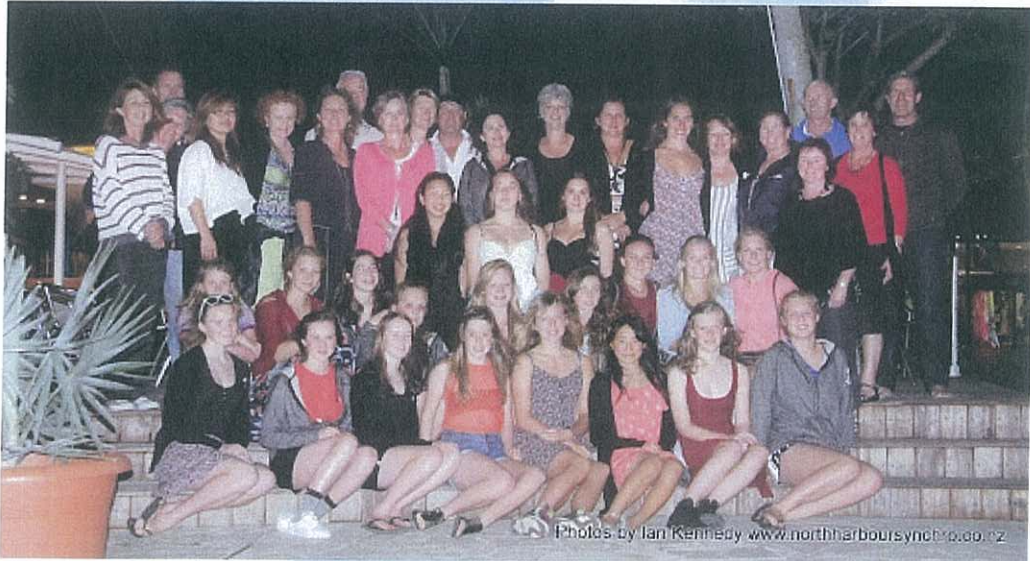




Annual Report 2012



Photos by Ian Kennedy www.northharboursynchro.co.nz

June 2012 - Oceania Team with supporters



New Zealand South, Combo



New Zealand North Combo

NEW ZEALAND



September 2012 - Volos Greece

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2011 - 2012.

SSNZ BOARD	Sue Edwards Bronwyn Stackpole Michelle Anderson Shirley Hooper Vicki Hustler	Chairperson Secretary
Selectors	Joanna Burns Sue Edwards	
Appointments Committee	Michelle Anderson Vicki Toohey	
Awards Committee	Michelle Anderson Bronwyn Stackpole Nola Younger.	

Undoubtedly the highlight for our sport for this year was the Oceania Championships held in Noumea, New Caledonia at the end of May. Our team of 19 athletes competed in 7 events, and won 8 medals. This was the biggest Oceania Championships ever, and was a great experience for all the girls. Our thanks to the coaches, Luciana Garcia Genta, Phoenix and Moon-Hee Kim and Deirdre Harrison, North Harbour for the huge amount of work which resulted in the successes. This was the first International competition when our International representative athletes were known by their new name --- the Aquaferns

We had 7 judges travel to the competition, Sue Edwards, Vicki Toohey, Trudy Shepard, Phyll Esplin, Rhiannon Fibbens and Bronwyn Stackpole, and Vicki Hustler was the Chief Recorder. I would like to express our thanks to people in the Synchro Club in Noumea for all the preparation which went in to make this competition such a success, and to the the Oceania Swimming Association for the continued support of Synchronised Swimming in the region.

The other main highlight was the Spring National Championships, hosted by Tauranga Synchro, at Waterworld in Hamilton. Shirley Hooper, Sally Weston, Viv Coughlan and their team did an amazing job, particularly given the geographical logistics. The entry numbers were very pleasing, in spite of the constraints of the Rugby World Cup. We were pleased to welcome Teams from New Caledonia and Australia, and had an excellent number of judges. I believe the judging in New Zealand was lifted to a new level at this competition.

Once again, a big thank you to the New Zealand Community Trust for the financial support for these Championships, and also for the support for the 2012 North Island and South Island Championships.

And also, once again we are most grateful to Sport New Zealand for the Sport Development Funding we receive. Jo Cheatley, our Relationship Manager at Sport New Zealand has continued to be very supportive, and it is with regret that we "farewell" her, as she moves in to a different role. We look forward to working with our new Relationship Manager Craig MacFarlane.

Our congratulations to Rose Stackpole, North Harbour on her selection to represent New Zealand at the FINA Junior World Championships, together with coach MoonHee Kim, and Team Manager Bronwyn Stackpole. Our FINA "A" Judge, Joanna Burns has been accepted by FINA as a judge for this competition.

I would also like to congratulate Jo on being invited to judge at the FINA World Trophy in China in December 2011. Jo was one of the 6 International judges from the World to be invited to this competition.

Board Operations and Administration.

We were very pleased to welcome Shirley Hooper from Tauranga to the Board, following the retirement of Jo Burns. Shirley has a wealth of experience in sports administration, and her fresh input is much appreciated. We held one weekend meeting in Wellington in February, and all other communication has been by e-mail and telephone – once again proving to be economic and efficient. Our Rules are continually being reviewed and revised, as trends and patterns in the sport develop and change, and this is always done with consultation and input from people outside the Board.

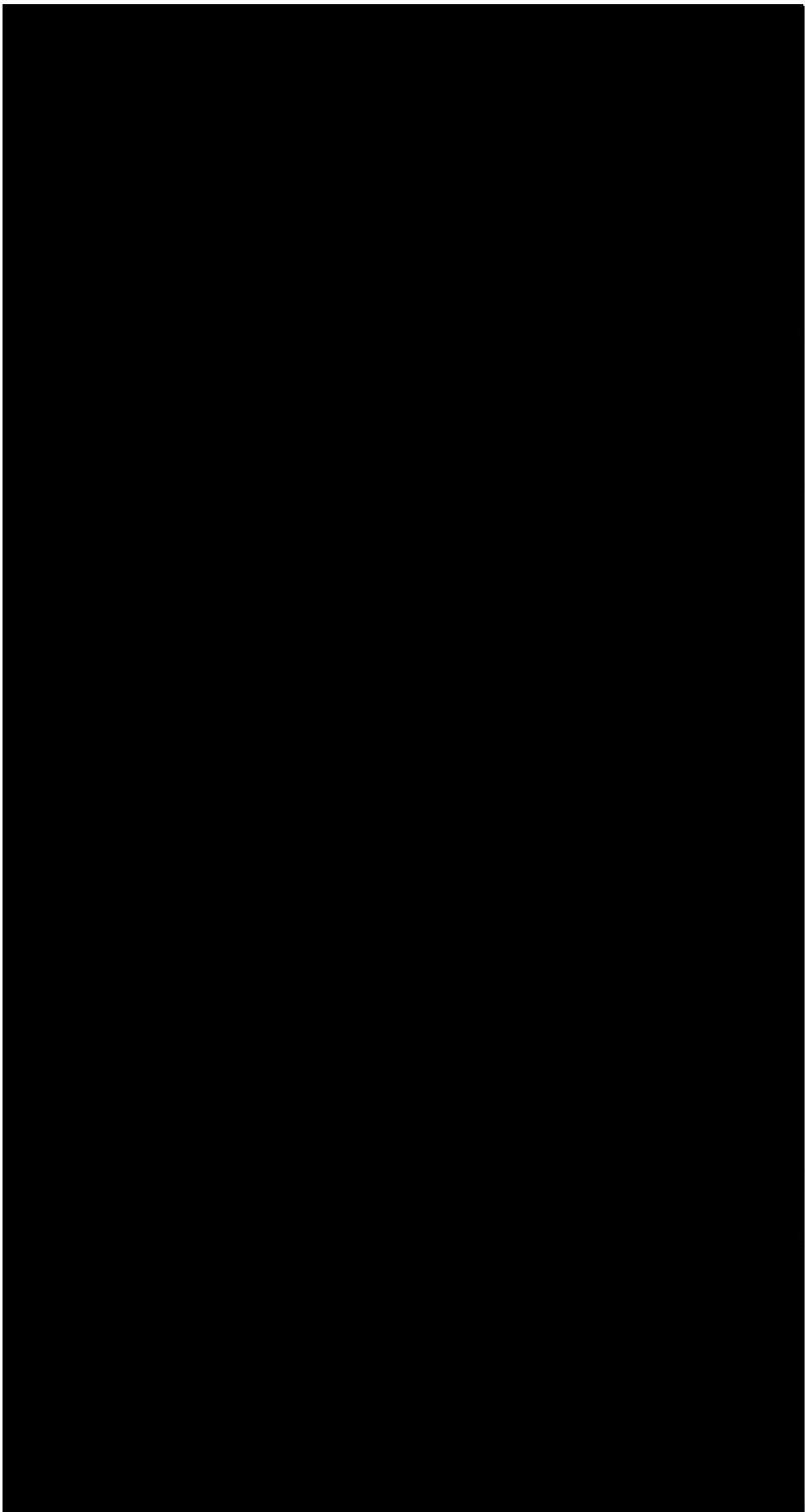
Debbie Poutoa continues to manage our Membership Data Base, and Jenny Carroll the Star Awards administration. Our sincere thanks to these two ladies for their ongoing and very valuable voluntary work.

Dr Kit Hustler continues to develop our scoring and results system, and it is very pleasing to note that we are right up there on the International scene. Thanks again to Kit for his work.

Financial

A summary of our accounts will be distributed after close off on August 31. The Annual Accounts will be tabled at the AGM for Members' audit, and information. Again we are in a sound financial position, with cash reserves to enable us to continue functioning should there be unforeseen circumstances.

Once again my sincere thanks to my fellow Board members for their work and input, and continued support. Competitively our numbers are growing – indications that the entries for this year's Spring Championships will be over 100 – another first. With the interest generated from the Olympic Games there is the expectation that Clubs will have an influx of members, and as a National Sports Organisation we are well placed to offer help and support as necessary. Thank you to everyone – athletes, coaches, judges, Club administrators and families for the enthusiasm for the sport, which makes it a pleasure to be involved.



COMPETITION RESULTS

New Zealand National Spring Championships 2011

Hamilton - 15 October - 17 October 2011

(hosted by Tauranga Synchro)

2011 Figures Results

Aquanauts

Place		Club
1	Abby Hustler	Gara Manzi
2	Chelsea Ford	Gara Manzi
3	Madison Ford	Gara Manzi

Orcas

Place		Club
1	Beth Taylor	Tauranga
2	Aleisha Elliotte	Phoenix
3	Amy Lim	North Harbour

12 Under

Place		Club
1	Jazzlee Thomas	Tauranga
2	Felicity Crossley-Pritchard	Phoenix
3	Zoe Drake	North Harbour

13,14,15

Place		Club
1	Mary Tate	North Harbour
2	Katie McDougall	North Harbour
3	Eva Morris	Tauranga

Junior

Place		Club
1	Rose Stackpole	North Harbour
2	Sarsha Younger	Tauranga
3	Rachel Kim	North Harbour

New Zealand Synchro Nationals 2010 Duet Results

Aquanauts

Place	Names	Club
1	Abby Hustler & Chelsea Ford Hannah McGuffog & Makayla	Gara Manzi
2	Ashby	North Harbour
3	Estelle Erhorn & Beth Taylor	Tauranga

12 Under

Place	Names	Club
1	Luci McDougall & Sophia Lord	North Harbour

13,14,15

Place	Names	Club
1	Hayley Stent & Kaye Kennedy	North Harbour
2	Eva Morris & Georgia Coughlan	Tauranga
3	Alexandra du Bruyn & Sophie Ning	Tauranga

Junior

Place	Names	Club
1	Rose Stackpole & Rachel Kim	North Harbour

Open Tech

Place	Names	Club
1	Caitlin & Kirstin Anderson	Phoenix North
2	Rose Stackpole & Sarsha Younger	Harbour/Tauranga

Open Free

Place	Names	Club
1	Caitlin & Kirstin Anderson	Phoenix North
2	Rose Stackpole & Sarsha Younger	Harbour/Tauranga

NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand Synchro Nationals 2010 Solo Results

12 Under

Place		Club
1	Jazzlee Thomas	Tauranga
2	Felicity Crossley-Pritchard	Phoenix
3	Megan Guest	Aquagold

13,14,15

Place		Club
1	Mary Tate	North Harbour
2	Katie McDougall	North Harbour
3	Sophie Ning	Tauranga

Junior

Place		Club
1	Rose Stackpole	North Harbour
2	Sarsha Younger	Tauranga
3	Rachel Kim	North Harbour

Open Tech

Place		Club
1	Kirstin Anderson	Phoenix
2	Caitlin Anderson	Phoenix
3	Rose Stackpole	North Harbour

Open Free

Place		Club
1	Kirstin Anderson	Phoenix
2	Caitlin Anderson	Phoenix
3	Sarsha Younger	Tauranga

SYNCHRO
SWIM
NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand Synchro Nationals 2010 Team - Results

Dolphin

Place	Club
1	North Harbour
2	Phoenix
3	Tauranga

15 & Under

Place	Club
1	North Harbour
2	Tauranga
3	Aquagold

15 & Over

Place	Club
1	North Harbour

Open Free Combination

Place	Club
1	Phoenix
2	North Harbour A
3	Tauranga

SYNCHRO
SWIM
NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand Synchro Nationals 2011

School Results

Intermediate Duet

Place		School
1	Megan Guest & Caitlin McMillan	
2	Northcote Intermediate School (Emma-Leigh Winkel and Georgia Mace)	

Intermediate Solo

Place		School
1	Mary Tate	St Cuthberts College
2	Felicity Crossley-Pritchard	
3	Georgia Coughlan	

Secondary Duet

Place		School
1	Rangitoto College (Chelsea Ford and Madison Ford)	
2	Bethlehem College (Malika Thomas & Jazzlee Thomas)	
3	Kelsey Acker & Scarlett Polley	

Secondary Solo

Place		School
1	Rachel Kim	Epsom Girls
2	Sophie Ning	Long Bay College
3	Katie McDougall	Takapuna Grammar School

Secondary Free Routine Combo

Place		School
1	Tauranga Girls College	
2	Aquinas College	

SYNCHRO
SWIM
NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand Representatives 2012

Kirstin	Anderson	<i>Phoenix Synchro</i>	Alice	Ham	<i>Harbour Synchro</i>
Caitlin	Anderson	<i>Phoenix Synchro</i>	Danielle	Hunt	<i>Harbour Synchro</i>
Hayley	Fibbens	<i>Phoenix Synchro</i>	Sana	Iritani	<i>Harbour Synchro</i>
Scarlett	Polley	<i>Phoenix Synchro</i>	Kaye	Kennedy	<i>Harbour Synchro</i>
Kira	Fox	<i>Phoenix Synchro</i>	Rachel	Kim	<i>Harbour Synchro</i>
Kelsey	Acker	<i>Phoenix Synchro</i>	Katie	McDougall	<i>Harbour Synchro</i>
Aleisha	Braven	<i>Phoenix Synchro</i>	Rose	Stackpole	<i>Harbour Synchro</i>
Anastasia	Wilkes	<i>Phoenix Synchro</i>	Hayley	Stent	<i>Harbour Synchro</i>
Leticia	Hart	<i>Phoenix Synchro</i>	Katie	Meadows	<i>Harbour Synchro</i>
			Makayla	Ashby	<i>Harbour Synchro</i>

SYNCHRO
SWIM
NEW ZEALAND

SYNCHRONISED SWIMMING OCEANIA CHAMPIONSHIP 2012

Noumea, New Caledonia 2012, 28th May – 2nd June

Head Coach Report

The selection and the preparation

A team of nine swimmers from Phoenix Synchro Southland were selected to represent New Zealand at Oceania Championships 2012. In SSNZ Spring Nationals 2011 all Phoenix Open routines got the qualification for Oceania 2012, achieving the required scores according to the SSNZ selection criteria (placing 1st – 2nd and gaining the required marks) for this event; so a total of 7 Phoenix routines were selected to be New Zealand representatives:

Open Solo Tech: Kirstin Anderson

Open Solo Tech Caitlin Anderson

Open Solo Free: Kirstin Anderson

Open Solo Free: Caitlin Anderson

Open Duet Tech: Caitlin Anderson & Kirstin Anderson

Open Duet Free: Caitlin Anderson & Kirstin Anderson

Open Comination Team: Aleisha Braven, Anastasia Wilkes, Caitlin Anderson, Hayley Fibbens, Kelsey Acker, Kira Fox, Kirstin Anderson, Leticia Hart & Scarlett Polley.

Coach: Luciana García

Team Manager: Lynette Polley

This renewal, young and fresh team put lots of hours and effort into training to arrive to Oceania's at their best possible shape physically, technically, mentally and emotionally. For most of the swimmers this was their first ever international experience; only 3 team members had have the chance before to compete overseas representing New Zealand (H. Fibbens, C. Anderson & K. Anderson). With a average age of 16 years old, the team trained between 14-17 hours a week, in water and land in order to achieve their goal. Also two intense training camps were organised during School holidays (January and April) in order to optimize the preparation.

The competition

The Oceania Championships 2012 was a much bigger competition than the last 2010 one. About 70 swimmers representing Australia, New Caledonia, Hawaii and New Zealand were competing in this year, where in Samoa there were only about 26 swimmers.

Also, the level of the competition was much higher, with strong teams as the Australian A team (that will be swimming on London 2012), the Australian B team (with their best Junior and age group swimmers) and the Hawaiian Team (a mature team with all ex high level USA swimmers, including former Olympic representatives)

The competition was held on the Ouren Toro swimming pool, a nice 50m outdoor pool. With plenty of training time and music practice before the competition, the girls had two days (Monday 28th and Tuesday 29th May) to get use to the pool and settle before competing.

On Wednesday 30th May the competition started with the Technical routines. Kirstin and Caitlin Anderson performed their solos and their duet very well, achieving good marks and making a good competition. Same day, the age groups' figures competitions occurred. Phoenix didn't have swimmers competing, but Aleisha Braven and Kelsey Acker pre-swim the 13-14-15 figures. Both girls did really well, performing even better than some of the actual competitors.

Thursday 31st May was the day for Free Solos and Combination Team. Kirstin and Caitlin swam their Free solo routines in the morning and the whole team did its performance in the afternoon. The three performances were really good, getting great feedback from the judges, coaches, swimmers and spectators.

Last competition day was Friday 1st June, in which Kirstin and Caitlin performed their Duet Free.

The medal ceremony was held after the competition finished and our girls achieved all the medals we were aiming for: silver and bronze in Solos, silver in Duet and bronze in Combo.

The following charts show the final results:



OPEN SOLO				
		Tech	Free	Total
1 st	Tarren Otte (AUS)	73,833	77,700	151,533
2 nd	Kirstin Anderson (NZL)	73,667	75,967	149,833
3 rd	Caitlin Anderson (NZL)	71,333	74,500	145,833
4 th	Charlotte Priouret (NC)	68,500	68,550	137,050



Tarren Otte, how has been the Australian soloist for the last years, won the gold medal on the combine event. Kirstin Anderson placed second, less than two points behind Otte and with much closed score in the Technical Solo. Caitlin Anderson won the bronze with two very good performances.

OPEN DUET					
		Tech	Free	Total	
1 st	S.Bombell & E.Amberger (AUS)	78,833	80,983	159,817	
2 nd	C.Anderson & K.Anderson (NZL)	73,167	76,100	149,267	
3 rd	O.Burtaev & B.Hammett (AUS)	70,333	77,367	147,700	



The winners of the gold medal Sarah Bombell and Eloise Amberger are qualified for the next Olympics and swam the routines they will be performing in London. Kirstin and Caitlin Anderson swam really well their new version of their Duet Tech (with new music and some choreography changes) and their Free Duet, placing second and beating the Australian B duet swam by to other Olympic swimmers, Olya Burtaev and Bianca Hammett.

OPEN COMBO		
		Total
1 st	AUSTRALIA A	81,600
2 nd	HAWAII	80,017
3 rd	NEW ZEALAND (PHOENIX)	74,600
4 th	AUSTRALIA B	72,067
5 th	NEW ZEALAND (HARBOUR)	69,400
6 th	NEW CALEDONIA A	63,117
7 th	NEW CALEDONIA B	58,933



Australia A team and Hawaii dominated the Combo competition. With strong and experienced swimmers (Australia A average team age: early twenties and Hawaii average team age: late twenties), both teams showed a higher skills and speed level in their choreographies than the rest of the teams. Australia A team was composed by all the swimmers that will be swimming at London 2012 and Hawaii is a mixed of ex USA National Team members and high level swimmers. In this high level environment, our New Zealand team was able to win the bronze medal with a well performed routine that engaged the judges and the spectators. Many high grade international judges commented on the choreography, the execution and how onto the theme the swimmers were. All the feedback that we got was great, even from other competitions and rival coaches. The 74.600 score was a great achievement if we compare it to the one that the routine got at Nationals, and this time in a much more competitive and higher level environment. Australia B team, that is a mixed of the best Australian age group swimmers, got the 4th place, while the other New Zealand team (North Harbour) placed 5th and the two New Caledonian teams placed 6th and 7th.



On Friday night a Synchro display was organised for the New Caledonian public and the FINA VIPs. A total of 23 routines from all the countries were performed, in a fun and relaxing environment.

As coach, I'm very proud of all my athletes. To build and develop this team with so many age (from 13 to 22 years old) and skills/experience levels' differences has been a big challenge as a coach, but all the girls committed with the team and work for their goals. So I'm not only happy with the sport results, I'm also very happy with the personal and team development of these athletes. All the girls acted very professionally at trainings and competitions on the time we were overseas. Also it was very nice to see them interacting and mixing with the other athletes, principally with the other New Zealand team.

Oceania FINA Coaching Clinic

Along with the competition, a FINA coaching clinic was going on. Maria Koltchina, a Russia/France former swimmer and now coach was in charge of it. Theory and practical sessions were held every day after training or competition. It was a really good opportunity to reinforce many training

issues and also to pick and share new ideas. All my notes and videos are available for any Phoenix Coach/swimmer who would like to have them.

Team managing and supports

It was great to have Lynette Polley as Team Manager for this competition. Even it was her first time with this role at an International competition, she did a great job supporting the team and having everything under control and organised for the athletes and myself.

All the things related with flights, accommodation, foods and extra activities were planned really well and run excellent as expected.

I would remark her great capacity to be open to changes and her flexibility to adapt to the different situations that may occur when you are in charge of a nine teenagers/young adults girls' team.

Personally, I think we worked really well together as a team, helping and complementing each other.

The Fox family, Braven family, Stacey Wilkes and Stewart Polley accompanied and supported the team to New Caledonia. As it was talked and discuss from the go, this parents stick to their supports' role, not interfering with the manager and the coach, and being really helpful sometimes to organise shopping or other duties. It was great and a pleasure to have them there!

It's also remarkable the performances of our judges, Trudy Shepard and Rhiannon Fibbens. Both did a great job in their officials' role. Also it was a pleasure to have Phyll Esplin, from Aquagold Otago Synchro joining our team.

To conclude my report, I would like to thank again to Phoenix and Synchro Swim New Zealand for trusting assuming this challenge and letting me coach this great bunch of athletes and also to all the families and sponsors that helped us to make this dream come true.

Luciana García

Phoenix Synchro/Synchro Swim New Zealand Head Coach



Moon-Hee Kim (Head coach)

17th July, 2012

2012 Oceania Synchronised Swimming Championships Noumea reports

This Oceania Synchronised Swimming Championships in Noumea, New Caledonia 2012 was the biggest Oceania I have participated in, compared with previous Oceanias I have been to (2006, 2008 and 2010). There were lots of swimmers and many countries participating (Hawaii, New Caledonia, Australia and New Zealand). I think my swimmers were very privileged to be able to and learn different skills and observe many routines including Olympic routines, I think this competition has taught my swimmers far better than any words, I always think that 'completion is the best coach'.

At the 2011 New Zealand Spring Nationals our Combination achieved 68.233points, Open Tech 66.000, Free Duet 71.067points and Rose Stackpole's Junior Solo 72.667 (139.875) points gaining qualification to Oceanias. Later Rachel Kim & Rose Stackpole's Junior Duet, Rachel Kim's Junior Solo, Katie Meadows & Sana Iritani's Age13-15 Duet and Katie McGuffog's Age13-15 Solo gained qualification to Oceania. In total 8 of our routines qualified to compete at the Oceania Championship 2012.

One month before Oceania, unfortunately one of our swimmers resigned from the Combo and Duet. This resulted in the decrease of our qualified routines from 8 to 6. This also led to sudden changes in boost positions in the combination team and a member change. We practiced 3times a week, (7hours a week) which was much less than the other teams competing at Oceanias who practice more than 15hours a week. In many ways our team was in a non-favorable position. This was not an easy time for us all but with no time to think we just simply looked ahead and practiced hard.

Despite this our swimmers made us proud by presenting themselves with neat, smart uniforms, good manners, helping the New Caledonian swimmers with their dance opening performances, exchanging gift, and uniforms, and giving their best wishes to the Olympic swimmers.

At the competition they showed great sportsmanship and a strong mind control. The result of the 2012 Oceania was that Rose Stackpole's Junior Solo achieved the first and only gold medal to New Zealand. There were medals for Rose Stackpole & Rachel Kim Duet, Katie McDougall's Solo and Katie Meadows & Sana Iritani's Duet.

Junior Solo results			
1	Rose Stackpole	137.890	New Zealand
2	Aimee Thompson	130.099	Australia
3	Deborah Tsai	129,050	Australia
4	Rachel Kim	125.686	New Zealand
Junior Duet results			
1	Aimee Thompson & Jade Haynes-Love	131.7721	Australia
2	Rose Stackpole & Rachel Kim	131.0797	New Zealand
Age13-15 Solo results			
1	Jade Haynes	127.802	Australia
2	Jemma Singleton	124.186	Australia
3	Katie McDougall	118.055	New Zealand
Age13-15 Duet results			
1	Amy Mcilwraith & Kirsten Kinash	124.604	Australia
2	Jemma Singleton & Melanie Hartshorne	122.981	Australia
3	Katie Meadows & Sana Iritani	112.556	New Zealand
Combination results			
1	Australia A	81.600	
2	Hawaii	80.017	
3	New Zealand South	74.600	
4	Australia B	72.067	
5	New Zealand North	69.400	

During this competition. I was able to observe the great potential of our swimmers. From everything that we had been through I felt the results of the 2012 Oceania more rewarding than any other competitions. I think that we could not have achieved these great results without the help and support of the North Harbour coaches and judge; Deirdre, Gail, Natalia , Hannah and Vicki; The manger Bronwyn and parents; Michelle, Ross, Ian, Lindi, Warwick, Mark, Tineke, Chris, Toni, Colin, Maki, Shigeki, Sophie, Graeme and Andrew.

Thank you everyone.

TEAM MANAGERS REPORT



Swim Meet	2012 Oceania Synchronized Swimming Championships			
Date/s	May 28 th to June 2 nd 2012			
Location	Noumea, New Caledonia			
Pool	Ouen-Toro SP			
NZL Managers	Lynette Polley and Bronwyn Stackpole			
NZL Coach/s	Moonhee Kim, Deirdre Harrison and Luciana Garcia-Genta			
NZL Judges	Trudy Shepherd, Phyll Esplyn, Sue Edwards, Rhiannon Fibbens, Vicki Toohey, Bronwyn Stackpole, Vicki Hustler (chief scorer)			
Athletes Names	Kirstin	Anderson	Alice	Ham
	Caitlin	Anderson	Danielle	Hunt
	Hayley	Fibbens	Sana	Iritani
	Scarlett	Polley	Kaye	Kennedy
	Kira	Fox	Rachel	Kim
	Kelsey	Acker	Katie	McDougall
	Aleisha	Braven	Rose	Stackpole
	Anastasia	Wilkes	Hayley	Stent
	Leticia	Hart	Katie	Meadows
			Makayla	Ashby

Accommodation:	
Name	Le Pacifique Hotel
Address	Promenade Roger Laroque, 98800 Nouméa
Comments:-	Excellent location to Pool, easy 10 minute walk, beautiful pool area for get togethers. Lots of shops, cafes and restaurants nearby. Bakeries, superette etc. all nearby. Easy bus access.

Performance Summary:		
Names	Routine	Placing
Kirstin Anderson	Senior Solo	2 nd
Caitlin Anderson	Senior Solo	3 rd
Kirstin Anderson & Caitlin Anderson	Senior Duet	2 nd
Phoenix Combination		3 rd
North Harbour Combination		5 th
Rose Stackpole	Junior Figures	1 st
Rose Stackpole	Junior Solo	1 st
Rachel Kim	Junior Figures	4 th
Rachel Kim	Junior Solo	4 th
Rose Stackpole and Rachel Kim	Junior Duet	2 nd
Katie McDougall	13,14,15 figures	6 th
Katie McDougall	13,14,15 solo	3 rd
Katie Meadows	13,14,15 figures	8 th
Sana Iritani	13,14,15 figures	9 th
Katie Meadows	13,14,15 duet	3 rd

General Comments

Athletes from Australia, New Zealand, New Caledonia and Hawaii competed. There were approx. 70 competitors at this Oceania Synchronised Swimming competition – the largest number ever.

- Team NZ North & South both arrived on the same flight at 3.10 pm. We were met at the airport by the host committee and transported to our accommodation. Neither team manager was able to meet the deadline of 5.30 for the first meeting and figures draw. The timeframe of under two hours is unrealistic to complete airport formalities, drive the 40 minutes to the hotel and check in such a large amount of people.
- Accommodation was booked by us directly with the hotel and was required to be prepaid.
- Le Pacific, an excellent location for our team and others from the competition were also accommodated there.
- The team ate dinners at the hotel on the pre-competition and competition nights (prepaid before we arrived). The meals were adequate – but the vegetarian options were limited. Breakfasts were catered by the athletes in their rooms and they had brought snack food with them. Lunches and further snack food was organized by the team managers. A lot of food was transported from NZ to cut down costs, but in fact the food in Noumea was not as expensive as we had been led to believe.
- Accreditation/registration – at pool complex was to be on the first day, but was finally completed on day 3.
- Opening ceremony – we did not make the full Oceania Opening Ceremony, but had a parade of all athletes at the opening of our event. Each day consisted of a parade of athletes competing that day in each event. The Friday night Gala display organised by the host committee was a final goodbye from the athletes all together and was a fun gala evening which all the athletes enjoyed.
- Competition and training pools. An outdoor pool – we had a mixture of hot and sunny and cold and rain. Overall a nice complex. There was adequate music and warm up time available.
- Closing ceremony – there were some communication issues during the event – and one of them was where the closing ceremony was to be held. In the end it was held at the complex we stayed at and was a lovely occasion for the girls.
- Sightseeing – the teams visited Amedee Island – famous for its lighthouse and snorkling. The weather was a little rough and dull, but the girls made the most of the opportunities to snorkel. The lunch and traditional show were enjoyed by all. Some also visited Duck Island which is a good option for snorkling and very easy to access. The Aquarium was also well worth a visit. Some of the girls visited the local market. The market is really at its best when a cruise ship visits, and also the petit train which is a popular sightseeing trip only runs on days when cruise ships visit the port.
- We were collected from our hotel and transported to the airport for the trip back home.

Everyone seems to have had a wonderful trip and all the girls got to spend time together and relax and have some fun after the competition.

Thank you to all the parents and supporters who were always on hand to help if needed. On the whole the girls are fairly self-sufficient and know what to do at a competition so they were very easy to manage. The girls showed themselves as fantastic ambassadors for New Zealand and there were many comments on their friendliness and great attitude.

New Zealand sent a good number of judges and was responsible for scoring at the competition. Thank you to all those ladies for your time and commitment to the sport, your company at the competition and your support in general.

Many thanks to Sue Edwards, Chairperson of SSNZ who worked with the Oceania host committee to organise the competition, and who worked tirelessly through the competition to ensure the smooth running of each day for the athletes.

Finally a huge thank you to the wonderful coaches Luciana Garcia-Genta, Moonhee Kim, and Deirdre Harrison who work so hard in training these girls – and who work 24/7 during competition time. The girls are truly very fortunate to have such dedicated coaches who are also fantastic people.

Signed....

Lynette Polley (Team manager)

Bronwyn Stackpole... (Team manager)

Date ...20 June 2012

