

38th National Championships – Sydney NSW

There were a lot of records broken and many personal times set at the championships but the fun was on the pool deck and in the stands. You just had to be there to soak up the atmosphere. It was a technological time too, you could scan the QR code to connect to the Live Results portal if you downloaded the free app, get your photo uploaded onto Facebook, share your stories immediately across the sound system via the MC or ignore the whole lot and go up to the paper results stuck to the wall. The times, they are a-changin'.

The fun started on Wednesday afternoon with the 800m freestyle after which many adjourned to the nearby happy hour venue The Brewery, and so the order of our days was set. The Brewery offered a 25% discount for those producing their competitor lanyard and it was an easy walk from the pool to wind down and have a chat. That is, if you hadn't already wound down by availing yourself of a massage that was available at the top of the stands away from prying eyes and all the excitement.

Thursday saw the official Opening Ceremony where we were honoured by the Governor of New South Wales Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir. The national anthem was sung by X Factor finalist Bella Ferraro and with a few words of welcome from National President Craig Smith the competition recommenced.

The daily newsletter was a great source of information and it was eagerly awaited each day. It acknowledged a legend like Barbara Brooks who has attended all 38 National Championships! We learned about Julie the announcer and Eden our music mixer. It also shared facts about where to park, when the presentation dinner was to be and who the characters around the pool were.

Friday saw the happy hour hosted by Sydney's Wett Ones club and the theme of Hawaiian night. It seemed at times that swimming was incidental to the celebrations but we did get serious and the results follow in the medal tally. The anecdotes and experiences could fill a book so in the interest of expediency what you need to know is that everyone from swimmers to officials to volunteers and spectators all had a great time and all vowed to set their sights on Rockhampton in 2014.

Founders Trophy to VPP Powerpoints

Runner up to NSP Seaside Pirates

Visitors Trophy to VPP Powerpoints

Vorgee Swimmer of the Meet to George Corones and Jenny Whiteley

Top ten clubs on the Medal Tally list:

Club Code	Club Name	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
VPP	POWERPOINTS	55	32	29	116
VMV	MALVERN MARLINS	31	19	20	70
NWG	WARRINGAH	24	30	18	72
NNC	NOVOCASTRIAN	24	21	23	68
NSP	SEASIDE PIRATES	22	22	19	63
WCM	CLAREMONT MASTERS	21	12	16	49

NBT	BLACKTOWN CITY	20	16	11	47
NNS	NORTH SYDNEY	20	24	17	61
NML	MANLY MASTERS	16	22	10	48
NSA	SUTHERLAND SANDBERN	18	11	8	37

World Records	8
National Records	70
State Records	
- QLD	38
- NSW	43
- NT	12
- SA	12
- TAS	14
- VIC	51
- WA	36

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