys' relays.

This event is hosted annually by Swimming Manawatu and this year attracted 200 swimmers from 54 North Island schools.

Wellington College, traditionally the team to beat, were looking good for the 200 metres freestyle relay with the Boys' High team of Sam Love (14), Marshall Wilkinson (15), Troy Huffman-Devey (16) and Connor Nevin (17) in second place at the last interchange. Boys' High grabbed the lead coming off the wall in the final turn, racing home to take this year's title in a time of 1min 43.3sec.

Wellington College also started well in the medley relay, grabbing an early lead but the Boys' High team of Wilkinson (backstroke), Nevin (breaststroke), Fin Perrett (butterfly) and Huffman-Devey (freestyle) took the lead off them much earlier in the race, and held on to finish first in 1min 56.21sec.

With 13 girls' relay teams in the competition, Palmerston North Girls' High School did well to finish fifth in both the freestyle and medley relay events.

Wellington East Girls' College (WEGC) won the girls' freestyle relay in 1min 55.31sec, with Waikato Diocesan School second. It was a reverse result in the medley relay with Waikato Diocesan winning in 2min 11.10sec and WEGC second.

Last year seven records fell at this competition; this year eight were broken and one equalled, with records going to Manawatu swimmers Cameron Blair (15), Jenna Buchanan (17), Hamish McGirr (14) and Nevin.

Boys' High had a strong group of swimmers in the 14-years-and-under age group. Nathan McHugh (14) impressed by knocking more than nine seconds off his previous best to win the 200m individual medley event in 2min 26.72sec. Love won the 50m freestyle title and Titus Suksreephaisan (14) claimed the 100m butterfly title.

Others making finals were Baylee Parlato (14) and Daniel Nevin (13), Wilkinson, Thomas Cousins (16), Huffman-Devey and Mathew Phillips (17). Perrett took the 200m breaststroke title and Connor Nevin claimed the record and title in the boy's 15-and-over 50m breaststroke in 30.78sec.

Greer Mahoney (15) was the standout for the **Freyberg High School** team, qualifying for two backstroke finals. Christopher Smithers (14) of **Feilding High School** made finals in his events.

Girls' High's Charlotte Brenkley (14) won her signature event, the 100m butterfly, supported by schoolmates Melissa Richardson (15) and Kristie Price (14) who placed in finals.

St Peter's College produced some great results. Cameron Blair improved Olympian Daniel Bell's 2006 boy's 15-and-over 200m individual medley record by 0.23sec with a time of 2min 11.90sec. Hamish McGirr equalled the 50m backstroke record set in 2003 with a time of 29.45sec in his heat. John-Joe Elkington (17) convincingly won the boy's 15-and-over 100m breaststroke and Ursula McGirr (17), Grady Jackson (16) and Janelle Birchler (13) all made finals.

Jenna Buchanan of **Dannevirke High School** took the record and title for the girls' 100m butterfly with a time of 1min 04.90sec and won the 200m freestyle.

Representing **Waiopahu College**, Bethany Nichols (14) won the 200m backstroke, Ashleigh Turner (17) the 100m

backstroke and Cameron Turner (17) was placed in the finals. Representing **Tararua College**, Ben Blackwell (16) and Kathryn Pound (16) placed in finals of a number of their events.

Horowhenua College swimmers Michael Whiley (16) and Renee Bacon (14) consistently posted top-three placings in their finals.

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